

**TOWN OF GLEN ECHO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
October 12, 2009**

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

VISITORS: Brent Agnew, Echo Reporter
Phil Bell, Go21
Debbie Lange, Resident
Phyllis Fordham, Resident

Mayor Beers opened the meeting at 8 p.m.

GLEN ECHO PARK

Site Manager Polly Angelakis submitted the attached GEP report.

GO21

Phil Bell explained that his organization, Go21, is requesting Council's support for legislation that would provide Federal financial assistance to the freight rail industry. Go21 is seeking a Federal tax credit for expanded railways. Rail transportation is deemed environmentally friendly and should lessen traffic congestion nationwide. Go21 is asking local municipalities and counties to adopt a supporting resolution. (From materials submitted by Mr. Bell, Go21 appears to stand for Growth Options for the 21st century.)

Mayor Beers said Council would want to review the Go21 information before passing a resolution. Mr. Bell offered to submit a draft resolution for review.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion 2009-20 to approve as submitted the August 10, 2009, Town Council meeting minutes. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion 2009-21 to approve as amended the Sept 14, 2009, Town Council meeting minutes:

- Change page 2, paragraph 3, line 8: that they own the ~~free-fee~~ interest under the road, and that the Town has surface rights to maintain, rebuild, and police the Road.
- Add to page 2, paragraph 5: In the interest of moving the street repair project forward, Mr. Knopf proposed that they should "agree to disagree" and the language of the permit should be amended to reflect that, in signing the permit, the Town does not admit ownership by NPS. NPS officials agreed that once the

language is agreed upon, the permit could be issued so that work could start as early as next week.

- Change page 2, paragraph 8, line 1: Councilmember Macy ~~suggested~~ commended Motion approved with changes.

STREET REPAIR PROJECT REPORT

Ross Contracting submitted a bid of \$42,696 to resurface the Town Hall parking lot. Mayor Beers recommended not accepting the bid. Council agreed this amount was too high; Councilmember Long questioned the need for resurfacing.

Mayor Beers reported that the street repair project is moving forward and should be completed before the end of October. There are a few repairs to be completed, such as raising the manhole covers on Wellesley Circle. Concern remains about whether the crowning of the street on lower Cornell will affect water flow, sending water into yards and homes on Cornell, as well as other Town streets where sidewalk and pavement are of equal height (curbs were eliminated in the resurfacing of streets).

Councilmember Matney asked about the treatment of sidewalk driveway cuts that are no longer flush with the roadway. Mayor Beers said these could be redone. Resident Phyllis Fordham seems content with the work done on upper Princeton Avenue, noting that there is no longer a trip factor from the asphalt curb along the sidewalk near her property. She mentioned a dip in the sidewalk at her walkway that may cause water to puddle and freeze in colder weather. C/T Polak said that the dip in the sidewalk was placed there to accommodate the lower walkway to her home.

Councilmember Arber noted that cars are still not stopping at the crosswalk at Oxford Road and University Avenue. Councilmember Matney said crosswalk striping needs to be placed at all the MacArthur Boulevard cross streets, at the multi-use trail.

“No Parking” striping on Tulane Avenue along the stairway beside then Irish Inn is to be restriped (Note: The Irish Inn had requested that parking be allowed along the stairway.)

Councilmember Long noted that allowing parking at that location could present a dangerous situation for cars parking in either directions, whether the driver or passenger were to alight, because the street pavement lies above the stairs. (The stairs are a continuation of the sidewalk.)

TOWNHALL USE

Councilmember Long reported that Lynn Dworsky will not have the previously reported Chautauqua event.

There has been a request to hold Yoga classes at the Town Hall; Councilmember Long will report after more information is available.

Councilmember Long said she is pleased that there is more resident use of the Town Hall, especially by new residents.

MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE (MML)

The October meeting was in Takoma Park at the Montgomery Community College campus; a large venue was needed because Senator Ben Cardin was the speaker.

Glen Echo will host the November 10 meeting at 7:30.

The annual Legislative Dinner will be held on December 10. The location has not been announced.

U.S. POST OFFICE CLOSINGS

Discussion was held concerning a recent announcement of local Post Office closings. Councilmember Arber noted that Glen Echo was not on the list. The Town's mail is no longer sorted in Glen Echo; it is sorted at the Bethesda/Montgomery Mall USPS facility. Mayor Beers is concerned that the Town's Post Office may be targeted for a future closing.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

1. John Barrett asked that the Town write to the Montgomery County police to ask for greater police control of bicycling groups that block cars along MacArthur Boulevard, thus creating a traffic hazard. Support was expressed from Council members.
2. Councilmember Matney notified Council that he is removing a large, shared tree in his yard.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted, Cathie Polak

Debbie Beers, Mayor

Date