

**TOWN OF GLEN ECHO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
December 14, 2009**

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

VISITORS: Polly Angelakis, Site Manager, Glen Echo Park (GEP)
Gerry Bodlander, Echo Reporter
Edna Miller, Clara Barton's Crew
Matt Stiglitz, Resident

Mayor Beers opened the meeting at 8:00, noting Councilmember Macy's absence.

GLEN ECHO PARK REPORT

Polly Angelakis reported that the Winter's Eve event was a big success. All the studio artists participated in the event.

Vandalism

Ms. Angelakis asked if the Town had experienced any recent vandalism because there have been several such events in the Park. Broken glass bottles were found around the Clara Barton house, as well as along the walkways, and initials were scratched into the glass windows on the carousel. Council identified some car vandalism issues in town, but none similar to the problems in the Park.

MacArthur Boulevard Bikeway

Glen Echo Park (GEP) is working with Montgomery County to change the proposed path of the bikeway as it traverses GEP. The proposed plan has for several years taken the bikepath over the trolley trestle bridge; the proposed changes affect the route as it leaves the trestle bridge. The new alignment would remove some parking near the trolley exhibit but would be safer in the opinion of the National Park Service (NPS). Ms. Angelakis reported that nothing has been resolved with the proposed pathway changes.

Oxford Road

Mayor Beers asked Ms. Angelakis to contact the Solicitors Office, NPS; the documents promised concerning ownership of Oxford Road have not been received.

Clara Barton's Crew (CBC)

Edna Miller, from Clara Barton's Crew, an organization she is attempting to form, introduced herself. She then provided background on the proposed new friends group whose goal is to support restoration and conservation of the Clara Barton National Historic Site (CBNHS). Ms. Miller is seeking volunteers for the group; Mayor Beers suggested putting an article in The Echo. When Councilmember Long asked what the group expects to do, Ms. Miller said the CBC is first recruiting volunteers to raise public awareness of the CBNHS. The initial funds raised would be used to restore photographs and literature. Councilmember Long asked if the group an agreement with NPS to raise funds. Ms. Miller said the NPS is agreeable to having a friends group, but the group does

not yet have a formal agreement with the NPS. When Councilmember Long pressed for specifics of the agreement, Ms. Miller said the group will be out working for funding that the NPS can not do. Councilmember Long suggested contacting the National Park Foundation, explaining that it is a group that can help the CBC with specific projects under the Foundation's 501(c)(3) status. Ms. Miller said the CBC plans to start small and work up to larger projects.

Other

New trees will be planted in the Park this spring and summer.

Councilmember Arber reported that sewage was overflowing from a manhole onto the Clara Barton Parkway earlier this month. The manhole, located behind 26 Wellesley Circle, is on National Park Service property and is managed by Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC). WSSC responded quickly when notified; it took three days to clear the clogged pipe.

Councilmember Long asked if the Park has a temporary replacement for Sam Swersky (who returns at the end of February). The response was yes.

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

Mayor Beers told Council that the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture (GEPPAC) is soliciting donations and proposed a \$2000 donation. C/T Polak reviewed the Town's contributions to GEPPAC since 2002.

Motion 2009-23 to donate \$1500 to the GEPPAC.

Motion passed unanimously.

STREET REPAIR PROJECT

Mayor Beers reported that the items needed to complete the Town's street project are:

- Redesign and replace the speed bump with on upper Oxford Road.
- Add a speed bump on lower Oxford Road.
- Repair the water pooling and drainage problem on upper Cornell Avenue at Wellesley Circle, just below MacArthur Boulevard adjacent to the right-of-way.
- Repair the broken curb/asphalt fillet gap on lower Cornell Avenue just below Vassar Circle.

The work will be completed in the spring.

TOWN HALL USE

Mayor Beers praised the holiday breakfast; Council agreed that having the event catered has increased resident enjoyment and participation and enhances community spirit. There was discussion about extending the event to two hours next year.

Councilmember Long again noted that more and more town residents are using the town hall.

MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE (MML)

Councilmember Arber reported that the November MML meeting, held at the Town Hall, was well attended. The main topic was the H1N1 virus.

The annual Legislative Dinner was held at the Gaithersburg Marriott at Rio; the main topic at the dinner was how municipalities can gain more revenue.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE/VEHICLE MANAGEMENT

Mayor Beers reviewed the continuing problem of Montgomery County police refusing to tow abandoned vehicles from Town streets. The County perceives this as a maintenance issue and the responsibility of the Town. Town attorney Norman Knopf has been directed to seek a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the County to resolve this problem.

Meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Cathie Polak

Deborah M. Beers, Mayor

Date