

**TOWN OF GLEN ECHO  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
January 11, 2010**

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

VISITORS: Polly Angelakis, Site Manager, Glen Echo Park (GEP)  
Sophie Keefer, Echo Reporter

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

**GLEN ECHO PARK (GEP)**

Ms. Angelakis reported continuing problems with skateboarders in the Park. She explained that skateboarders are not allowed in GEP because of potential damage to the historic structures. There was an incident where a group of skateboarders locked an elderly individual in a building. U.S. Park Police should respond immediately to any reports of skateboarding in GEP.

The First Aid building rehab continues and should be finished by summer 2010.

The final playground equipment should be installed at the end of March; weather permitting. At the latest, installation will be in time for Family Day in May.

Councilmember Long asked about the Clara Barton Crew (CBC). Ms. Angelakis reported that the CBC met over holidays and are still trying to decide on a larger friends group or a smaller group. The CBC has the basic fundraising agreement to fundraise for smaller amounts.

Councilmember Matney asked if the NPS can write a letter to Montgomery County concerning the cut in the Ride-On bus service to GEP. Ms. Angelakis will ask Superintendent Dottie Marshall if the Park can submit comments.

Councilmember Long noted that the hours for the holiday show in the Popcorn Gallery have been extended through this weekend.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion 2010-01** to approve as presented the November 9, 2009, Town Council meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion 2010-02** approve as amended (typo) the December 14, 2009 Town Council meeting minutes. Motion passed as amended.

### **OXFORD ROAD**

Mayor Beers noted that the Town received a letter dated January 6, 2010, from Margaret O'Dell, Director of the National Capital Region of NPS, concerning ownership of Oxford Road. Mayor Beers reported that this letter was forwarded to Town attorney, Norman Knopf; she wants his response before Council discusses, or takes any action, on the NPS letter.

Councilmember Long noted an error in the letter that describes the extent of claimed ownership of Oxford Road by NPS; that Oxford Road begins at MacArthur Blvd. The Town owns the strip of land that was part of the street car right-of-way; this strip lies between MacArthur Boulevard and Oxford Road at its upper end. Councilmember Long asked if Mr. Knopf can look up Windsor Resort Inc. v. Mayor and City Council of Ocean City, a case cited by Ms. O'Dell's letter. Mayor Beers said this is in his original opinion but she will ask him to double check.

### **TOWN HALL USE**

Noted upcoming events in the town hall:

- Family dance on February 14 and March 14,
- Potomac Valley Scottish Fiddle Club on March 27.

Discussion was held on the reoccurring problem of users locking the key inside the elevator. C/T Polak suggested hiding an additional key upstairs.

The British Players Group has requested multiple uses during April, May & June. Councilmember Long will get more information.

Councilmember Long wants to have a Nature Conservancy presentation on the Potomac Gorge. C/T Polak noted that she heard the same presentation is being made at a nearby location in March.

### **RIDE ON BUS SERVICE**

Council discussed the concern that the Ride On Rt. 29 bus service plans to stop weekend service to Glen Echo. Mayor Beers noted that she wrote a letter opposing the same change in March, 2009. The Mayor directed Councilmember Matney to draft a letter stating Town's opposition to service change.

Councilmember Long noted problems on buses, such as no fare box, broken fare boxes, which should be addressed. (Fares cannot be collected without fare boxes.) Certain groups i.e., senior citizens and students, to ride free; she objects to people riding without paying a fare of some kind.

### **MACARTHUR BOULEVARD BIKEWAY**

The MacArthur Boulevard Bikeway plans are unchanged (see the 2009-10 schedule update). Council wants to hold any additional comments until there is another public meeting. Councilmember Long suggested asking the DPWT to come to a Council

meeting to update residents. Councilmember Macy objects to tax monies “wasted on the bikeway when bus routes to Glen Echo are being eliminated.”

Mayor Beers will invite Yasamin Esmaili to the March Town Council meeting.

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

Mayor Beers noted the passing of Wellesley Circle resident, Deborah Howell, who died in an auto accident in New Zealand.

Councilmember Macy said the snow removal from the December storm was spectacular. Council was very happy with Mark Peyton’s efforts.

Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Cathie Polak

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Deborah M. Beers, Mayor

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Date