

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
June 14, 2010

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

VISITORS: Polly Angelakis, Site Manager, Glen Echo Park (GEP)
Gerry Bodlander, Echo Reporter
Mark McCaffrey, Conduit Road Fire Board

Mayor Beers opened the Council meeting at 8 p.m.

GLEN ECHO PARK REPORT

Ms. Angelakis reviewed draft press releases from GEP on two upcoming events: First Bloom on June 19 and the 50th Anniversary of GEP Integration on June 26. She reported that the annual Folklore Society of Greater Washington (FSGW) Folk Festival was a success. There were no complaints or problems, other than a short storm on Sunday afternoon when festival events were stopped for a brief time and later resumed. Councilmember Macy asked about attendance numbers; the count is not yet available but preliminary numbers indicate that attendance was less than last year.

Superintendent Dottie Marshall has received the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from Town Attorney Norman Knopf relative to Oxford Road ownership; the document has been forwarded to the NPS Solicitors office.

Arron Laraqua will temporarily fill the open position of Supervisory Ranger at GEP. Councilmember Long asked if the continuous rotation of Ranger positions in the Park will settle down, noting concern over using important positions for training purposes. Councilmember Long said this practice does not allow personnel time to acquire adequate knowledge to conduct accurate and meaningful interpretive programs. (Interpretation is a major NPS responsibility at GEP.) Ms. Angelakis spoke in support of the NPS training policy.

Councilmember Long asked for a report on tree planting in the Park. She questioned why trees and planting were outsourced to a private contractor rather than being handled by the NPS.

Work will begin at the Clara Barton National Historic Site after June 21 using the grant received to repair two rooms on the second floor: Clara Barton's sitting room and Dr. Hubble's bedroom.

Councilmember Long reminded Ms. Angelakis that the previous GEP Site Manager, Kym Elder, had committed NPS to having a U.S. Park Police office base at GEP, and a trailer was brought to the Park for that purpose—the trailer was not used and was eventually removed. Ms. Angelakis said she will research the possibility.

There have been no further skateboarding violations in the Park.

Councilmember Macy inquired about the solar lights recently installed along the path from the Minnehaha Bridge entrance. Ms. Angelakis reported that GEP has applied for funding for new lights; replacing the bollard lights is more cost effective than repairing. The solar lights are intended to be temporary. Ms. Angelakis said the Park will have to go through the archeology compliance process if the replacement lights cannot be installed in the same hole dug for the original lights.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion 2010-10 to approve as amended (typo) the April 12, 2010, Town Council meeting minutes. Motion passed as amended.

Motion 2010-11 to approve as presented the May 10, 2010, Town Council meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion 2010-12 to approve the budget as corrected for the minutes of the May 24, 2010, Budget Hearing and Council meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

TOWN HALL USE

Councilmember Long noted that the Town's annual picnic will be held on July 11, from 5-7 p.m.

TOWN MAINTENANCE

C/T Polak reported that Case Handyman has begun re-stripping the curbs.

USPS LEASE

The USPS has submitted a renewal lease requesting a reduction in the monthly rent amount: from \$2640 to \$2375. Mayor Beers indicated that this is probably due to the planned reduction in USPS services and location closings. Councilmember Long supports a lower rent in an effort to keep a post office in Town. C/T Polak suggested accepting the proposed lease, provided the USPS assumes responsibility for the HVAC system in their space, noting that the Town does not have 24 hour access to the equipment.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

1. Ambulance Fees Bill: Resident Mark McCaffrey reported that the Montgomery County Council has passed an ambulance fees bill, where individuals will be responsible for ambulance fees. Mr. McCaffrey said that the Fire Departments and volunteers are opposed to the bill; he will be soliciting signatures from residents for opposition. Mayor Beers suggested using the Town picnic as a central location to acquire signatures.

Mr. McCaffrey also reported that two rescue bikes, with trained volunteers and first aid equipment, have been approved for the C & O Canal, noting that many volunteers have applied for the training.

2. Folklore Society donation: Councilmember Long asked Council to consider a contribution to the FSGW, noting that buses and satellite parking are available for visitors attending the Folklore Festival; the buses are paid for by FSGW and the Satellite parking is provided by GEICO. According to Councilmember Long, the Town is the benefactor of these efforts because parking in Town is less likely since there are fewer cars looking for parking during the festival. Mayor Beers said the Town makes a contribution in kind by allowing the FSGW use of the lot on Tulane Avenue free of charge for the festival.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10.