

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO  
Town Council Meeting  
May 14, 2012

ATTENDANCE: Deborah Beers, Mayor  
Nancy Long, Councilmember  
Eve Arber, Councilmember  
Steve Matney, Councilmember  
Mark McCaffrey, Councilmember  
Nicole Fraser, Clerk/Treasurer

VISITORS: Matt Stiglitz, Resident  
Polly Angelakis, NPS<sup>1</sup> Site Manager of GEP  
Bill Vincent, Echo Reporter  
Kiera Vincent, Echo Reporter  
Gloria Levin, Resident  
Cathie Polak, Resident

Mayor Beers called the meeting to order at 8:04 p.m.

**GLEN ECHO PARK REPORT**

GEP<sup>1</sup> Site Manger Polly Angelakis reported that Adam Badowski will be the Acting Deputy Superintendent of the GW Parkway for a year or until the deputy position is filled permanently.

Ms. Angelakis noted the trolley was removed by a GSA contractor on April 24 because it was not a trolley that historically traveled to GEP. Costs to restore this trolley in a proper facility were over \$100,000. The costs came from a NPS-funded report done in 2010 by a street car restoration expert. (*N. B.* - The trolley car was brought to GEP and parked at the MacArthur Boulevard entrance; it was intended to serve as an interpretative facility to explain GEP's history as a trolley park.)

Ms. Angelakis reported that the events commemorating Clara Barton's legacy were a great success. GEP received media coverage, including a spot on Holly Live on Fox 5.

The GEP Gala is this Saturday, May 19.

Ms. Angelakis reported that Family Day 4/28 was a great success. NPS, using guidance from TRIPTAC (traffic consultants) counted cars, took pictures and tracked how long the main lot on Oxford Road was full during Family Day events. The lot filled at 11:25 am and did not become self regulating (more cars leaving than entering) until 3:15 pm. The event ran from 11 am-4 pm. Based on this information and GWMP Superintendent John

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<sup>1</sup> Abbreviations used in this document include DPS (Department of Permitting and Services), GEP (Glen Echo Park), GEPPAC (Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture), GWMP (George Washington Memorial Parkway), NHP (National Historical Park), NHS (National Historic Site) and NPS (National Park Service).

James' observations while he attended the festival, a shuttle will be necessary for future Family Day events so traffic in the area is not so heavily impacted and more families can attend the event. Councilmember Arber noted that the traffic and parking were dangerous and that it was difficult to travel safely down MacArthur Boulevard near the Irish Inn. Councilmember Matney thanked Ms. Angelakis and her team for putting up the sawhorses to prevent traffic through the town; however, last year, the placement below the drop of the road made it difficult for drivers to see them from the road. He moved all of them to the bike path and angled slightly so one car could get through. Mayor Beers expressed concern about traffic in the area and questioned having large events in the middle of a residential area. She presumed that it was a loss to the park and there are no admissions for the day and the big operators (*e.g.* Adventure Theatre) have to shut down on that day. She asked for a re-evaluation of large events such as Family Day and the Folk Festival being held at GEP. Ms. Angelakis offered to share the Mayor's concerns but urged the Mayor to write her own letter to the superintendent.

Ms. Angelakis reported that the State Department has requested that a representative from Clara Barton NHS speak at the US Embassy in Armenia. Curator Kim Robinson won a scholarship to attend a Victorian Arts & Architecture workshop in London.

Councilmember Long asked if GEP visitors would have access to the written material and/or transcripts from the oral histories collected by the interns' project last year. She encouraged a pamphlet or brochure to help visitors know about their existence. Ms. Angelakis said that all the oral histories have been transcribed and archived digitally and on paper and that she would pass along Councilmember Long's request to the graduate student in charge of the project.

#### **PRESENTATION OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PLAN**

Ms. Cathie Polak of 6001 Princeton presented her plans for an addition to her residence. Ms. Polak noted that the proposed addition had passed zoning and sediment control issues with DPS but was awaiting final approval for her building permit.

Councilmember Long asked about the easement on Ms. Polak's property. Ms. Polak replied that it was WSSC's. Ms. Polak also requested a waiver of the no parking zone in front of her house to allow the construction crew to use a dumpster during the project. She explained that that by placing the dumpster in front of her home there would be less inconvenience to her neighbors. She also plans to use a half-sized dumpster and place it close to the end of the street allowing her neighbors access to their driveway.

**Motion 2012-09** to waive the no parking area in front of 6009 Princeton Avenue during construction of the addition. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion 2012-10** to approve the minutes with changes of the April Council Meeting.

Changes were:

- 1) Page 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence, remove "s" from "confluences";
- 2) Page 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, last sentence, change "done so" to "adjusted it";

- 3) Page 3, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, 4<sup>th</sup> sentence, insert “have” between “may started”;
- 4) Page 3, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, last sentence, insert “(or when an exterior structure is erected)” after “is dug”;
- 5) Page 3, last paragraph, second sentence rewritten to be “Montgomery County did a major stormwater project.”;
- 6) Page 4, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, 10<sup>th</sup> sentence, insert “that” before “in her memory”.

Motion approved unanimously.

### **GEPPAC**

Councilmember Long noted that the GEPPAC annual report states net assets of over \$1,000,000. Mayor Beers said that she GEPPAC plans for future repairs to the buildings and for the establishment of a lifecycle fund. She noted her concern that some of the smaller operators are being squeezed out by increased rents. GEPPAC is a 501(c)3 yet there is a big push to raise revenue, and add another building. Councilmember Long said that the GEP needs park space, not more structures.

### **POLICE REPORT**

Officers Lee and Miglianti were out of town and not able to submit a police report. They have agreed to break down citations and warnings in future reports. Mayor Beers said that Mr. Polak had contacted her about progress on the stop sign camera at Oxford Road and University Avenue. She said that the best suggestion would be to write letters for the next legislative session (starting in the fall) for a stop sign camera or at least to collect some funds from the citations to cover the costs of the police monitoring the stop sign.

### **TOWN HALL USE**

Councilmember Long said that the Town received an email request from a New York City based individual who appeared to be an agent representing a Hungarian musical ensemble to use the Town Hall. Because of the potential size of the audience and the band size (6 members), she suggested they were more suitable for the Music Center at Strathmore the agent was informed that the Town facilities – Town Hall capacity and parking availability particularly –were not suited to their request.

### **BUDGET HEARING AND RESIDENT COMMENTS ON BUDGET**

The Mayor reminded Council of the upcoming budget hearing on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Polak suggested an addition to the budget, *i.e.* the replacement of all road signs (stop, slow, *etc.*) in Town. Two residents requested trash pick-up to be decreased to once a week. One resident requested hazard waste pickup. One resident asked for mosquito abatement. Mayor Beers is interested in adding WiFi to the Town Hall. Ms. Levin asked for an explanation of the various codes and line items in the budget.

### **TOWN MAINTENANCE**

Clerk Fraser reported two downed street signs (Bryn Mawr/University and Bryn Mawr/MacArthur) to be repaired on Tuesday May 15. Mayor Beers said that weeds are growing in the sidewalks on Wellesley Circle should be removed and asked Clerk Fraser to contact Chapel Valley to take care of the problem.

**LGIT**

Clerk Fraser brought up adding endorsements for off-duty law enforcement to the town's insurance policy through LGIT. Mayor Beers asked Clerk Fraser to make sure that the Public Officials liability insurance is the same as Directors & Officers liability insurance.

**MML**

Councilmember Matney reported back from the recent MML meeting.

- 1) Pepco is building a new webtool for street light repair; it will be tied into online repair requests. Pepco's smart meter system is progressing, they have addressed privacy issues; the plan has been approved with an opt-out option.
- 2) At present, the ethics bill does not apply to Glen Echo. The proposed expanded ethics bill did not come up for a vote and the State may apply penalties.
- 3) The tax duplication report has been returned to the County.
- 4) A recent district court decision said that municipalities cannot charge for photographed moving violations.
- 5) The proposed restructuring of the County zoning code continues with the intent to streamline the process. A revision to the code for accessory apartments was pulled out of the larger rezoning plan to be tracked as a separate text Amendment. It may have pulled out because it was so contentious. The proposed changes would relax parking, occupant relationship to tenants and a myriad of other existing requirements. As a result of the proposed changes, accessory apartments would be much more likely to be approved, and would increase residentially-zoned area density.

**POLICE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

Mr. Stiglitz announced that the next police advisory meeting is to be June 6<sup>th</sup> and invited Council and residents to send him any concerns to be raised at the meeting by email.

Meeting adjourned at 9:41 pm.

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