

MMC Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC)

Agenda

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

Noon-1:00pm

AGENDA

- 1. Approve minutes**
 - 2. Update from COO Matthew Wolden, or VP of Operations Ricky Meinking**
 - Hospital statistics
 - Plans for 222 St. John St.
 - 3. Update on Union Square Plaza discussion and next meeting April, any member**
 - 4. Caring Community Grants schedule for 2026, Steven Scharf**
 - 5. Decision on creating a subcommittee to draft bylaws, requested by Zack Barowitz**
 - 6. Adjourn**
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1. MINUTES

Minutes approved from previous meeting

2. UPDATES

MMC Portland

Matt Wolden let the group know that due to significant immigration enforcing with the presence of ICE during January and February, Portland experienced significant staffing challenges. The hospital remained able to provide safe care while offering support for its teams and the community.

Q: How many staff members were affected?

A: The problem was mainly temporary with some staff fearful of travelling to work. On the worst day, only 25% of the Environmental Services staff were on duty for a full hospital. Senior executives stepped in to help to fill the gaps.

Ricky Meinking updated the group of the intention to replace the aging shuttle fleet with new models which will be quieter and more fuel efficient, including some electric vans. Electric vans could be used at lower volume times when full shuttles are not needed, such as overnight shifts. A concern was also raised about multiple shuttles idling at once and Ricky let the group know that some technological options are being looked into which would get real-time ride counts to help reduce the excess of vans/ idle time.

Q: With the shuttles having issues with the A Street hill in bad weather, is all-wheel drive a possibility?

A: All features are being investigated. In addition, shuttles do take alternative routes should a regular street be blocked/unsafe to drive on.

Q: How many vehicles are in the fleet?

A: Currently 17 - that number will likely go down as needs are evaluated to make things more streamlined. The shuttle service currently runs 500k miles/year.

Q: What's the new ambulance recently seen around the hospital?

A: It is being run by a physician equipped with more ability to treat patients in the field and get a physician to someone more quickly. They're also looking to add blood to the vehicle as well to start transfusing patients with trauma immediately.

Q: How many ambulances are there?

A: Just one as this is a pilot program but it is being staffed by multiple providers

Q: Does it rove? Or is it used on a case-by-case basis?

A: It responds to calls

222 St. John Street

Contractual operations are still being worked through so there is no full update as of now, but the commitment remains to bring the NAC together to share any information before it goes public. The outcome of legislative bill LD 2196 which would cap the cost of hospital providers was mentioned as factor in the lack of updates.

Q: There is graffiti on the Malone Family Tower and retaining wall – who is handling that issue now?

A: Matt will investigate this and include Rickey – it will be someone on the facilities team. It was noted a delay might be due to pressure washers not being able to be used until temperatures warm up.

Brian let the group know that MaineHealth's sustainability manager Mike Arsnow has asked if there are any neighborhood cleanups coming up that he can help to promote them within the care team. Neighborhood reps will get information to Brian as things arise and all are welcome to join the Portland Parks 4/25 citywide cleanup.

3. UPDATE ON UNION SQUARE PLAZA DISCUSSION

A meeting is scheduled with Al Green on April 2 and will include the possible relocation of the clock from Congress Square Park back to Union Station.

4. CARING COMMUNITY GRANTS

Steve plans to send the form out tomorrow and approvals can be discussed at the NAC May meeting. Zack requested the deadline be extended a few days to be able to have one full neighborhood meeting – Steve confirmed the new deadline of Mon April 27th and also confirmed the committee members from each neighborhood. A request was made to see if we can get documentation of how previous grant recipients have used the money they have received so results can be reported to the NAC – Steve will follow up.

5. DECISION ON CREATING A SUBCOMMITTEE TO DRAFT BYLAWS

Zack voiced concern that the NAC has been functioning without protocols and procedures and wants to have some continuity for when institutional knowledge leaves the group as well as overall consistency. The group agreed that communication is the main goal and greater transparency and shared best practices could help achieve that as well as clarify how each individual association operates. It was noted that not all neighborhoods operate the same way and not all are impacted by the hospital in the same way.

A motion was made and seconded to create a subcommittee.
The motion did not pass.