

**Glenmont Exchange, Inc.**  
**GlenmontExchange.org**

**Minutes of the March 24, 2014 meeting**

Attendees: David Shaw, Dorinda Danneman, Ajima Olaghery, Ernie Benjamin, Steve Hine, Rich Burns, Kim Persaud, MJ Vardaneh, Jimmy Roembke, Peg Beck.

The minutes were approved. Treasury Report from Peg Beck. Current balance is \$411.50.

There are two openings at Park and Planning: the Planning Board Chair and the Parks Department Chair.

The Glenmont Fire Station has not moved yet. The move has been rescheduled for April 1, 2014. David spoke with Brett Deane at SHA – the delay in the fire station move should not delay construction. The gas station demolition should begin in two weeks.

Dorinda Danneman reported on the new entrance and parking lot for Brookside Gardens. Construction is expected to be completed in time for the Garden of Lights in November. The Butterfly exhibit, summer concerts and classes are among the events not being held this year. Much less parking is available with the closure of the Visitor Center parking lot. Alternative parking suggestions include the Shorefield Road picnic area lot, Kemp Mill Road on street parking, and the Glenmont Metro lot. Each of these is a short 15 minute walk to the Gardens.

Improvements are to include a relocated entrance road with new signage and a divided roadway, enlarged parking lot, improvements to the drop-off area and parking for buses. Also planned are an improved pedestrian access from Glenallan Avenue, new landscaping, lighting and furnishings. Due to higher bids than expected some items have been removed from the project, including the gatehouse, some garden lighting, and paths. Plans are to raise money for them from the community.

Ajima Olaghery announced the next Meet and Greet on April 9, 2014, in the Wheaton Library. The first event had a good turnout. Each candidate had a podium and neighbors visited each podium. Plans are to have Leggett for the May 15 event, and Phil Andrews for the June 5<sup>th</sup> event.

Aldi's has not signed yet for a space in Plaza del Mercado. The petition for Trader Joes may have brought our area to their attention. Starbuck's has agreed to allow another coffee vendor. More stores are closing in the center, possibly due to the coming redevelopment. LA Fitness may be another new tenant. It would be very helpful to have a connection between Plaza del Mercado and the Layhill Shopping Center.

Discussed how to appeal to general public, improve community engagement. Types of events of interest, speakers, list serve, etc.

Tool Exchange. Similar to other types of exchanges (pet sitting, house sitting). Works in local community best.

Next Door <https://nextdoor.com/> – recommend service workers or house maintenance workers, etc. Minimum of 10 people to start a group, some local groups have already started.

**The next Glenmont Exchange meeting will be held on Monday, May 19, 2014.**