

Maine Medical Center Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC)
Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, February 8, 2023

Time: 12:00p.m.

Location: via Zoom

Recurrence: Monthly, 2nd Wednesday

Minutes Submitted by: Missi Tracy

Minutes Edited by: NAC Members

Previous Meeting Minutes (January 2023) Status: Approved

Attendees

Anne Pringle (WPNA) co-chair

Marie Gray (PNA)

Peter Dugas (PNA)

Tim McNamara (SJVNA)

Lin Parsons (WENA)

Steven Scharf (WENA)

Damon Yakovleff (LNA)

Jennifer McCarthy (MMC)

Brian Batson (MMC)

Walter Pochebit (MMC)

Matt Wickenheiser (MMC)

Missi Tracy (MMC)

Natalie Dubail (MMC)

Nell Donaldson (CoP)

1) Minutes The Minutes of January 11, 2023 were APPROVED as presented.

2) Construction Update (Provided in writing by Walter Pochebit prior to meeting)

Congress St/Malone Family Tower

- No anticipated project impacts the remainder of this month to streets, sidewalks, after hours work etc.
- There were a few recent reports of contractor vehicles parking along neighborhood streets...Turner Construction has ramped on patrolling and communications regarding this.
- There are over 240 workers on the site every day.
- The exterior curtain wall/windows continues to be installed.
- Interior steel stud framing, exterior sheathing, layout and drywall is being installed.
- Mechanical and electrical infrastructures are being delivered and installed in the building on all levels.

Discussion Summary: It was noted that the West End lights had remained on through the night recently. Walter asked to be notified if this happened again. He shared that the Food Pantry had

opened. He also noted that there would be beautification done to the outside of the building, including benches and planters, once the weather is warmer.

Action to be taken: Beautification will be done to former Greyhound station location in the spring.

3) Maine Med Update

Discussion Summary: Jennifer shared that RSV and Flu in the community has been going down, but that COVID has remained fairly steady. She did note however that most of the COVID- positive patients were hospitalized for co-morbidities as opposed to COVID symptoms. She explained that the MMC census continues to be unsustainable, due to other factors including a record number of births recently. The hospital is currently looking at creative ways to mitigate the crisis, as the new addition is not expected to open fully until April 2024.

A committee member asked for clarification on additional capacity. Jennifer explained that the current facility is maxed out and referred to the national need for more behavioral health and nursing home beds. These patients are experiencing extended hospital stays, as there are not enough facilities to discharge them to.

4) MMC Engagement with Neighbors

Union Station Plaza – Vision for future use, process

Issues: advance notice/discussion of plans, maintenance of properties, resolution of concerns raised, use of small group discussions with report back to full NAC, etc.

Discussion summary: There was a lengthy discussion regarding the ways the NAC felt that MMC could improve its relation with the neighborhoods. Some expressed their opinion that the Union Station Plaza was purchased without sufficient consideration as to the property management responsibilities that would be incurred. Appreciation was expressed that issues were being addressed once attention was brought to them, but opinions were reiterated that MaineHealth should have been better prepared to stop issues from occurring. Several suggestions for improving conditions at the Union Station Plaza were offered.

Feelings that the NAC should have been informed and consulted prior to the purchase were raised again, as at the January meeting. Attendees were reminded that Maine Medical Center and MaineHealth are actually two different entities and that it was MaineHealth who was the purchaser. The MMC representatives who were attending were requested to encourage MH to hold open forums for the people of Portland to express their opinions on how the property should be maintained/developed. Several ideas for change were offered. Alternatively, it was suggested that the Neighborhoods hold meetings for their members and bring the feedback received to the NAC. Conflicting opinions were expressed as to how to resolve the uncertainty felt on the subject.

Action to be taken: Brian will develop a plan as to how MMC will engage with neighborhoods, for inclusion in the next IDP monitoring report.

5) 2023 Work Plan, Meeting Schedule

Discussion summary: The frequency of the neighborhood meetings was discussed. It was also noted that the Caring Community Grant process had to be addressed ,as the final recommend-dations are due by June. A one page description of this was requested for distribution, which has already been created.

At this time, it was commented upon that an hour had already passed and the agenda had not been completed. Opinions were given that there is too much business to address in 60 minutes. There was discussion as to whether smaller group meetings needed to occur as well, but the decision was to try expanding the monthly meetings to 90 minutes instead.

Action to be taken: Lin will send Steven the existing flyer on the grant program. A 90 minute March meeting will be trialed.

7) **Adjourn** – As the time was 1:07pm, there was no opportunity to discuss the Old or New Business. Most members had already had to leave and the meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting: March 15, 2023 @ 12pm

Submitted by: Missi Tracy

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

ZOOM LINK:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92222935067?pwd=aFNsMnZUdlE3cGRyanBhNGxjU2M0QT09>

Meeting ID: 922 2293 5067

Passcode: 818601

One tap mobile

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