

**TOWN OF GLEN ECHO**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
APRIL 11, 2011

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

VISITORS:           Polly Angelakis, Site Manager, Glen Echo Park, National Park  
                          Service (NPS)  
                      Willem and Phillip Macy, Residents  
                      Osamu Shimizu, Resident and Shimizu Landscaping  
                      David Chitwood, Echo Reporter  
                      Matt Stiglitz, Resident  
                      Kathy Baglod, University of Maryland Masters' of Social Work  
                      (MSW) candidate  
                      Nicole Fraser, Resident and Clerk-Treasurer candidate

Mayor Beers opened the meeting at 8:02 p.m and announced that Councilmember Eve Arber sent her regrets via e-mail that she would not be able to attend tonight's town council meeting.

**GLEN ECHO PARK (GEP)**

Polly Angelakis reported that, over the last week GEP and their non-profit partner were putting plans in place in case of a government shutdown a possibility due to the inability of Congress to reach an agreement on the federal budget. Luckily, the shutdown was averted and all park activities were able to proceed as scheduled. Councilmember Long brought to the attention of the council a photograph in a Sunday's Washington Post article on the averted shutdown that showed a couple married Saturday at GEP park riding the carousel. Their wedding would have been postponed if a shutdown occurred.

Ms. Angelakis reported that she had met with Montgomery County to discuss the shared use path, referred to by the county as the bikeway improvement plan. The environmental assessment (EA) that will be completed and submitted will include archeological surveys, tree mitigation and the removal of exotic plants. Mayor Beers asked if this means that the shared use path will go forward. Ms. Angelakis said it was most likely but all EA's need to be in place. Mayor Beers noted that she heard from a Cabin John resident who had new objections and asked if he was in touch with GEP. She continued that the Glen Echo community had already submitted comments. Ms. Angelakis said that Cabin John section of the shared use path is controlled by the County and any concerns about that part of the path should be directed to Montgomery County, specifically to Yasamin Esmaili, the project coordinator. Councilmember Long asked if the official name is now

“shared use path.” Ms. Angelakis offered to ask Ms. Esmaili about the previous town comments and these should be included in the EA. Mayor Beers said that she would be happy to forward them next week. Councilmember Long queried if there was any comment about the controversial Brookmont section of the shared-use path, which will be connected with the segment that is the subject of this EA. Ms. Angelakis had not heard of any comments. Councilmember Mantey shared that the Brookmont segment might not be the most dangerous: a more pressing problem is the crossing at Cabin John from the stop sign to the beltway.

Ms. Angelakis shared with the Town Council upcoming events at GEP:

- 4/16-24 Open House at Clara Barton.
- 4/16 Mary Ann Young will present Clara Barton: Red Cross Angel commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Baltimore Riots where Clara Barton took care of Northern soldiers.
- 4/30 GEP Family Day at GEP and Junior Ranger Day

Ms. Angelakis noted that parking lot problems will be corrected in late April. GEP will install speed bumps in upper parking lot. Ms. Angelakis reported that most government agencies are suffering delays due to the anticipation of a government shutdown. Graffiti in the Spanish Ballroom and the Trolley Bridge has been removed. Councilmember Long announced that a small section on the waterworks wall in the traffic circle has also been marked with graffiti. Ms. Angelakis said that the Army Corps of Engineers has been notified. Councilmember Macy queried if it is possible to install security cameras. Ms. Angelakis said that they are looking into other ways to protect the Spanish Ballroom but cameras may be helpful for GEP or Clara Barton House. Mayor Beers asked if this could be a liability issue: “Shouldn’t the park have it? I am surprised it is not *de rigueur*.”

Ms. Angelakis announced that the wayfinding signs project slated to be finished before Family Day is delayed. The primary contact for the company completing the project has had a serious accident and is in rehabilitation. The work will only be delayed by a week or two and the company is still trying to stay on track. Ms. Angelakis hopes to have the wayfinding signs installed by the end of the first week of May.

Councilmember Long commented on a gala fundraiser for the Children’s Inn at NIH sponsored by the Washington Conservatory of Music. All the proceeds will go to buy art supplies for the children at the Children’s Inn. The gala will take place on Friday May 20. The “Concert in Paint” will have a \$40 entrance fee, according to website information.

#### LANDSCAPING PLAN FOR MACY RESIDENCE AT 6005 BRYN MAWR AVE.

Mr. Shimizu presented to the town council a plan to connect the new main entrance of 6005 Bryn Mawr Ave to University Avenue. His plan would require the removal of a section of the Town’s current stone wall and iron fence to allow construction of an entryway that would connect to two segments of the wall. He proposed a 6x6 wooden

archway stabilized in cement. Mayor Beers said that she had no objection but they needed a third councilmember (Ms. Arber) to vote (Councilmember Macy recused himself). She offered to go ahead with a option to be approved after consultation with Councilmember Arber. Councilmember Long asked if the wooden arch would be painted white, as depicted in a plan circulated at the meeting. Mr. Shimzu suggested that it was the owner's (Mr. Macy's) choice but he said yellow was a possibility. Councilmember Long asked if the arch would be made out of pressure treated wood. Mr. Shimizu affirmed. Councilmember Long asked if the arch could be made of wrought iron, to reflect the iron fence. Councilmember Macy said he would like it to be but he was concerned about the cost. Councilmember Long asked Mr. Shimizu to save the cut pieces of the fence. Mr. Shimizu said if you need them. Councilmember Long shared that the iron fence segments were from an older property in Pennsylvania; then mayor Frank Corder bought them at an auction to be used in Glen Echo and this is why some of the points are bent. Councilmember Long asked how the fence is to be cut. Mr. Shimizu said that it is no problem to cut the fence, only an aluminum saw is needed. Councilmember Matney asked if the tree adjacent to the new walk would remain. Mr. Shimizu and Councilmember Macy both said that the tree would remain. Councilmember Long said she believed that the best solution was to make the arch of wrought iron. Clerk-Treasurer Polak asked if the fence is on town property. Councilmember Macy said the arch would not be. Councilmember Matney said the arch would need to be tagged into the Town's wall. Councilmember Macy agreed "Yes, we would need to connect it." Clerk-Treasurer Polak noted that the fences are on the easement. Mayor Beers said that in some cases the town owns three feet into a property. Councilmember Macy or Mayor Beers said that he can not remember the procedures should the council not vote and leave it for the next agenda or the council can go on record as whether or not they are opposed. Mayor Beers offered to take over the plan to Councilmember Arber. Councilmember Matney said that he would support the project if wrought iron could be used to match the style. Councilmember Macy said that he would get a price for an iron arch. Councilmember Long offered her opinion that if the arch were wrought iron, the arch would not be an intrusion; if white or yellow, the arch would be a huge intrusion. Councilmember Macy said that he, too, would prefer wrought iron. Mayor Beers called for the council to make a motion to proceed.

**Motion 2011-06** to approve the removal of the wall on University Avenue for the 6005 Bryn Mawr Avenue residence to accommodate the new entry way created by the addition. A friendly amendment added by Councilmember Long, if it all feasible the arch should be of wrought iron. The motion will be presented to Councilmember Arber.

Clerk's note: Councilmember Arber approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Long offered a public thanks to Mr. Shimizu for the stonework placement around the bench in memory of Brockie Stevenson outside the Town Hall.

TOWN HALL USE

Councilmember Long announced that town resident Debbie Lange has asked to conduct Pilates classes but has not given a schedule yet. Ms. Lange has offered two possibilities but is waiting to hear from potential students which dates are amenable.

Councilmember Matney announced that the Town Hall will host a viewing of “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?” on May 14<sup>th</sup>. This will be the last town hall movie prior to the summer season; movies will resume in the Fall.

Mayor Beers announced that the Budget Hearing is scheduled for Monday May 23<sup>rd</sup> noting that she needs to get the budget out to the community two weeks in advance. The budget must be approved before the end of the fiscal year. Clerk-Treasurer Polak said the budget must go out no later than May 27<sup>th</sup>. Clerk-Treasurer Polak also noted that May 2<sup>nd</sup> is election night. Mayor Beers said she will schedule the budget hearing for 7:30 pm followed by a formal meeting to adopt the budget at 8 pm on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Councilmember Long commented on a nice article in the recent Bethesda Gazette about the Scottish Fiddle Club an annual Town Hall user.

#### MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE CITATION REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer Polak said that there have been no more objections by people paying fines for traffic violations on Oxford Road, and any objections were overruled in court. The managing officer said that compliance is a little better when the police are there randomly. 47 citations/warnings were issued in 18 surveillance hours. Councilmember Matney asked how many of those were citations and how many were warnings. Clerk-Treasurer Polak said the officers issue a written warning in all cases, the officers do not differentiate. Clerk-Treasurer Polak has asked the police to come and supervise on 4/16 and 4/18 to manage any tax day traffic.

Clerk’s note: Soon after 4/18, Councilmember Long saw Postmaster Yvonne, who thanked the Town in an unsolicited comment on that extra service.

Councilmember Matney asked if Clerk-Treasurer Polak was still planning on getting the yellow curb painting completed. Clerk-Treasurer Polak said that she is not happy with the current yellow curb striping and is looking into other options.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Long asked that, on page 3 of the March minutes the statement that while she supports the purchase of the Glen Echo Baptist Church annex she said she had stated that she does not feel that the town has sufficient funds to purchase the property.

**Motion 2011-07** to approve as amended the March 14, 2011 Town council meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

#### CLERK-TREASURER POSITION

Mayor Beers announced that Clerk-Treasurer Polak is resigning after 11 years of amazing service to GE to take care of her soon-to-be first grandchild. Mayor Beers offered town

resident Nicole Fraser as a candidate. Mayor Beers said that she would like to get a vote on the position tonight as there will need to be a rapid transition for the upcoming budget, any audit or accounting, all are specialized jobs. Councilmember Long noted that the Town Charter states that the Clerk-Treasurer is clerk to the Town Council.

Councilmember Macy asked Ms. Fraser if she had any accounting experience. Ms. Fraser said that she had managed the general accounting for a lab and grant management as a post-doc but did not have experience accounting in a civic setting. Councilmember Matney reading the Town Charter “the town clerk-treasurer is appointed by the mayor with the approval of the council to serve at the pleasure of the mayor.” Mayor Beers asked the council to approve the appointment. Councilmember Long made a motion to that effect. Councilmember Macy seconded the motion. Councilmember Matney said that he objected to the appointment because the position was not advertised to the larger community not just the town, for example, the Maryland Municipal League list serve. Treasurer-Polak said that she said there are distinct advantages to keep the clerk-treasurer as a town resident. Mayor Beers said she believed that the town would not be served well if managed outside the town.

The council offered to take the motion to Councilmember Arber to vote. Councilmember Macy said that the current town council do not have enough votes to pass the motion; a quorum but not a majority of the town council. Councilmember Matney read from the Town Charter “business issues may be passed with the majority of town council members present.”

**Motion 2011-08** To appoint Nicole Fraser as Town Clerk-Treasurer. Councilmembers Macy and Long voted yes. Councilmember Matney abstained. Motion passed.

#### AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 9

Mayor Beers opened discussion on the amendment of Article 9 on the applicability of county legislation (section 9.1) and to create an exemption from the county code. However without all four councilmembers present, Mayor Beers suggested that the council would be unable to pass the amendment; she proposed that the council reintroduce and carryover to the next meeting.

**Motion 2011-09** To reintroduce the amendment at the next Town Council Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

#### ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

##### 6001 PRINCETON AVENUE

Clerk-Treasurer Cathie Polak presented plans to apply for a variance for her residence at 6001 Princeton Avenue. The plans propose to enclose the deck and move the kitchen to square off the house, because this is less than 20 feet she is requesting a back set variance and increase the footprint of the house by 6 inches. Councilmember Matney asked what was the size of the variance she was asking for. After looking at the plans, Councilmembers Macy and Matney suggested it might be just over 5 feet.

Clerk-Treasurer Polak announced that she would share the plans, as required, with the other residents on Princeton Avenue. Councilmember Matney reminded Cathie that she will also need signatures from the town. Clerk-Treasurer Polak said the county will send a notice but she didn't want the neighbors to be blindsided; she hoped that when the time comes the council will look kindly on her proposed project. Mayor Beers suggested that the only person to object would be the NPS because the Polak property shares a boundary with the Clara Barton National Historic Site, an NPS property.

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

Councilmember Long met with Mr. Cannon from GEBE to get a little more information about the GEBE annex. The asking price is \$400,000. At this time, there are two interested parties that might wish to use the annex as a residence. Mayor Beers asked if the reason for selling the property was an indication that the GEBE is running tight on money or unable to maintain the annex property. Councilmember Matney offered that he felt that it was twofold: money is an issue for GEBE as their congregation is getting smaller; on his latest visit, 20 people were in attendance for a service and meeting in a smaller room downstairs. The larger sanctuary was not heated.

#### OXFORD ROAD MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

Mayor Beers said that she has a meeting with Norman Knopf, Dottie Marshall, the superintendent of the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) and the NPS attorney to discuss the Oxford Road MOU and proposed changes. Mr. Knopf was to prepare a new draft but a sticking point is that NPS/GEP hopes to have a clause saying that it would terminate the MOU with 30 days notice. NPS says that they must keep that clause to conform with all Federal Park agreements. Mr. Knopf felt that it was unreasonable; he proposed to rephrase the MOU and make Oxford Road a multiuse road. Councilmember Matney offered that it is possible to make easements in National Parks without 30 day termination notice. Mayor Beers said that another complicating factor is that the NPS lawyer didn't show up for the meeting; she will contact Mr. Knopf and check the status of the new draft and run it by the park's attorney again. Councilmember Long said that since Oxford Road is our emergency road and our heavy duty access, she queried how NPS could close it. Mayor Beers clarified that the 30 days notice would be the honoring of the MOU not road closure. Mayor Beers relayed a short history of the MOU, due to some water problems on the road the town applied for a permit from NPS to install drains in order to move the process along. An accompanying letter from the town expressed that this was not an admission of NPS ownership of Oxford Road. NPS is concerned about potential archeological survey as required by law on NPS property. Ordinary maintenance would not be objectionable but to dig under the surface as when the drains were installed, would be problematic. Another draft from Mr. Knopf will be coming up.

#### C&O CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK COMMISSION UPDATE

Councilmember Long commented on the status of the C&O Commission: still meeting but no longer an official group since legislation to extend its existence for another ten years did not succeed. Congressman Van Hollen and both senators have a bill to extend

the commission. The superintendent has statements prepared when the bills come before the appropriate committees. Bill Parsons, Congressman Van Hollen's representative, was forthcoming with information. He said it was unlikely that anything will happen to reestablish the commission in the near future. Congressman Van Hollen is still looking to partner with a Republican to submit a bill to extend the Commission. Congressman Roscoe Bartlett (R- MD 6<sup>th</sup> District) is blocking the recommissioning of the group after "he didn't agree with an action that the commission recommended to the NPS and that the NPS agreed with; the disputed location is in Frederic County. Frederick County elected commissioners (County Councilmembers) and Frederick County members of the C&O Canal NHP were in support of continuing the C&O Commission. Frederic County is in Congressman Bartlett's district. Congressman Bartlett has never objected to the Commission's extension before. Councilmember Long said that a copy of the NPS/C&O Commission's general plan will be left in the Town Hall Office. The Town has two Glen Echoans on the Commission, Nancy Long who represents Montgomery County and Jack Reeder who represents the Potomac Appalachian Trail Conference (PATC).

#### MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Mayor Beers announced that Phyllis Fordham will be the new The Echo editor.

Councilmember Matney announced that the Maryland Municipal League (MML) will hold its annual meeting at the end of June in Ocean City. The MML is offering training grants for a workshop 26-30 June and will pick up expenses (administrative fees, hotel and meals). There are also grants available for the Academy for Excellence in Local Governments where a candidate may be able to pick up a certificate in local governance. Councilmember Matney plans to apply to attend the late June workshop.

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Nicole Fraser.