

Town of Glen Echo
Council Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2008

Attendance: Debbie Beers, Mayor
Nancy Long, Councilmember
Eve Arber, Councilmember
Robin Kogelnik, Councilmember
Cathie Polak, Clerk-Treasurer

Visitors: Sophie Keefer, Echo Reporter
Bob Harrison, A. Morton Thomas (AMT)

Mayor Beers called meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

GLEN ECHO PARK REPORT

Mayor Beers invited Councilmember Long to give the GEP Report. Kym Elder was not able to attend the Council meeting because there had been no electricity in the Park that day.

Councilmember Long noted that Superintendent David Vela has left the George Washington Memorial Parkway for another posting as regional director of the National Park Service Southeast Region with offices in Atlanta..

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion 2008-8 to approve as presented the April 13, 2008, Town Council meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

STREET REPAIR REPORT

Councilmember Kogelnik introduced Bob Harrison, AMT representative handling the Town's street survey and assessment.

Mr. Harrison gave an overview of his resume, explaining that he has been with AMT for the past four-plus years, although he said he is not a civil engineer, has had experience to qualify him for this project. He then reviewed the AMT assessment for Glen Echo's streets and explained how to navigate through the assessment document. Discussion and comments were:

- The core samples taken at all locations show no construction consistency in GE streets;
- The addition of curbs and gutters would cost about \$35/running foot;
- Note was made of the Montgomery County DPWT recommendation that the Town add gutters and curbs to the streets;
- AMT said adding gutters/curbs could add to some of the run off problems;

- AMT noted that the water needs to be collected and diverted into the drain at Oxford Road and University Avenue;
- AMT recommends some type of traffic calming device on upper Oxford Road near the intersection as well as a raised crosswalk with a stop sign in the middle of the crosswalk. AMT also recommends several traffic calming devices along University Avenue;
- Councilmember Arber asked if water drainage is a problem with speed bumps; Mr. Harrison said that speed bumps do not impede water flow;
- Councilmember Long asked if street sections can be done independently, expressing concern about a uniform height. Mr. Harrison said this would not be a problem. The greater concern is utility depth.
- Councilmember Arber asked if there is a recommendation for the order of street repair; the recommended order would follow ratings.
- Mayor Beers would like to see the project done all at once, noting that it is difficult on residents and the coordinators, as well as cost effective.
- Councilmember Kogelnik said she would like to see the project done correctly once.
- Mr. Harrison noted the low volume of traffic in Town gives a longer life to any reconstructed roads.
- Mayor Beers noted that ADA requirements would have to be followed with reconstruction of the sidewalks.
- Councilmember Arber asked about project length: it is not a big project, a few months to do work once bid process is complete. Bid process can take a few months. C/T Polak asked if this is doable before this winter. Mr. Harrison responded yes. The work should not start any later than Labor Day.
- Mayor Beers asked if sunken manholes near her home can be raised; this work can be added to the bid contract so that it is automatically the responsibility of the contractor.
- Mayor Beers noted that it is important “not to get carried away” with the repairs, Council should not spend all the reserves on this street project.

Councilmember Kogelnik will coordinate a special meeting to discuss the final assessment. The tentative date was set for June 10.

TOWN HALL MAINTENANCE

C/T Polak presented two bids (one from G & B Painting Contractors for \$2960 and one from “The Painters” for \$8,500) to paint the interior of the Post Office. After discussion, Council voted to accept the bid from G & B Painting Contractors.

Motion 2008-9 to accept the bid to paint the interior of Post Office from G&B Painting Contractors for \$2960. Motion passed unanimously.

C/T Polak presented three bids to paint the exterior of the Town Hall, including the surrounding fences, posts, and fuel tank:

- The Painters, \$29,500;

- Miles Brothers Painting, \$28,500;
- G & B Painting Contractors, \$23,200.

The bids were based on updated detailed specs prepared by the Town Council in 1991. Council approved the contractor C/T Polak thought would be the easiest to work with, provided he will lower the bid by \$1000.

Motion 2008-10 to accept the bid from “The Painters” to paint the Town Hall exterior, fence, stairs, bollards and fuel tank for \$28,500. Motion passed unanimously, provided the bid is lowered from \$29,500 to \$28,500.

TOWN PARK LANDSCAPING

C/T Polak reported that Chapel Valley Landscaping proposes to maintain the Town parks for an additional \$151.25/month, plus watering at \$50/hour; the proposal from Shorb Landscaping is for \$5655/year plus \$55/hour for watering.

Motion 2008-11 to accept the amended annual contract from Chapel Valley Landscaping to include maintenance of the Town parks for an additional \$1,512.40/year. Motion passed unanimously.

TOWN HALL USE

Councilmember Long provided a copy of the upcoming town hall events (attached), noting the upcoming FY2008-09 Budget hearing and special council meeting on Tuesday, May 27, at 7:30 p.m.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Councilmember Long showed Council a June 1891 news paper from the Glen Echo Chautauqua donated to the Town by Terry Long, a Pennsylvania resident and no relation to Councilmember Long. She noted that it should be framed for display in the Town Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40.