

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO  
Town Council Meeting  
February 13, 2012

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

VISITORS: Sophie Keefer, Echo reporter  
Matt Stiglitz, Resident  
Polly Angelakis, NPS<sup>1</sup> Site Manager of GEP  
Willem Polak, Resident  
Andy Malmgren, Resident

Mayor Beers called the meeting to order at 8:07 p.m.

**POLICE ADVISORY BOARD**

Matt Stiglitz reported on the recent meeting of the Montgomery County Police Advisory Board on which he represents the Town of Glen Echo. He reported that Captain Falcinelli is the new police captain, and that 2011 saw substantial drops in robbery, aggravated assault and commercial burglaries. Simultaneously, there were increases in theft and resident burglaries. He noted three trends:

- 1) In November and December 2011 a string of robberies occurred along Western Avenue. Pedestrians walking home from the Friendship Heights Metro Station were targeted for robbery and in one instance assaulted. No arrests were made but the robberies have stopped.
- 2) A few early evening commercial robberies were reported in the Rockville Pike area.
- 3) Thefts of copper gutter downspouts have occurred in older neighborhoods off of Massachusetts Avenue. Of the eight thefts reported, five were copper thefts (excluding thefts from automobiles).

Mr. Stiglitz raised the continued running of the stop sign at Oxford and University to the police advisory board. He was directed to contact Traffic Sergeant David McBain.

In the area surrounding Glen Echo, thefts from autos are the most common crime, these appear to be opportunistic crimes when cars are left unlocked or when an item (*e.g.* a laptop) is left in view. Three residential burglaries occurred in November near 6100 Massachusetts Avenue. A January 10, 2012 traffic stop led to a possession of marijuana

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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), ICC-B (Intelligence Campus Community-Bethesda), NCC (National Community Church), NHP (National Historical Park), NHS (National Historic Site) and NPS (National Park Service).

case. About three weeks ago, an acquaintance assault occurred at the 7-11 at MacArthur Boulevard and Goldsboro Road.

Mr. Stiglitz informed Council that Montgomery County Delegate Susan Lee is introducing a state bill to make home invasion a separate crime from burglary. Mr. Stiglitz also reported that a new police station will be built at Wisconsin Avenue and Battery Lane in 2013.

Councilmember Long asked if the thefts along Western Avenue were conducted by individuals or groups. Mr. Stiglitz stated it was a pair that worked together but the incidents appear to have stopped.

### **GLEN ECHO PARK**

Ms. Angelakis gave her thanks to The Echo for the article on the proposed geothermal system to be installed in Clara Barton House NHS. The next NPS meeting regarding the proposed geothermal system will be February 14<sup>th</sup>. Another meeting will occur on February 15<sup>th</sup> regarding the level of compliance needed for the project.

The meeting to discuss storm drain concerns at Oberlin and Tulane Avenues (actually at Oberlin Avenue and Bowdoin Street) is set for March 2 at 10:30. Ms. Angelakis thanked Mayor Beers for sharing the background and civil engineer information on the storm drain issue. Ms. Angelakis also thanked Councilmember Long and Clerk-Treasurer Fraser for their response to the status of drains on Oxford Road.

Ms. Angelakis described how GEP was able to borrow a carpenter from another NPS site. As a result several projects were completed: an exhibit case for the Chautauqua safe (on display on the first floor of the North Arcade building), floor refinishing and pipe removal in the Candy Corner building, and installation of new lighting in a recently restored room in Clara Barton NHS.

Ms. Angelakis noted that numerous events are planned for April 12-15 to commemorate Clara Barton's life and legacy, on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary observance of her death.

Ms. Angelakis requested that Mayor, Council and residents of Glen Echo "like" GEP, NPS, and Clara Barton NHS's respective Facebook pages and encourage young people to participate in the GEP Facebook drawing contest.

Councilmember Long asked if Ms. Angelakis would find out what new construction GEPPAC would be allowed to do and if possible where any such new structure would go. Ms. Angelakis demurred, saying it was unlikely that any new construction could occur as GEPPAC is close to the allowed 40% footprint space as outlined in the Cooperative Agreement between the National Park service and Montgomery County. There was some discussion about a site behind the maintenance pen or perhaps the Crystal Pool Area. Councilmember Long said it would be advantageous if any new construction could offer the public an opportunity to view the Potomac River. Mayor Beers asked if there were plans for any sort of building at GEP. Ms. Angelakis said any building projects

requesting NPS funds should be submitted soon as the process requires a five to six year lead time.

### **THE ECHO**

Mayor Beers commended the recent issues of The Echo for both layout and the quality of articles. Councilmember Long noted that Rex Rhein's article on the NCC and Phyllis Fordham's article on the proposed geothermal system at Clara Barton NHS were both well-written and informative. She suggested that they be attached to the minutes of this meeting.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion 2012-01** to approve the minutes with changes of the December Council Meeting. Changes include:

- 1) Under GEP, first paragraph, second sentence was changed to "She reminded Council that the test well will occur for geothermal heat..."
- 2) Under GEP, fourth paragraph, second sentence, a semi-colon was inserted between "minutes" and "Mayor."
- 3) Under GEP, fourth paragraph, final sentence, insertion of "and it was discussed with the Park Service about potential drainage impact."
- 4) FSGW (Folklore Society of Greater Washington) was added to the footnote of the first page.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion 2012-02** to approve the minutes with changes of the January Council Meeting.

Changes include:

- 1) Under GEP, third paragraph, first sentence, insertion of "; she noted the repast" between "Marshall" and "was"
- 2) Under NCC, after the first sentence the insertion of "Pastor Mark Batterson and Operations Manager Jim Tarrious represented NCC."
- 3) Under Additions to the Agenda, second paragraph, final sentence, addition of "Arber" after "Councilmembers."

### **LGIT**

**Motion 2012-03** to adopt LGIT resolution (attached) to approve amendments to LGIT's charter. Councilmember McCaffrey moved and councilmember Arber seconded; motion passed unanimously.

### **TOWN MAINTENANCE**

**Motion 2012-04** to renew Chapel Valley landscaping contract for 2012-13 maintenance of Town Hall, parks, right-of-way and drains. Councilmember Arber moved and Councilmember Long seconded; motion passed unanimously.

### **OXFORD ROAD AND UNIVERSITY AVENUE TRAFFIC**

Resident Willem Polak presented data collected over a 14 day period in December 2011. He and Resident Andy Malmgren positioned a camera to record the behavior of drivers driving west on Oxford Road through the intersection with University Avenue towards

the entrance to the GEP parking lot. No license plate or facial data was recorded. Approximately 81% of all vehicles, ran the stop sign. With a police officer at that location, 65% of all vehicles ran the same stop sign. Even with children, dogs, dog walkers and skate boarders, the rate of stop sign running was constant. In some cases, the cars did not slow but merely drove around pedestrian obstacles. Mr. Stiglitz asked how Mr. Polak defined a “running” of the stop sign. Mr. Polak offered that he asked Officers Lee and Miglianti their criteria: they said they used stopping behind the white line and counting a full second (“one one thousand”). Mayor Beers asked if Mr. Polak could send this information to Montgomery County officials (*i.e.* County Executive Leggett and County Council President Berliner) will they be able operate a stop sign camera. Mr. Polak offered to write a letter with the data to county officials. Mr. Malmgren offered to make DVD’s for the county officials and others. Mr. Polak said that the price of a stop sign camera was \$5000 (made by Redflex Traffic Solutions) and a stop sign running citation is approximately \$143. Mayor Beers said that if the town can recover the costs a stop sign camera might be an option, if county approval was granted. Mayor Beers offered to draft a cover letter and expressed her thanks to Messrs. Polak and Malmgren.

#### **POLICE CITATION REPORT**

Police citation report is attached.

#### **TOWN HALL USE**

Councilmember Long reported on Town Hall use and submitted the attached report. The Town St. Patrick’s Party to be coordinated by former Town Resident Kate Horowitz, is scheduled for 6:30 pm on Saturday, March 17, 2012. Councilmember Long reported that parking was a problem at a Town Hall event in the past week. The users of the Town Hall on that day requested that attendees park in GEP parking lot and walk to the Town Hall. However, this was not the case and parking along Harvard and University Avenues and in the Town Hall parking lot became a problem. Postmaster Yvonne Harrison conveyed to Councilmember Long her displeasure that Post Office customers were not able to park close to the Post Office. The users of the Town Hall on that day were informed and expressed their regret.

#### **INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY CAMPUS**

Councilmember Long reported that she along with Councilmembers Arber and Matney attended a standing room only meeting at Washington Waldorf School to hear concerns about the plans for a new ICC-B on the site of the former Naval Geospatial Agency (originally the Army Map Service) near Sangamore Shopping Center. County Council President Roger Berliner attended; one NPS representative from GWMP was present. Superintendent Kevin Brandt of the C&O Canal NHP had been interviewed at an earlier meeting. He was concerned that the removal of trees and replacement with pavement would cause a dangerous runoff situation for the C&O Canal NHP. An island of silt in the canal, created by runoff from MacArthur Boulevard, has already developed near Sycamore Island. He feared that a similar situation would develop as a result closer to the DC line and in more than one place as a result of the work for the new ICC-B. Prior meetings occurred with communities to be most likely affected (*e.g.* Glen Echo Heights, Fort Sumner, Brookmont). The Town of Glen Echo was not included in the primary

affected area. Councilmember Long has been concerned about increased traffic along MacArthur Boulevard as a result of the ICC-B proposal.

Mayor Beers asked if the proposed plans were going forward. Councilmember Long said yes but with a few changes: primarily to cut down fewer trees and to reorient the new parking building. AT an earlier meeting, a GWMP representative had expressed concerns about the visual impact of the parking structure, especially with nighttime lighting. Councilmember Arber said that in subsequent meetings, the project planners tried their best to respond positively to community requests. She noted that it still doesn't mitigate the numbers of people coming in. Several thousand more employees would commute daily and a good portion would be along MacArthur Blvd. The plan is to renovate one building at a time over five years. All construction traffic will be coming up Massachusetts Avenue. The affected communities are very concerned.

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Councilmember McCaffrey reported that the Conduit Road Fire Board now has 501c3 status and is now looking for volunteers with fundraising experience.

Mayor Beers announced that Town Attorney Norman Knopf has reviewed all the Town ordinances and she would like Councilmembers to review them as the beginning of the codification of Town ordinances.

Mayor Beers reported that former Town Councilmember and resident Robin Kogelnik and her family are planning to return to Glen Echo and rebuild a home on their 6100 Princeton Avenue property. Mr. Stiglitz said that the Kogelniks hope to begin building in June 2012.

Councilmember Long announced that she will copy and distribute to the Council the cooperative agreement signed between NPS and Montgomery County concerning GEP.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Nicole Fraser

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Deborah M. Beers, Mayor

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Date

Attachments : Town Hall Use Report  
Police Citation Report  
LGIT resolution  
Echo articles: NCC meeting by Rex Rhein and Geothermal Well by  
Phyllis Fordham