

Town of Glen Echo
Town Council Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2008

Attendance: Debbie Beers, Mayor
 Nancy Long, Councilmember
 Eve Arber, Councilmember
 Steve Matney, Councilmember
 Robin Kogelnik, Councilmember

Visitors: Susan Grigsby, Resident
 Cynthia Word, Resident
 Carlotta Anderson, Resident
 David Chitwood, Echo Reporter

Mayor Beers called meeting to order at 8 p.m., noting that Glen Echo Park (GEP) Site Manager Kym Elder was not at the meeting.

Cynthia Word was invited to present her request to use the town hall for dance rehearsal three weekday afternoons in April. Councilmember Long asked if there would be a request beyond this April; Ms. Word responded that, barring any problems, she would most likely request to use the space again. Ms. Word was made aware of the Post Office's objection to noise during their business hours. Mayor Beers explained Council's repeat user concerns, noting that she would not be opposed to three uses in April. Resident town hall use fees were also reviewed (three free uses, \$25 for each additional use per year). Ms. Word then described her dance group's history and format. She explained that she dances in the manner of Isadora Duncan; there would be two or three dancers rehearsing barefoot in the town hall. Carlotta Anderson said she supports Ms. Word's dance style and thought the town hall would be an appropriate venue for this activity. Councilmember Long suggested that Ms. Word's dance group might offer a performance as a Chautauqua series event.

Council supported Ms. Word's request for three day uses during April.

Carlotta Anderson reported that the Cabin John Citizens Association has asked Glen Echo to participate in a 400th anniversary celebration of Captain John Smith's exploration of the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River June 21 at the Clara Barton Community Center. Cabin John plans a cook-out, fireworks on the ball field (if approved by Montgomery County) and a presentation and discussion on their history.

Council discussed possible presentations and formats. Councilmember Matney suggested that Glen Echo Park may have a ready-made presentation available. Mayor Beers said that many of the photographs in Ms. Anderson history of Glen Echo, "Glen Echo: The Remarkable Saga of a Very Small Town," would be suitable for the Town's presentation. Ms. Anderson said the digital photographs used in her publications are available.

Councilmember Matney will work with Ms. Anderson to develop a Glen Echo presentation for the Cabin John celebration.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion 2008-4 to approve as presented the February 11, 2008, Town Council meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

ARTICLE V, SECTION 501, CHARTER AMENDMENT

Mayor Beers summarized the reasons Council is considering a Charter amendment on voter qualifications. She then reviewed the discussion and suggested changes from the January and February Council meetings. Additional comments:

- Resident Phyllis Fordham submitted written comments (attached) favoring U.S. citizenship for eligibility, as well as opposing same-day registration;
- Mayor Beers noted that several individuals have supported U.S. citizenship as a requirement but said the Town is not going to take away a non-citizen's right to vote if they are a legal resident;
- Council agreed that a person registering should be required to provide some document proving residency in Town.
- Mayor Beers will incorporate the suggested changes for Council's last review before formally introducing a proposed charter amendment at the next Council meeting.

Councilmember Kogelnik closed the discussion by noting that the issue is whether the election process is best served by changing the language in the Charter.

GLEN ECHO PARK REPORT

Mayor Beers asked Councilmember Long to report on Glen Echo Park, since Kym Elder was not present.

Kym Elder has been looking for a replacement for the Weeping Willow tree lost during a storm last fall. Ms Long said that this tree had graced the end of University Avenue at Oxford Road for years; it was a major enhancement to the landscape there.

Sam Swersky has been promoted to supervisory Ranger replacing Joe Burns, who has moved to Great Falls Park, Virginia.

Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture (GEPPAC) is making plans for the spring fundraising GALA, to be held in May. Mayor Beers will provide the details to the Echo.

Mayor Beers noted recent car break-ins on the C & O Canal between Lock 5 and 10. C/T Polak said she circulated an email to residents on this alert.

Councilmember Long mentioned the letter she read into the February 2008 Council minutes, noting that the reason was to make Council aware of the importance of the

relationship between Glen Echo Park and the Town. She said the Town must be vigilant on important issues, especially concerning conflicting issues, e.g. additional building (NPS can only control the height of a building). GEPPAC is not required to hold a public meeting for new construction in the Park. Mayor Beers agreed that the Town needs to be aware of what goes on at the Park.

There was no further information on the NPS interpretation on Oxford Road ownership. Mayor Beers mentioned that the Town may need to seek Representative VanHollen's assistance to obtain a response from the NPS on this issue.

C/T Polak noted that the Montgomery County Police will begin monitoring the stop sign at Oxford Road and University Avenue this month.

BUILDING IN GLEN ECHO

Mayor Beers reported that there has been a number of inquiries about the house for sale at 6004 Bryn Mawr Avenue, noting that Montgomery County permitting office is providing incorrect information on potential renovations on substandard lots in Glen Echo. Mayor Beers asked the Town's attorney, Norman Knopf, to make sure Montgomery County does not issue building permits or false information. All inquiries are to be given to the Mayor; she will refer them to Norman Knopf as needed.

STREET REPAIR REPORT

Councilmember Kogelnik provided the attached street repair project report, noting that AMT has taken the core samples, and does not recommend additional samples. She does not know the location of the samples. AMT looked closely at curbs and sidewalks, and will offer traffic calming suggestions.

The report will prioritize the areas most in need of repair. Mayor Beers suggested the possibility of doing the necessary repairs in phases. Ms. Kogelnik agreed that is a possibility but would raise the overall expense because of the added cost of bringing heavy equipment into town for each phase.

Councilmember Kogelnik then asked what the process is to review and approve AMT's recommendations. Mayor Beers recommended a special meeting.

Mayor Beers will contact Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation for a copy of their storm drain survey; Councilmember Kogelnik would like to email the report to AMT.

TOWN PARK LANDSCAPING

Councilmember Long said she was of the opinion that there was council consensus that Shorb Landscaping would manage the Town parks this year, although no vote was taken. Councilmember Arber asked if Shorb Landscaping guarantees their plants if they do not manage the areas. Councilmember Long replied she did not believe so, and strongly supports using Shorb to manage the two sites until the new planting are established.

Watering the two sites is a major consideration, which Shorb would provide for \$55/man hour.

C/T Polak said the original proposal from Shorb to maintain and manage the Town parks after planting was more than double the fees charged by Chapel Valley Landscaping (\$2000 vs. \$5000). Mayor Beers agreed, if Council approves Shorb for the parks, it should be for one year. Their fees are much too expensive for more than one year. Councilmember Long will get an updated proposal from Shorb for maintenance of the Town parks. Councilmember Long noted that she is pleased with the work to date.

TOWN HALL USE

Councilmember Long highlighted some of the upcoming events from the attached town hall use calendar.

The Nature Conservancy wants to use the town hall for a retreat on March 17. There are plans to have a Chautauqua series program presented by the Nature Conservancy on the Potomac Gorge.

MML REPORT

Councilmember Arber reported that the Maryland Municipal League's (MML) Annual Convention will again be held in Ocean City, Maryland. Councilmember Long mentioned that she had attended the convention twice in the past, and does not see any specific benefit to the Town's attendance; however, it would be of interest to new Council members to attend once. Mayor Beers noted that if a council member would like to attend the MML convention, the Town would cover the expenses.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20.