

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO COUNCIL MEETING

April 13, 2009

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

VISITORS: Polly Angelakis, GEP, Site Manager
Tom Helf, Echo Reporter
Raya Bodnarchuk, Resident
Bill Canon, Glen Echo Baptist Church (GDBC)

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

GLEN ECHO PARK REPORT

Playground

The playground is now closed for resurfacing and some equipment upgrades. Ms. Angelakis explained that the Park contacted Montgomery and Fairfax Counties to find out what they use for playground ground cover; both recommended the shredded rubberized surface which they have installed. Wood carpet (mulch) will be used on the outskirts of the playground. Mayor Beers asked about the equipment; Ms. Angelakis said some old equipment will be replaced because wooden posts are rotting in the equipment. Additionally, she explained that the playground equipment is in its 11th year of a 15 year life span. Councilmember Long pointed out that much of the existing equipment is constructed with metal parts rather than wood, and therefore should be usable. Mayor Beers inquired about funding and was told that there is some funding for part of the changes; there was no explanation of any additional funding. Councilmember Long noted that the new seating area is attractive. Resident Raya Bodnarchuk asked if all equipment will be replaced. Ms. Angelakis said if a piece of equipment is safe it will stay, if not, it will be repaired or replaced. The contractors will try to complete the playground work by May 2, Family Day, but there are no guarantees.

Responses to March Council Questions

- Retaining wall: Ms. Angelakis said there is no landscaping plan at present for the new retaining wall area near the Caretaker's Cottage, or at the upper level of the project along the Park's entry path.
- Rental Insurance Requirements: GEP Cooperators carry their own liability insurance. Ms. Angelakis will need to contact GEPPAC to get a clearer picture of how insurance coverage is handled with GEPPAC rentals.

- Bike path safety: The NPS response to the town's request for assistance with placing a barrier or pole to stop cars from driving on the bike path, in the vicinity of the Park, is: "Montgomery County owns the bike path." Ms. Angelakis said that concerns about the bike path through GEP "will be addressed down the road." Council explained that they are aware that the bike path is owned by Montgomery County; they were requesting help from the NPS to stop cars from inadvertently driving on the bike path. C/T Polak noted that if all parties (concerned citizens, Town of Glen Echo, and the NPS) express concern for this problem, the County may add a safety barrier.

Clara Barton NHS HVAC Upgrade

The upgraded temporary HVAC system at Clara Barton is complete, with the installation of two propane tanks shielded by fencing. A pipe burst on the second floor bathroom during the initial testing phase, causing some water damage and flooding in the first floor parlor.

Park Events

Family Day will be on May 2, along with Jr. Ranger Day and an Open House at the Clara Barton NHS.

Councilmember Long added that the entrance to the upper parking lot will need to be reconfigured due to the planned new bike path alignment in the Park. There will be public meeting.

GLEN ECHO BAPTIST CHURCH

The GEBC is planning to invite Town residents to a barbeque in the Church parking lot.

Councilmember Arber received no response when she inquired if the Church bell still rings at 11 a.m.

U.S. POST OFFICE

Mayor Beers asked about the recent complaints from Harvard Avenue residents on the early morning truck noise at the Post Office. C/T Polak said there has been no official response from the USPS but the USPS trucks are no longer coming during off hours (reported as early as 3 a.m.).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion 2009- 08 to approve as presented the March 9, 2009, Town Council meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

STREET REPAIR PROJECT

Mayor Beers reported that A. Morton Thomas (AMT) has been directed to move forward with the street project and will begin bidding out the entire project. She recently attended a stimulus meeting in Annapolis where it sounded as though the Town would not be in line for funds. Councilmember Matney speculated that the University Avenue/Oxford Road intersection may be eligible because it is a "dangerous intersection." Mayor Beers referred to

restrictions on federally funded monies saying Council needs to decide if “funding is worth the trade off.” Mayor Beers also said she understood that stimulus monies are to come in phases; the Town may be able to get left-over funds.

Councilmember Matney reviewed the bid package and expressed concern about the quality of the bidding documents. Mayor Beers asked Councilmember Matney to get in touch with AMT to clarify any inconsistencies in the bid package.

TOWN HALL USE

Councilmember Long reported on a call from a for-profit health care organization. She thought it would be an inappropriate use of the town hall for several reasons. The group did not want to pay the \$500 fee; they planned to give medical tests involving rest periods for participants, and wanted to use the Hall during USPS hours. It appeared that traffic and parking for extended periods would be a serious problem, also that medical practice of any kind could pose potentially serious problems for the Town.

C/T Polak reported further on the Local Government Insurance Trust/Tenant User Liability Insurance Program (TULIP):

- The program is designed to transfer risk from the Town to the user;
- The fees are based on numerous variables geared toward the individual’s use; the minimum fee \$75;
- Repeat users could receive coverage for all uses, saving costs on the one-time use.

Mayor Beers suggested making the TULIP program an option, especially for non-resident, regular users.

Councilmember Long will get a copy of the Certificate of Insurance from FSGW for English Country Dance.

Councilmember Matney reported that there were about 28 people for the movie, “Wall-ee,” which was “a good turn out.” There will be no movie showing in June, July or August.

MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE (MML)

Councilmember Arber reported an important MML meeting with the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) on April 16 to discuss the Montgomery County and Prince George’s County aging infrastructure and how it may affect municipalities.

On April 14, from 7-8 p.m., there will be a meeting with Representative Chris van Hollen on stimulus funds.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

1. Budget Hearing

Motion 2009-09 to hold the 2009-2010 Fiscal Year Budget Hearing on Tuesday, May 19, 7:30 p.m., followed by a Special Council Meeting to adopt the Budget.

Mayor Beers will circulate the proposed budget by May 6, 2009.

Note: The Budget Hearing and Council meeting were changed to May 20, 2009, at 7:30 p.m.

2. John Morrow:

Councilmember Long noted the recent death of resident John Morrow. The family suggested that those wishing to contribute to the Wyoming Chapter of the Nature Conservancy. She suggested Council send a \$200 contribution in John's memory.

Motion 2009-10 to contribute \$200 to the Wyoming Chapter of the Nature Conservancy in memory of John Morrow. Motion passed unanimously.

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