

**TOWN OF GLEN ECHO**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
March 14, 2011

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

VISITORS;        Polly Angelakis, Site Manager, Glen Echo Park (GEP)  
                  Jim McGunnigle, Echo Reporter  
                  Raya Bodnarchuk, Resident

**GLEN ECHO PARK REPORT**

The National Park Service is preparing all sites for possible government shutdown. During a shutdown, only NPS personnel who are essential to life, safety, and property will be permitted to work. Ms. Angelakis reported that those assigned to caretake GEP and Clara Barton National Historic Site (CBNHS) are oriented to both sites.

The U.S. Park Police is investigating recent graffiti incidents, at the old trolley bridge and the Spanish Ballroom second floor roof. The NPS regional architectural conservator has been contacted to consult on the best way to remove, or cover, the ballroom roof graffiti.

On April 16, CBNHS will host a special open house and living history program about Clara Barton and her assistance to soldiers injured during the 1861 Baltimore Riots.

The 2011 carrousel season opens on Family Day, April 30. New orientation signs will be installed in the Park by that date.

Councilmember Long recently participated in the GEP oral history project, where students from a consortium of schools are collecting oral histories from the community, about the Park. Councilmember Long said she was expecting a Q & A format and found the monologue style awkward. When asked to sign a release form--which stated that material from the interview would be copyrighted by NPS--for her statement, Councilmember Long refused, stating that she plans to write a book using some of the same material. Copies of Town minutes were provided by Councilmember Long as useful information; the interviewers understand that these minutes are public record and can not be copy-written.

Ms. Angelakis explained that the NPS release forms for the oral histories previously recorded can not be located, which is why the oral history project is being repeated, requiring release forms to be signed. (Information from another NPS source indicated that the taped interviews cannot be used because no release forms were signed.)

Councilmember Matney noted that water continues to pool along the bike path at the entrance to the GEP upper parking area and completely covered the bike path last Friday. He also said the pavement at that location is broken; bicyclists have to cross the driveway with care due to erosion and ice. Councilmember Matney speculated that this is from the PEPCO tree trimming trucks using the GEP upper parking area as an early morning staging area.

Mayor Beers asked Ms. Angelakis to “pass on” to the appropriate individuals that the towpath has deep ruts caused by NPS trucks. Water is collecting in the ruts, making walking on the towpath difficult.

Councilmember Long reported that she contacted Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) about the proposed MacArthur Boulevard Bikeway and invited Yasamin Esmaili, who heads up the project, to a Town Council meeting. Ms. Esmaili said the DPWT believes it has satisfied all requirements for public meetings under environmental assessment rules. Ms. Angelakis noted that there is no new news on the Montgomery County MacArthur Boulevard Shared Use Path; the Environmental Assessment is still being drafted.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion 2011-03** to approve as amended the January 10, 2011, Town Council meeting minutes:

- add to page 2, paragraph 2: There was extended discussion and speculation about how to help. Suggestions included:

Motion passed.

**Motion 2011-04** to approve as amended the February 14, 2011, Town Council meeting minutes:

- change page 2, paragraph 4, line 2: Ms. Angelakis said ~~the~~ that Sharna Plater,;
- change page 5, paragraph 3, line 11: the mail drop box was placed, and that ~~this~~ there is continuing soil erosion on the that slope;
- change page 6, paragraph 2, line 11: Councilmember Matney voiced his support ~~of the town~~ for further investigation of buying the property;
- delete from page 6, paragraph 4, line 3-4: Councilmember Arber added that the best-case scenario is that someone buys it as a residence; to preserve the character. ~~maybe the council could designate it as historical;~~
- change page 6, paragraph 4, line 7-8: Councilmember Arber countered that it ~~is~~ might be possible.

Motion passed.

#### **TOWN HALL USE**

Councilmember Long reviewed the upcoming town hall calendar:

- Family Dance, March 13
- St. Patrick’s Day party, March 19
- March 27, Scottish Fiddle Club

- April 9, Film Festival will show “Inception”
- April 10, last Family Dance this season.

### **TOWN MAINTENANCE**

PEPCO has been cutting trees in Town along the right of way as well at several homes (with special permission by the homeowner).

### **OXFORD ROAD POLICE REPORT**

The February report is attached to these minutes.

### **ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 9.1**

Mayor Beers presented a draft Ordinance to Amend Section 9.1 of the Town Charter. The ordinance, known as the Tillie Frank Law, was previously passed and must be updated due to changes in the Montgomery County Code, not because of changes in the Town Charter. Mayor Beers explained that the need to update this section came up when Montgomery County Police refused to remove an abandoned vehicle, stating that, since the Town manages its streets, they are responsible for abandoned vehicles. There was additional confusion about who is responsible for animal control, Montgomery County or the Town; this issue has been resolved to clarify that Montgomery County handles Animal Control for Glen Echo.

An ordinance cannot be passed in the same month it is introduced.

**MOTION 2011- 05** to introduce a draft Ordinance to amend Section 9.1 of the Town of Glen Echo Charter. Motion approved unanimously.

### **GEPPAC GALA**

The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture (GEPPAC) will hold its annual fund raising Gala on May 14, 2011. In 2009, the Town bought a table. Mayor Beers asked if Council would like to purchase a table, which costs, \$2000, again this year. C/T Polak said the town recently donated \$2000 to GEPPAC. Councilmember Long noted that Connie Morella is the principle honoree this year. There was no decision to purchase a table at the 2011 GEPPAC Gala.

### **GLEN ECHO BAPTIST CHURCH (ANNEX)**

Town Attorney Norman Knopf’s office provided a summary of limitations and possible uses for the Annex. Mayor Beers is concerned about taking on debt and depleting the Town’s reserves. Councilmember Long supports purchasing the property but agrees that there are not sufficient funds. Resident Carlotta Anderson wrote a letter supporting purchase for archival storage and other uses. C/T Polak noted the storage area above the HC bathroom would provide adequate space once cleared of unused items; most current information is digital and requires little space. It is expected that Council will take no further action toward purchase of the Annex.

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

1. Jim Anderson: Councilmember Long noted that Jim Anderson served as a Town Council member from May 1973 to May 1981 and served again a few years later. His family held a memorial service in the Town hall (Note: See March 2011 Echo, "Remember Jim, Jim Anderson 1929-2011.)

2. Natural Gas Survey. Resident Norm Bernhardt approached Mayor Beers about surveying Town residents' interest in bringing natural gas lines into Glen Echo. Mayor Beers explained that she was involved in a similar survey in the 1990's; not enough homeowners were interested in the project at that time. Council discussed costs and potential disruption to streets and sidewalks. When Mayor Beers asked for a volunteer to work with Norm Bernhardt on the survey, no one volunteered.

Meeting adjourned at 9: 10 p.m.