

**TOWN OF GLEN ECHO
COUNCIL MEETING**

March 9, 2009

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

VISITORS: Polly Angelakis, GEP, Site Manager
David Chitwood, Echo Reporter
Eleanor Balaban, Resident
Sharon Cleary, C & O Canal
Raya Bodnarchuk, Resident
Peter Somerville, Resident
Debbie Lange, Resident
Jen Zhang, Resident
Brent Agnew, Resident

Mayor Beers opened the meeting at 8 p.m. and invited Polly Agelakos, Glen Echo Park (GEP) Site Manager, to report.

GLEN ECHO PARK REPORT

Ms. Agelakos began by telling Council that a person was apprehended while trying to break into a car parked in the lot near MacArthur Boulevard. (There have been numerous car break ins since the first of the year in the Park as well as in Town.) One suspect is still at large. Mayor Beers asked if NPS still intends to have a Park Police substation returned to GEP. Ms. Angelakis said she was not aware of plans to put a substation in GEP; Park Police are trying to be more of a presence in GEP.

Mayor Beers inquired about funding for the geo-thermal project. Information on all funding is embargoed; there is no word on geo-thermal funding for the Clara Barton National Historic Site (CBNHS). When asked, Ms. Angelakis explained that this means there is no information or discussion of specific stimulus funding projects until the information can be available to all.

On March 28 there will be an Open House and special Clara Barton play at Adventure Theater.

Resident Peter Somerville inquired about sub-surfacing for the playground. Ms. Angelakis had no information and said she will bring a response to the April Council meeting.

Councilmember Long asked about a landscaping plan in the area of the new retaining wall and the Caretakers Cottage; she also asked if a copy of the plan could be available to the public in the Park office. Ms. Angelakis said she did not know if such a plan was available and would email the town office if available.

Councilmember Matney expressed concern about cars turning onto the bike path from the upper parking area along MacArthur Boulevard; there is no barrier indicating that the area is not for cars. He said he was not sure if it is a Montgomery County issue or GEP issue but asked if the Park could request a safety barrier be installed.

Councilmember Long asked if there was information on any other funding for GEP from Regional Office sources (not stimulus); Ms. Angelakis repeated that all information is embargoed.

STREET REPAIR PROJECT

Mayor Beers referred to the attached update from A.M. Thomas (AMT), stating that she would like AMT to send out the bid documents. Council can then accept or defer work based on the proposals received. Robin Kogelnik offered to call AMT.

TOWN HALL MAINTENANCE

The soundproofing project by CASE Handyman is still in progress.

TOWN HALL USE

Councilmember Long reported that Tom Espinosa, the son of previous Town residents, requested use of the Town Hall for a wedding and reception. He asked if a waiver of the \$500 fee were possible. Mayor Beers said she is not inclined to lower the fee noting that when compared to other locales, the Town Hall's fees are at bargain rates. Councilmember Long noted a free use for a memorial gathering of friends of another former resident, also that the Town Hall does not have some amenities offered by other places. There were no other comments supporting a lower fee.

The March movie will be "Spinal Tap."

MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE (MML)

No one from Glen Echo was able to attend the annual dinner with Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett. Councilmember Arber plans to attend the annual meeting with Montgomery County Council members on March 19. Mayor Beers noted that the date conflicts with Ladies Night at her home; she will not be able to attend the MML event.

MML offers a grant for the Town to attend the annual convention; the Town has not sent a representative to the annual convention for many years. Mayor Beers asked if Councilmember Arber would like to attend; the convention is scheduled at an inconvenient

time. Mayor Beers asked if other council members were interested in attending the convention: Councilmember Long, who attended years ago, said she is not interested in attending this year. Councilmember Matney will review his schedule and respond at the April Council meeting.

PEPCO

Resident Jim Shaut reported his concern about the deteriorating condition of wire insulation on PEPCO's line in Town. Mayor Beers will write a letter to PEPCO.

LGIT TULIP

C/T Polak presented a new service offered by the Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT): Tenant User Liability Insurance Program (TULIP). Town hall users would be eligible for low-cost general liability insurance at no fee to the Town. This program protects both the tenant user and the Town against claims by "third parties" who may be injured or have property damage as a result of an activity held at the Town Hall. See the attached letter from LGIT.

There was discussion about requiring every user to have this insurance or offering it as an option. Polly Angelakis will look into what is required of GEPPAC rentals. Council was concerned about the potential costs.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion 2009-06 to approve as amended the February 9, 2009, Town Council meeting minutes:

- Page 1, paragraph 5, line 2: the Town's resident email group and hand deliver it to each home.

Motion passed as amended.

SPECIAL COUNCILMEMBER ELECTION

Robin Kogelnik notified Council that she has moved from Glen Echo. Mayor Beers declared the council seat vacant and thanked Robin for her service noting that the Council appreciates her continued help with the street repair project.

Motion 2009-07 to hold a special election for a two-year council member seat, on May 4, 2009, in conjunction with the regular Town election. Motion passed unanimously.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

1. GEPPAC Gala Honoree: The Town will purchase a table at the GEPPAC Gala on May 19, when Councilmember Long will be honored for her years of volunteer work at GEP. Councilmember Long will invite her guests to share the table, most expected to be Town residents.

2. Street Light Outages: Resident Debbie Lange asked for assistance with a street light repair noting that the outage has been reported to Montgomery County numerous times. C/T Polak asked for the exact location and pole number (if available); the Town office can make an official request to repair the street light if normal channels are not successful.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.