

Maine Medical Center Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC)
Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Time: 12:00p.m.

Location: via Zoom

Recurrence: Monthly, 2nd Wednesday

Minutes Submitted by: Natalie Dubail

Minutes Edited by: NAC Members

Attendees:

Anne Pringle (WPNA) co-chair

Marie Gray (PNA)

Steven Scharf (WENA)

Moses Sabina (SJVNA)

Sophie Vanderburgh (SJVNA)

Damon Yakovleff (LNA)

Zack Barowitz (LNA)

Victoria Pelletier (City Council)

Nell Donaldson (CoP)

Natalie Dubail (MMC)

Brian Batson (MMC)

Al Green (MMC)

Dominique Gabel (WENA)

1) Minutes Minutes of September 13th, 2023 and October 11th 2023, were **APPROVED** as presented.

2) Construction Update (O&A)

No impacts due to construction expected in the next few weeks.

3) MMC Update

Discussion Summary: A few MMC updates were shared. The first being the announcement of the new Southern Region President – Britt Crewse.

A member of the NAC asked if it may be possible for the group to meet with him once he starts. A MMC representative responded with while that is not their call – they anticipate if a meeting was to take place, the purpose of Britt Joining the meeting would need to be defined prior to him being invited and that they can bring the meeting suggestion to leadership.

4) Review and Discuss - DRAFT IDP Monitoring Report

Discussion Summary: The 2023 IDP monitoring report was presented and reviewed by the group in detail. During the discussion there were a few items on the report that were expanded upon, such as workforce housing. NAC members expressed that workforce housing is a shared interest for each individual neighborhood; especially SJV. There was a prior project in SJV that was geared towards low-income housing – but their representatives would also like to see housing in their community also geared towards individuals who currently work for the hospital. A NAC member asked MMC representatives: *how many residential properties the hospital currently*

owns. A MMC representative answered the question by stating that they currently own 12 properties that are all zoned as “mixed use”.

5) MaineHealth Master Facilities Planning Update

Discussion Summary: A MMC representative shared an update on the Master Facilities plan. The plan was broken down into four main initiatives for current and future capital plans - Clinical Need, Building Need, Campus Reorganization & Parking Need. Each category was expanded on in terms of necessary need, emphasized on Maine’s growing population and other external factors the hospital faces. Maine Medical Center has no changes to the short-term and long-term projects listed in the Institutional Development Plan (IDP) that were approved in 2017. MMC expects the work to forecast the demand for services and to assess existing facilities and acquired properties to continue through 2024. Whether the planning process progresses into the conceptual stages will depend heavily on MaineHealth’s tolerance for another major capital expenditure. If the planning process does proceed, concepts will be developed and discussed at length with key stakeholders in the community. However, nothing will be shared without explicit approval from the Board of Trustees. The NAC stated that they understand that the hospital does have NDA’s in place when they acquire properties. Although they would like to be more involved in the knowledge of future capital expenditures – as it impacts their neighborhood and would like the hospital to be open to recommendations regarding the acquisitions of various properties the hospital is interested in. A member suggested that the purpose would be to have open discussions regarding properties ahead of time – such as where there may be smoking areas implemented (referring to a prior issue that has since been resolved). The group agreed if small issues like so were discussed as early as possible then the group could be more proactive, instead of reactive. The group hopes that in 2024 the neighborhoods and MMC can work on bridging those types of gaps.

6) Election of new Co-Chair

Discussion Summary: The discussion of the new 2024 co-chair was presented again. A few members had questions regarding the responsibilities of the co-chair and what that may entail. It was decided that the Vote will take place in January. Between now and January is the time for any questions regarding the position to be asked if interested.

7) Old Business

- Food Pantry Mural

Discussion Summary: While the artwork has been started, the team is putting a pin in the mural for now, as the colder weather months have commenced. The artist will resume the mural once the weather is warmer. Hopefully to be completed sometime in early spring.

- “The Glacier” – status of review of source?

Discussion Summary: The findings of the source of the “The Glacier” concluded that the unsafe runoff was not affiliated with MMC property. Rather, it is coming from another business, in which the CoP (Portland Public Works) will have to address and resolve.

9) New Business?

10) Adjourned 1:15pm

Next meeting: January 8, 2023 @ 12pm
Submitted by: Natalie Dubail

Acronym List:

CoP- City of Portland
LNA – Libbytown Neighborhood Association
MMC – Maine Medical Center
NAC – Neighborhood Advisory Committee
PNA- Parkside Neighborhood Association
SJVNA – Saint John Valley Neighborhood Association
SNF- Skilled Nursing Facility
WENA – West End Neighborhood Association
WPNA- Western Promenade Neighborhood Association