

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO  
Town Council Meeting  
January 9, 2012

ATTENDANCE: Deborah Beers, Mayor (absent)  
Nancy Long, Councilmember  
Eve Arber, Councilmember  
Steve Matney, Councilmember, Acting Mayor  
Mark McCaffrey, Councilmember (absent)  
Nicole Fraser, Town Clerk-Treasurer

VISITORS: John Barrett, Echo reporter  
Matt Stiglitz, Resident  
Polly Angelakis, NPS<sup>1</sup> Site Manager of GEP  
Raya Bodnarchuk, Resident

Councilmember Matney called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

**GLEN ECHO PARK**

Polly Angelakis, NPS Site Manager of GEP, stated that after Dottie Marshall's retirement John James is now acting superintendent of GWMP. Adam Badowski will become acting superintendent.

Ms. Angelakis reported that the kids' coloring contest was well received. The geothermal test well for Clara Barton NHS has been delayed until later this month. The Yellow Barn curator has touched up the mural on the Bumper Car Pavilion. Leaks were repaired at the Bumper Car Pavilion, as well.

Councilmember Long reported that she represented the Town at the holiday luncheon and retirement party for Superintendent Marshall; she noted the repast was delicious and that all of the catering was done by park employees, with Ms. Angelakis providing candied yams. Councilmember Long presented Superintendent Marshall with a "coveted" Town centennial t-shirt and pin.

Ms. Angelakis reported that another flooding event took place on Christmas Eve at the Oberlin Avenue drain. Council and Ms. Angelakis agreed to take a look at the area when the Mayor returns.

Councilmember Long asked if GEP and GEPPAC staff meet regularly. Ms. Angelakis said yes they do.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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<sup>1</sup> Abbreviations used in this document include DIA (Defense Intelligence Agency), GEP (Glen Echo Park), GEPPAC (Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture), GWMP (George Washington Memorial Parkway), MML (Maryland Municipal League), NCC (National Community Church), NHP (National Historical Park), NHS (National Historic Site) and NPS (National Park Service).

Minutes of the December Council meeting could not be approved and were tabled because there was not a voting quorum present (Councilmember Arber was absent for the December meeting, leaving only two voting members). The December minutes will be reviewed at the February meeting.

### **POLICE CITATION REPORT**

Officer Michael Miglianti issued 14 citations in 7 hours on January 6 and 8, 2012 at the intersection of Oxford Road and University Avenue. Clerk-Treasurer Fraser reported that Willem Polak is reviewing the data collected by the camera at the intersection of Oxford Road and University Avenue. Mr. Stiglitz asked if the police could report citations and warnings separately. Clerk-Treasurer Fraser reported that she could ask.

### **TOWN HALL USE**

Councilmember Long reported on Town Hall use and submitted the attached report. The Town Holiday party was attended by approximately 100 residents.

### **NCC**

Mr. Stiglitz reported that he and Dia Costello moderated a productive and well-attended meeting (about 30-40 people) for about an hour and a half on January 5, 2012. Pastor Mark Batterson and Town residents alerted the church representatives to various concerns. Traffic, parking and congestion are the top concerns of the residents. Potential commercial activity was also raised. Pastor Batterson stated that he would respect the Town's wishes for no commercial activity if that is what they requested. Mr. Stiglitz said that he felt that the NCC had no solid plans as of yet but all channels have been left open. He hoped that this tone of open dialogue will continue and NCC will let us know of their plans as they develop. Ms. Costello offered to be the point of contact. Ms. Bodnarchuk complimented Mr. Stiglitz and Ms. Costello for keeping the meeting focused on a positive tone and on agenda.

Councilmember Long stated that in Brookmont, a Baptist Church failed and church members met with members of the Brookmont community, with the result that a board of directors was formed to administer the church building as a community center. The church was opened for community use and a child care co-operative was started that is still in operation today; the building is available for meetings and social events as well. Councilmember Long thanked Mr. Stiglitz and Ms. Costello for arranging the meeting and making the agenda available to Pastor Batterson before the meeting so that he could be prepared. [N.B. The Town's statement was recommended and its wording approved by Norman Knopf, Town Attorney.] Councilmember Long asked that the meeting's agenda and the Town's statement regarding the meeting be added to the minutes.

Mr. Stiglitz noted that the meeting was recorded with full knowledge of all present and is available for town records.

Councilmember Arber reported that a title search on the GEBC annex property has raised questions about the placement of the property line between the annex and adjacent 7315

University Avenue (Greenberg residence). Councilmember Long stated that it was a long standing belief in Glen Echo that the GEBC annex encroached on the resident on 7315 University. The boundary was under dispute before the 1980's. It was reported that in the 1980's, the owners of 7315 University were supposed to quitclaim that sliver of the property. Unfortunately, the participants are all deceased and the issue is unresolved.

### **MML DINNER**

Councilmember Matney reported that one of the main topics at the MML dinner was the current reductions in state budgets that affected local communities. Police funding was particularly hit hard. The MML community would also like to try to see the reinstatement of state highway funds. The Mayor of Laytonsville sat at the table with the Glen Echo Council and Mayor however Delegate Ariana Kelly, sponsored by the town did not attend.

### **ABANDONED VEHICLES**

Councilmember Long reported that two cars were seen on Oberlin Avenue near the offices of Exeter Trust. One had out-of-date registration, the other a smashed hood. Clerk-Treasurer Fraser offered to contact the police officers managing traffic at University Avenue and Oxford Road, to check on the registration tags of the cars and issue citations if appropriate. Ms. Natasha Collins of Exeter Trust responded to an earlier letter from the town regarding a car with out-of-date registration yet parked in the driveway at Richard Leggin's Architects building, where Ms. Collins rents an office; she that said that they were looking into the matter.

Mr. Barrett asked also if new residents were aware that cars need to be registered in Maryland within 30 days of residence. He offered to write a small item in the Echo as a reminder.

### **TOWN MAINTENANCE**

Councilmember Long reported that the pansies planted around the flag pole and at the left of the Town Hall's front door are not of usual quality for winter pansy variety that Chapel Valley has been providing. She asked Clerk-Treasurer Fraser to contact Chapel Valley and report the problem. [N.B. Chapel Valley should know of this problem so that inferior quality of plant material does not happen again with later plantings.]

Clerk-Treasurer Fraser reported that there were multiple electrical problems just prior to the Town Holiday party, and the elevator also was stuck between the two floors with the caterers inside. Council asked Clerk-Treasurer Fraser to check on the electrical system and the elevator.

### **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Councilmember Long noted that the City of Gaithersburg has a \$4 million dollar "rainy day" fund and it would be great if Glen Echo had a larger amount in its own reserve. She asked Council to think about to a goal of about \$500,000, in particular for a strong reserve for potential legal expenses.

Councilmember Matney reported that the plans are underway to re-utilize the Naval Geospatial Agency (former Army Map Service) located between Sangamore Road and MacArthur Boulevard. At issue, is a large multi-story parking structure, and possible increased traffic to and from the site. Some local residents will have their river view impacted. Councilmember Long said that this could be an issue for the C&O Canal NHP if the proposed structure is potentially visible from the park. Two community meetings are scheduled. The first, scheduled for, January 10, for civic leaders in the immediate vicinity of the NGA; the second on January 12 is open for the entire community. Clerk-Treasurer Fraser offered to contact Brad Northrup, board member of the The Civic League of Brookmont and Vicinity, to see if Glen Echo could send a representative. Councilmembers Arber, Long and Matney offered to attend the January 12<sup>th</sup> community meeting [N. B. – Clerk-Treasurer received a response at 1 p.m. on January 10<sup>th</sup> from Mr. Northrup saying that a productive community leader and DIA meeting occurred at 10:00 AM but invited Glen Echo Council to attend the January 12<sup>th</sup> open community meeting.]

Councilmember Long said that the letter regarding the Oberlin Avenue drain issue from Superintendent Marshall may have been unclear. The letter said that the intersection was at Oberlin and Tulane Avenues, however it is actually Oberlin Avenue and Bowdoin Street. Councilmember Long directed Clerk-Treasurer Fraser to look into ordering a sign for Bowdoin since there is no sign to indicate its presence.

Councilmember Long noted that town resident Carolyn Reeder has written several articles for the Kids' Post on the Civil War.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 p.m.