

Town of Glen Echo
Council Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2008

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

Visitors: David Chitwood, Echo Reporter
William Cannon, Glen Echo Baptist Church
Anne Curtis, Glen Echo Baptist Church
Susan Draize, Glen Echo Baptist Church

Mayor Beers called meeting to order at 8:04 p.m.

GLEN ECHO BAPTIST CHURCH

Mayor Beers invited the Glen Echo Baptist Church representatives to address the Council. They told Council the Baptist Church's goal is to improve its relationship with the Town, and described the visit as a "fence-mending operation;" they sought to make amends for past problems. Anne Curtis, wife of the church's pastor, Ed Curtis, said the church is looking for ways to build trust and serve the community on a volunteer basis. They said their purpose is outreach only, and not an effort to pull Town residents into the church. The representatives wanted to "brain storm" on possible outreach programs that Town Council thought might best serve Glen Echo residents.

The response was "no," when Mayor Beers asked if any Town residents are church members. Mayor Beers mentioned maintenance issues around the church and annex as problems in the past and said there has been a big improvement over the past few years. Mayor Beers would like to see maintenance attended to without asking. Mayor Beers also noted problems involving the housing of homeless in the annex as a real concern to residents. Ms. Draize explained that such an arrangement would "never happen again."

Councilmember Long inquired about the number of church members. According to Mr. Cannon, there are currently 25 to 30 full time attendees living in Maryland, Virginia and the District. The Church can handle about 200 members. Councilmember Long also asked about future plans for use of, and about their intentions for the main church and the annex is in poor shape. The Pastor and deacons are in the process of reviewing use of the annex. The Pastor and deacons are in the process of reviewing use of the annex, was the reply.

Councilmember Long asked if they are reaching out to the Cabin John community. They said the membership is so small, they are beginning with Glen Echo first, and felt they could handle one holiday outreach program this year. Suggestions and comments for their community outreach programs were:

- help with a yard sale
- organize a car wash
- meals and other assistance for families in crisis
- holiday gift wrapping
- Christmas caroling
- Council noted that any programs need to be inter-faith, or not faith-related
- Councilmember Kogelnik suggested a holiday toy collection program
- Councilmember Arber suggested gathering donations for food banks
- Councilmember Arber suggested an open house at the church, noting that most residents have never been inside the main building
- Councilmember Kogelnik suggested lighting the outside of the buildings through the holidays
- Making the classroom space and other spaces in the church and annex available to residents

Mayor Beers emphasized that the Town must be cautious about sponsoring events that could be perceived as religious in nature.

Councilmember Matney inquired about the days and times of the services: Wednesday evenings at 7:00; Thursday and Sunday mornings.

Councilmember Long asked what the delegation sees for the Church's future. The group responded that they would like to see the congregation grow and become a vital part of the community.

Mayor Beers thanked the delegation and asked for one specific project for the upcoming holiday season to be presented to Council.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion 2008-26 approved as amended the September 8, 2008, Town Council meeting minutes:

- Page 3, paragraph 6: Mayor Beers said that if there are any further altercations, ECD (~~and all other repeat users~~) will be terminated.
- Page 4, paragraph 1: The first reports indicate 75 downed trees, 7 wash outs and ~~9.5~~ 95 feet of towpath missing below widewater.

Motion passed as amended.

GLEN ECHO PARK REPORT

Mayor Beers noted that there was no Glen Echo Park representative present and asked Councilmember Long to report on the Park. Councilmember Long reminded Council that Columbus Day is a Federal holiday, which is why there was no GEP representative at the council meeting. Mayor Beers asked if Maria Capozzi is the official Site Manager for GEP. Councilmember Long said Ms. Capozzi is still the acting Site Manager.

The National Children's Resource Center (NCRC) will be renting space from GEPPAC for at least one more month.

Repair of the Caretakers' Cottage retaining wall has required more extensive work than originally anticipated, including removal of several trees for pile driving equipment to have access, and for construction of the wall. The Caretakers Cottage is under renovation. The façade to the Crystal Pool has been removed, with the exception of a small amount of brickwork at the base of the structure. The neon sign was temporarily removed. A new façade will be constructed; one that replicates the old façade, described by Councilwomen Long as "an entry to nowhere," since there is presently nothing structural behind it. She added that GEPPAC will probably find something to place in that area. The project on schedule; the cost is \$700K, from each of the three partners, Montgomery County, State of Maryland and the Department of Interior, NPS.

The Clara Barton National Historic Site (CBNHS) will hold its Victorian-era holiday card workshops November 29 and 30, and on December 6 and 7.

Councilmember Long reported that the CBNHS house plans to remove the underground fuel (oil) tank. C/T Polak expressed concern about where the tanks will be placed. C/T Polak also inquired about the new building on the CBNHS site. Councilmember Matney noted the NPS does not need to notify, or have public hearing, when a new structure is put on park property.

Mayor Beers noted that it is time for the Town to make the annual GEPPAC donation.

STREET REPAIR REPORT

Councilmember Kogelnik reported that A. Morton Thomas (AMT) is preparing bid documents; the Town will have a final review of the documents. AMT is also preparing a draft advertisement to solicit bids. AMT may advertise with eMaryland Marketplace in order to receive multiple bids. AMT estimates the first draft will be available mid-November.

OXFORD ROAD

Upgraded Storm Drain

The Oxford Road/University Avenue storm drain improvement project is scheduled for November 3-14, 2008; one lane of Oxford Road may be closed during construction. Mayor Beers indicated she would contact Michael Mitchell, Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) for a more specific date of construction in order to notify residents living on Oxford Road.

Traffic Volume and Violation Concerns

Councilmember Kogelnik raised concerns from several residents about increased traffic violations on Oxford Road; She approached AMT about temporary traffic calming solutions for Oxford Road. AMT suggested temporary speed bumps or flags in the center of the roadway as possibilities.

Councilmember Matney suggested asking GEPPAC to distribute fliers to the NCRC families and other Park patrons. Mayor Beers indicated that she doubted that GEPPAC would support the Town's Oxford Road Concerns. C/T Polak told Council she has already requested that NCRC ask parents, in their weekly newsletters, to slow down on Oxford Road and obey the stop sign.

Councilmember Kogelnik will get estimates for temporary speed bumps and circulate the information via email for approval.

C/T Polak will hire additional Montgomery County Police to monitor Oxford Road on weekdays.

NPS Ownership Response Letter

Mayor Beers suggested not responding to the NPS's letter (attached) on Oxford Road ownership dispute until further discussions with town attorney Norman Knopf.

Councilmember Matney suggested that Representative Chris Van Hollen and the two Maryland U.S. senators should be informed of the NPS response; Councilmember Long said she did not think it a good idea to do so. Mayor Beers agreed to forward the letter.

TOWN HALL MAINTENANCE

C/T Polak presented a proposal from Sterico Signs & Designs to make a replacement sign, matching the Town Hall Sign, for the rotted Glen Echo Post Office sign removed during the recent exterior painting.

Motion 2008-27 to accept the Sterico Signs & Designs proposal for \$1850 to replace and install a new sign reading "U.S. Post Office, Glen Echo, MD 20812."

Motion passed unanimously.

C/T Polak reported that she contacted six roofing companies to bid on replacing the town hall roof and received two proposals. Council reviewed the bids.

Motion 2008-28 to accept the Katchmark Construction proposal for \$12,665.00 to replace the town hall roof. Motion passed unanimously.

TOWN HALL USE

Councilmember Long reviewed the attached town hall use calendar:

- Volksmarch walk Saturday, October 18;
- Family Dance begins November 9;
- Halloween party, 5:30-6:30, October 31;
- Town holiday party, December 13, 9-10:30 a.m.

MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE (MML)

Councilmember Arber reported that annual MML Legislative Dinner will be held at the Rockville Hilton, on December 3.

UNINSURED FUNDS

A recent article in the *Gazette* newspaper listed Glen Echo as having uninsured bank deposits during fiscal year 2007-08, which is a violation of state law.

C/T Polak explained that automatic deposits to the Town's accounts occasionally result in the combined accounts exceeding the \$100,000 maximum by a few thousand dollars, for a short time.

Mayor Beers explained that the issue is no longer relevant because the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation increased the limit from \$100,000 to \$250,000; the Town is also submitting forms required to establish a collateralization agreement with SunTrust in order to protect excess funds on deposit.

SHIRLEY'S PARK

C/T Polak presented a suggestion for the plaque honoring Shirley Strong's land donation to the Town. Council agreed on the following:

This land was donated to the
Town of Glen Echo in 2006
By Shirley Strong
Friend, Neighbor and Conservationist

Meeting adjourned at 9:40.