

**Maine Medical Center Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Wednesday, January 10, 2024

**Time:** 12:00p.m.

**Location:** via Zoom

**Recurrence:** Monthly, 2nd Wednesday

**Minutes Submitted by:** Missi Tracy

**Minutes Edited by:** NAC Members

**Previous Meeting Minutes (December 2023) Status:** Not Available

**Attendees**

Anne Pringle (WPNA) co-chair

Marie Gray (PNA)

Steven Scharf (WENA)

Damon Yakovleff (LNA)

Brian Batson (MMC)

Al Green (MMC)

Matt Wickenheiser (MMC)

Missi Tracy (MMC)

Nell Donaldson (CoP)

Barbara DeSerres

Sophie VanDerburgh

**1) Approve Minutes** – The December 2023 minutes were unavailable at this time.

**2) Construction Update (Q&A)** - Walter Pochebit (3 minutes)

There are no MMC planned or scheduled Project construction activities that could impact surrounding neighborhood vehicle traffic, pedestrian flow, noise, after hour work, etc. for the remainder of this month and during the first couple of weeks of February.

Discussion Summary: There was no discussion regarding Walter's report, which was accepted as written.

**3) MMC Update** – Jennifer McCarthy (5 minutes) Unable to attend. Brian presented her report:

- Capacity continues to be a significant issue here; routinely have upwards to 40 patients in the ED waiting to be admitted.
- Covid and Influenza had been on the rise significantly, however the numbers from this week as compared to last show a steady decline. Fingers crossed.
- The issue with the street ban and parking in our garage simply came down to our contractor only opening the gate on Congress, not Forest, even after our team reminded them prior to the storm arriving.

- Southern Region President Brit Crewse begins Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. We will invite him to an upcoming NAC meeting asap.
- The master facility planning process we have been discussing continues to grow. We are still taking a very high look right now at what the “region” needs (from Portland through all of York County) in terms of clinical services, and then drilling down into community location and building needs. We should be able to involve the NAC in the master planning part around Portland in the next 3-6 months. This is a massive project! At the next meeting I can most certainly go into more detail about “needs” – GI Center, Orthopedic building, Oncology platform, Ambulatory Surgery growth, etc. Locations, moves, etc. will take longer and won’t happen without this group’s involvement.
- We anticipate the formal combination of the MMC & SMHC licenses to happen June 1. I would like to ask for a few minutes at our meeting next month to update this group on what that means.

Discussion Summary: There was a lot of discussion regarding the parking garage. Sophie had been unable to enter along with others. Brian apologized on behalf of the hospital, explaining that it had been a misunderstanding with the contractor on duty. Members of the group continued to express their dissatisfaction with the incident, feeling it was “shady”. A number of suggestions were made on ways to better communicate that the MMC Patient & Visitor garage is available during Snow ban parking., and how to enter. There was also a request to know who would make up the combined Board for MMC Portland, Biddeford & Sanford.

Action to be taken: Nell will look into listing it on the city’s website.

### **3)\_DRAFT 2024 Work Plan** (attached) (20 minutes) – discuss

Discussion Summary:

- **Noise Study:** The noise study report has been delayed by the provider. Brian will follow up with them.
- **Development:** A decision was made to focus on St. John’s Valley for development.
- **Caring for the Community:** The question was raised as to who would be on this subcommittee. It was suggested that May 31 be the deadline for expressing interest, and that the Committee would meet in June to discuss proposals and come up with recommendations. These recommendations would be presented at the July meeting.
- **Meeting Schedule:** It was suggested that the May NAC meeting be used to discuss future Facilities planning for MMC – Portland campus. The topic of a Transportation Plan was suggested for the July meeting as it has been a number of years since that was addressed. Questions were asked about who at MMC – Portland would be working on a Transportation Plan. Consideration was asked regarding helping to fund a bus route that had been part of the Metro plan but was held off due to funding. A Winter Plan, including winter maintenance and snow ban parking was suggested for November. It was suggested that September be left open at this time, as all the usual topics were scheduled and it was considered likely that something new would arise for discussion by then. There was discussion of a possible new joint project that MMC and the NAC could work together on involving adding to the tree canopy of the city. There was also an idea put forward

that the May meeting could happen in the Malone Family Tower and include a tour of the new building. It is currently scheduled to open to patients on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **5) Election of new Co-Chair (10 minutes)**

Discussion Summary: A motion was made and seconded that Damon Yakovleff be the new Co-Chair. The motion passed unanimously. Brian and Jennifer will continue to help with the agenda. Anne was thanked for her past service and Damon was thanked for being willing to take on the role.

## **6) Old Business**

Community Policing Mural Update: Work has stopped for the winter so there is nothing to update but it was noted that the project is pretty far along.

Traffic signal crossing St. John St.: The NAC expressed interest in why the traffic signal at the entrance to the employee parking garage has not been activated as desired by the neighborhood. Al explained that since Covid, the DOT threshold has not been met. The road is considered a bypass for 295 in case of a shutdown and that State has been very particular because of that. The hospital's primary intent had always been to activate it. A pushbutton for pedestrians is being installed to activate crossing lights. Al will follow up on what the status is and will have an update for the February meeting. There was also a question in regard to the lane configuration there but there are no known plans to change them at this time.

## **6) New Business**

MH Property Management: A question was put to the MMC employees present, in light of the shooting last week at the Union Street Plaza, about who is responsible for maintaining the Security of MH properties. Some community members are feeling unsafe on those areas. It was noted that MMC Security Dept. is responsible for some but that a private contracted security company rounds at the Union St. Plaza. More questions were asked about who is assigned to the different areas, but details were not available. It was suggested that Carole Dunphe, the community policing liaison be invited to the next meeting. Brian will reach out to her.

Factory Scholarships: It was noted that Factory 3 scholarships were available to anyone in the St. John Valley and Libbytown communities for classes at Factory 3. NAC members will work to get the word out in these areas. A question was raised as to the origin of the map being used as it wasn't felt to be accurate. It was believed to be a city map and suggested that Damon should follow-up with the City of Portland to have it corrected.

Next meeting: February 14, 2024 @ 12pm

Submitted by: Missi Tracy

On date: February 13, 2024

**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