Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2024  
Time: 12:00p.m.  
Location: via Zoom  
Recurrence: Monthly, 2nd Wednesday

Minutes Submitted by: Missi Tracy  
Minutes Edited by: NAC Members

Attendees  
Damon Yakovleff (LNA) co-chair  
Anne Pringle (WPNA)  
Marie Gray (PNA)  
Steven Scharf (WENA)  
Brian Batson (MMC)  
Al Green (MMC)  
Matt Wickenheiser (MMC)  
Missi Tracy (MMC)  
Walter Pochebit (MMC)  
Nell Donaldson (CoP)  
Barbara DeSerres  
Zack Barowitz  
Joe

1) Approve Minutes of February 14, 2024 – Steven S. asked that several edits be made to the February Minutes. A motion was made and seconded to approve the February Minutes as amended. The motion carried.

Discussion Summary: Mention was made that a reporter had contacted MMC in regard to seeing the February Minutes and had asked also if he could attend the meetings. The group expressed its opinion that it would limit candid conversations. The charter does specify that guests can be invited with the consent of the group. Curiosity was expressed as to why someone would want to attend vs. reading the minutes.

Action to be taken: MMC Communications will forward the reporter to Damon. Damon will ask for more information and will ask the committee to make its decision via email.

2) Construction Update (Q&A) - Walter Pochebit – Walter reviewed his previously submitted update. He reiterated some upcoming Congress St. lane closures, for the purpose of installing streetlamps and removing barriers currently in place.

Discussion Summary: Walter was asked about the plan for paving that section of Congress St. and he explained that the section directly in front of the new building would be. There was some question about whether both lanes would have to be closed or if they could do it one lane at a time. It was requested that Walter share a written plan as well as a photo of the
affected area prior to the event.

3) MMC Update – Jennifer McCarthy
• Jennifer reminded the Committee that an upcoming meeting will be held in the new Malone Family Tower, including a tour of the facility. Access information will be sent out via email.
• She shared that plans for 222 St. John St seem to be moving in a good direction. She will communicate more about them when she can.
• She also commented that once the Malone Family Tower construction is complete, the space in the Visitor Parking Garage which Turner is currently using will become available. Noting that it is not a good spot for a retail business, she asked the Committee to consider what suggestions they might have for its use.

4) Recuperative Care Center Updates – Brian Batson – Brian shared a link to a news story featuring the Recuperative Care Center with the group. He reached out to Anne was able to report that since opening the Center has admitted 168 individuals. Not only is this good for unhoused individuals who need medical care, it also supports MMCs need to be able to discharge patients who no longer need advanced care to a safe place instead of keeping them as inpatients longer.

Discussion Summary: Members would like specific numbers of those helped to find housing along with other statistics on a regular basis.

Action to be taken: Brian will add standing updates to the work list.

5) Helicopter Sound Study Report – Al Green – A copy of the report had been sent out to members. Al gave an overview of the information gathering process utilized by the company and noted that Lifeflight shares a record of their flights with the engineer who performed the study.

Discussion Summary: Members asked about some of the measurements. Questions were also asked about the definition of trips and flights. It was determined that a trip was considered a one-way conveyance of a patient either inbound or outbound, while a flight was an arrival and departure. There was some discussion as to flight paths and how they were affected by recent construction. It was also noted that it seemed like there has been a lot more flights than had anticipated when the helipad was first built. This was felt to be proportional to the extremely high censuses, and the fact that Maine’s population is aging, with increasingly urgent needs. Brian iterated that Lifeflight is only used when medically necessary, it is not a preferred method to transport patients.

Actions to be taken: None. A study will be repeated in 3 years.

6) Healthy Neighborhoods Subcommittee Report Back - The subcommittee met on Monday had a very interesting discussion. There is about $360,000 to create housing, predominantly in the St. John neighborhood. The subcommittee discussed several approaches; whether it be smaller quicker projects or a big one that would take longer. They considered whether the goal should be home ownership or rentals. Several suggestions for guests who could be invited to attend a future meeting and give input were considered.

Discussion Summary: The possibility of moving forward more quickly by working on existing
houses was raised. Comments were made that several of MMC/MH’s local properties were underutilized and would be good locations for housing projects, but other pointed out that the funds would be a mere drop in the bucket of what would be needed for something that large scale, but could make a significant impact on existing structures.

**Action to be taken:** Subcommittee to meet again and talk about next steps.

7) **2024 Caring Community Grant Updates** - Steven S. had sent an email out about that and is working on getting the committee together. He is recruiting members. A revised version of the application form with new dates on it have been sent out. Once a majority of the subcommittee approves it, the form will be communicated to the neighborhood.

8) **Old Business**
   - Traffic Signal Update (Parking Garage at St. John St.) – Al Green – no longer present
   - Potential for Transit funding – Al Green – no longer present
   - MMC security – Brian Batson – Brian answered the question as to the number of external surveillance cameras present at the Union Station Plaza. Property Management is looking into increasing that number.

9) **New Business** – Damon noted that the Reconnecting Libbytown project has received funding to improve Congress and Park. This will have implications for Maine Med Portland as this is an important ambulance route. Damon verbalized the importance of keeping communication open and addressing any concerns about the project as they arose, between the Community, the City and MMC. Brian shared that a robust letter of support had been sent by the hospital to the DOT and that they were happy to see the project coming to fruition. The project is expected to last to 2029.

10) **Adjourn** – there being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 12:59. The motion passed unanimously.