Maine Medical Center Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC)
Meeting Minutes

Date: April 14, 2021
Time: 12:00p.m.
Location: via Zoom
Recurrence: Monthly, 2nd Wednesday

Minutes Submitted by: Brian Batson
Minutes Edited by: NAC Members
Previous Meeting Minutes (March 10, 2021) Status: Approved

Attendees
Brian Batson (MMC) co-chair
Emma Holder (PNA) co-chair
Moses Sabina (SJVNA)
Anne Pringle (WPNA)
Alvah Davis (WPNA)
Matt Wickenheiser (MMC)
Walter Pochebit (MMC)
Jennifer McCarthy (MMC)
Nell Donaldson (CoP)
Al Green – MaineHealth
Samantha Ward (MMC)
Tim McNamara (SJVNA)

Meeting Minutes: Beginning

Walter – Construction update:
Moving forward with tiebacks and mass excavation- typical for next several months; Congress Street work to be completed 1 week early (April 23rd); new pavement and striping by next Friday barring any unknown conditions; no difference for neighborhoods- status quo

Emma- Unitil opened street for non-MMC?
Walter- completely independent of Congress st work
Emma- when congress is back open, sharrows repainted?
Walter- Yes

Jennifer- today is the highest census (655); we really need to get this construction completed. COVID related? Some, but not really. Drug related? More growing city. Overall volume of sick people is really high.

NAC Grant Subcommittee- Recommendations:

Alvah- 3 week process to see if there are any proposal; Small one from Libbytown
Will review Libbytown proposal ($1,400) and present recommendation next Month; Annual process, we were late on November 2020 solicitations. Trying to bring up to date.
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Emma – from last month, suggestion to roll over money to next year. Another communication came through- any pressing projects? Understanding is not clear. Other thoughts? Subcommittee makes recommendations to NAC.

Anne- understanding that it would roll over

Tim- understanding that it would roll over. Did Libbytown officially submit?

Alvah – not officially, just one sentence

Tim- important to follow process. Put off to fall or not? Written proposal to subcommittee → subcommittee makes recommendation to NAC → NAC makes decision

Alvah- grant committee is to submit list of recommendations

Anne- eligibility issue- 501c3 may not be eligible (secretarial issues)

Nell- broad eligibility, some framework. If subcommittee wants to tighten parameters, that’s up to them

Emma- last year 501c3 was included, but amount wasn’t that high; written proposal should be necessary; back up even more- is money going to be allocated this year or not? Vote?

Jennifer- why pushing it off?

Emma- we missed a deadline

Jennifer- MMC would like to pay each year when it’s due (within fiscal year)

Emma- proactively give neighborhoods money?

Jennifer- MMC can’t do that

Alvah- we’ve rolled over money before

Jennifer- we need to fix that this year; deadline is 9/30/2021

Alvah- let’s move everything up

Emma- $30k needs to be allocated?

Alvah- no, $70k

Anne- $40k?

Alvah- let’s bring up next year’s funds.
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Emma- Jennifer?

Nell- essentially move this year’s process up to August = $70k

Brian- we have until the end of September 2021

Anne- roll out soon so we can have applications in

Alvah- July 1st applications due

Nell- subcommittee to meet and set guidelines

Emma- $70k for neighborhoods, July 1st deadline to submit applications

Anne- SJV did not receive anything last time

Tim- historically, SJV did not ask for funds; talked about cadets at last association meeting.
Alvah, please gather subcommittee.

Alvah- already meeting in the next 10 days

Anne- send out the requirements in writing

Follow up on last month’s discussion on properties / Discuss next steps for Greyhound short term uses:

Jennifer- Moving forward creating space for community resource officer to move to Greyhound building. Food pantry looking positive as well. Working on application/permitting process for change of use. Stemming from that discussion, food trucks- might not be as simple. Nell?

Nell- food trucks can basically go in a commercial zone with permission from property owner; Nell can send

Tim- which type of officer in the Greyhound building?

Jennifer- to confirm

Anne- schools have defunded officers

Jennifer- Community Police Officer from Reiche

Tim- confirming it is community policing officer. Timeframe?

Jennifer- not yet
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Walter- still assessing the property, inspecting

Tim- work is happening, drilling, HVAC; we’d like to be involved to bring a sense of community to the space

Jennifer- heard there is only one office in the space; some minor construction taking place

Tim- we’d like some input; it’s an odd property

Jennifer- Walter could you make a note of that?

Walter- yes, absolutely. Work going on is investigative

Jennifer- work in progress, few years. Needs to be a showcase for the community. MMC needs to have the resources left to make it look like it should

Tim- food distribution won’t be general public use; related to MaineHealth network. Concerns that this isn’t community-based

Jennifer- we’ve identified MaineHealth’s niche and there are people other than MMC that do food pantries

Anne- we need to let MMC do this

Jennifer- partnering with Good Shepherd

Anne- other two properties (Western Prom houses); conversations offline. We’d like to be involved; will share offline

Tim- gaps in the online construction update; update on the IDP monitoring report? 151 St John Street is on the market, 2 acres, bid sale- is the hospital interested?

Jennifer- none from my end

Brian – expand on identified gaps?

Tim- properties that are held by MMC and not listed

Al- Nell pointed out some issues with the map, going through we also found some issues; please send over any notes you may have

Tim- very important, paramount piece of report.

Al- redrawing of parcels was found; was there more?
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Nell- hospital is required to submit monitoring report every 3 years to the City; Al is working on revising; Tim has revisions as well; Al’s due date?

Al- should be next couple of weeks

Anne- identify essential and non-essential; hope the report can be presented to NAC

Brian- Al is actively working on this- should NAC review?

Nell- certainly would be a courtesy

Tim- First draft can be found under 2020 updates. Will send missed properties to Al

Topics for next month’s discussion:

Anne- helicopter update; approaching from the Prom, not the preferred route?

Matt- no complaints for months; one flight that came in from a different direction on a windy day but no complaints

Anne- could you send us the complaint phone number?

Matt- it’s on the modernization website

Emma- we are not as in as much discomfort as the person in the helicopter, we are not going to have fewer flights as the population grows; need to find a kind way to say that

Alvah- connect offline about this

Tim- temporary rooms for patients being discharged.

Jennifer- partner is not coming forward yet; location is close to the hospital

Tim- we should be told where it is going if it impacts us

Jennifer- hoping it would be this month, but we’ll plan for next month

Tim- security at Greyhound; drinking, arrests made. How does Jamie think it’s going? Jennifer- no, Brian or Walter?

Brian- I’ll reach out to Jamie

Brian- are you talking about the offline helipad conversations that we’ve had?

Alvah- yes
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Brian- we’re working internally to adjust our website

Matt- modernization website has needed to be update for a little while; add something about NAC and that we’re working with them; report on heliport- what are the routes? Why do pilots go off route? Etc. Link to Life Flight

Brian- this will be very helpful

Emma- anything else for updates?

Anne- IDP update

Nell- is that something that can be available next time?

Next Meeting: May 12, 2021

Zoom Link:
https://zoom.us/j/91871624329?pwd=N1ByZ3k1RzdMNVU0WlheUhSaGhzZz09

Meeting ID: 918 7162 4329
Passcode: 6NgY2Z

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