

Town of Glen Echo
Council Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2008

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

Visitors: Kym Elder, NPS
Maria Capozzi, NPS, GEP
Kathleen Kotcher, Echo Reporter

Mayor Beers opened the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Councilmember Matney was not in attendance. Mayor Beers noted that this is Kym Elder's last Council meeting and then thanked Ms. Elder for being responsive to Town issues and wished her success as Superintendent for Ford's Theater. Councilmember Long read the following from a card, signed by the Mayor and all Council members, given to Ms. Elder:

To Kym Elder,
With appreciation for her outstanding, wise and gracious stewardship of the Clara Barton National Historic Site and Glen Echo Park. The National Park Service can truly be proud of this woman who sets an example of excellence for all to follow.
The Mayor and Town Council of Glen Echo

GLEN ECHO PARK REPORT

Kym Elder returned her appreciation to the Town for their availability and responses to issues in the Park. Ms Elder then introduced Maria Capozzi, who will be Acting Site Manager until there is an official Site Manager announcement from the NPS. Ms. Elder told Council that she has worked closely with Ms. Capozzi, who is familiar with the Town's unresolved issues and concerns.

The Park is preparing for the final renovation project, Phase V, and safety improvements to the playground area. A playground observation area for parents is being added. The NPS will try to have the playground plans available for review in a public area. Ms. Elder said there is no need for a public meeting on the playground plans because the NPS is replacing and upgrading the existing equipment; no new equipment will be added.

Mayor Beers asked about the material being used for the new playground surface. Ms. Elder said the new surface will be rubber matting, which should help with the rock and mulch erosion problem caused by run-off from the Spanish Ballroom roof. Mayor Beers noted that a Town resident is concerned that the new material is toxic, but the resident was not able to provide backup documentation for this assertion.

Ms. Elder explained that she has briefed Ms. Capozzi on the Oxford Road issue; she also suggested which individuals in Interior she thought should receive the Oxford Road letter—they are: Secretary of Interior Dirk Kempthorn; Deputy regional Director, National

Capital Region, Lisa Mendelson-Ielmimi; Molly Ross, Esq. Office of the Solicitor, Department of Interior.

C/T Polak inquired about the maintenance shed replacement. There is no funding for it; it is a very low priority on the Federal budget.

Mayor Beers asked about a response to Michael Mitchell's request to improve the drain at the end of University Avenue, across Oxford Road. (Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation would like to improve this drain, at the County's expense, in an effort to try to improve storm water run-off in Town.) Ms. Elder said the letter has been forwarded to Sean McCabe, who does not want to address the drain improvement until Oxford Road ownership is decided. Mayor Beers and Councilmember Kogelnik expressed the importance of separating the drain from the Oxford Road issue. The drain is not part of the ownership concern; it is clearly on NPS land. Ms. Elder said she would get a response before leaving for Ford's Theater.

Councilmember Long mentioned the Labor Day Art show to be held in the Spanish Ballroom, August 29-September 1, and distributed announcement cards to the Mayor and Council.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion 2008-21 to approve as presented the July 14, 2008, Town Council meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

OXFORD ROAD/NPS LETTER

Mayor Beers circulated the Oxford Road ownership letter for any further comments. She then reviewed the comments from the attorney who reviewed the letter at the request of resident Willem Polak. Mayor Beers noted that two lawyers, Town attorney Norman Knopf and Chuck Patrizia, Esq., have recommended keeping the deadline for a response. The changes have been sent to Norman Knopf, who will sign the letter. Councilmember Long suggested changing "purchase" to read "acquired," and objected to inclusion of a 30-day deadline.

STREET REPAIR PROJECT

Councilmember Kogelnik noted that the town is up against a weather deadline; she recommends that the Town proceed with bidding, with the work to be done in the spring. This approach gives Council more time to review the bids, make changes, and award the contract.

Mayor Beers mentioned a meeting with Michael Mitchell, Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT), where he suggested the option that the town piggy back on a County project. Mayor Beers said town needs to move on this project, at least begin the bidding phase.

Councilmember Kogelnik said Council first must approve the AMT proposal of July 3, 2008. She then reviewed the five elements in the proposal discussed at length during the July 2008 Council meeting.

Councilmember Arber expressed concern over not receiving an acceptable bid through AMT. She wanted confirmation that the Town has ownership of the bid documents, and specifications, should the Town need to pursue other sources to complete the street project. Councilmember Kogelnik stated that the Town would own all documents relative to the project.

Motion 2008-22 to approve AMT proposal of July 3, 2008, for \$28,660. Motion unanimously approved.

STORM WATER MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Mayor Beers reported that she met with Michael Mitchell, DPWT. DPWT will replace the swale at Dunrobin Road and MacArthur Boulevard; Mr. Mitchell re-affirmed the DPWT commitment to improve storm water management along MacArthur Boulevard opposite Glen Echo.

TOWN HALL USE

Councilmember Long presented the attached town hall use calendar, noting:

- FSGW concert, September 27;
- Halloween party, October 31;
- Holiday Breakfast, December 13.

TOWNHALL MAINTENANCE

Councilmember Long noted a new poster recognizing the centennial of the birth of Roger Tory Peterson, world-renown ornithologist and artist who was famous for his paintings of birds and for the Peterson Bird Guide. The Peterson family once lived in Glen Echo at 42 Wellesley Circle.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

1. Tree Removal: David Chitwood notified Council of the need to remove a large, partially dead, Sycamore Tree. Council waived the waiting period.
2. C/T Polak presented a proposal to aerate, over-seed and lime all turf areas managed by Chapel Valley Landscaping.

Motion 2008-23 to accept the Chapel Valley bid of \$2396.70 for fall turf improvement. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.