

Maine Medical Center Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC)
Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, July 12th, 2023

Time: 12:00p.m.

Location: via Zoom

Recurrence: Monthly, 2nd Wednesday

Minutes Submitted by: Natalie Dubail

Minutes Edited by: NAC Members

Previous Meeting Minutes (April 2023) Status: Approved

Attendees

Anne Pringle (WPNA) co-chair

Marie Gray (PNA)

Steven Scharf (WENA)

Damon Yakovleff (LNA)

Moses Sabina (SJVNA)

Sophie Vanderburgh (SJVNA)

Walter Pochebit (MMC)

Jennifer McCarthy (MMC)

Brian Batson (MMC)

Al Green (MMC)

Natalie Dubail (MMC)

Nell Donaldson (CoP)

Zack Barowitz (LNA)

Roseanne Grafe

1) Minutes Minutes of May meeting were **APPROVED** after a revision was requested and amended regarding Turner Construction's temporary office building being commercial space.

2) Construction Update (Q&A) – Walter Pochebit (5 minutes)

Congress St/Malone Family Tower

7/26-7/27 OR 7/27-7/28 Gilman Street from A Street to Congress Street will be closed from 7:00AM to 5:00 PM. Dates and times are subject to change depending on weather. Walter will post finalized dates, along with any changes on the project webpage.

Closure is to allow MMC Project construction crews access to work on the sidewalk/curb tip downs at each corner of Gilman and Congress. Signs will be in place as well as flaggers.

No other 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 August.

Planned City Utility work in Congress Street – Tim McNamara is hosting a meeting at his Congress St restaurant, Bread & Olive Monday July 10 at 10:30 with City of Portland Public Works, Unutil, Portland Planning and area businesses to learn details of upcoming work in Congress Street. MMC Design & Construction Project Manager Norm Benjamin will attend as well as MMC Property Manager along with Turner Construction Sr Project Manager.

3) MMC Update – Jennifer McCarthy (5 minutes)

Discussion Summary: There is no significant news to share regarding MMC at this time;

Jeff Sanders, President of the Southern Region, has recently left the organization.

A NAC member asked if during MMC's search for Jeff's replacement it would be made clear to candidates that the position would involve interacting with the civic and local community.

Jennifer assured that it would be relayed to any candidate that those interactions would be necessary for the President role.

Another member asked if there is a timeline for finding his replacement. Jennifer said that MMC is currently forming a search/interview committee and working with recruiters. A realistic timeline for a new hire would be 6-9 months.

As we continue to head into summer, MMC is seeing an uptick in patients, which is typical for this time of year. For example, there were 645 patients at the hospital yesterday with 85 waiting in the ED for rooms.

4) Caring Community Grant Recommendations, attached (VOTE) – Damon Yakovleff (40 minutes)

Discussion Summary:

Damon walked through each grant recommendation and welcomed any questions or comments.

This is the 3rd round of grants that have gone out, although this is not 3rd year the grants have been in place. The past two grant allocations that went out included back funds from years grant proposals were not made, which is why the past two rounds had more funding to work with.

Steve added that he has given viewer access to everyone to look though the entire directory of past grant allocations.

Many of the neighborhoods are working through implementing their grant projects at this time.

During this round 4 out of the 5 associations submitted a grant proposal. SJNA withdrew their proposal and did not submit one this round. The full \$30,000 has been allocated at this time. All neighborhood associations that submitted a grant proposal had their primary project 100% funded through the grant. All secondary recommendations received some grant funds to help cover the cost, with the understanding that the remainder of the cost could be covered with additional fundraisers or available grants.

Primary Grant: Factory 3 Scholarships

With a partnership from “Factory 3”, this grant will provide the opportunity for Libbytown and St. John Valley residents to receive a scholarship to take a class through factory 3 at no cost to them. Classes in wood, metal, fiber, technology, writing and fine art will be available. The classes are taught by local artists and technicians.

Secondary Grant: Community Transportation Symposium

The community symposium is to discuss the future of the neighborhood’s transportation infrastructure to be held in the spring of 2024. The symposium will outline how we got where we are today, and showcase the possibility for a more sustainable transportation future.

While this proposal was partially funded, the LNA will attempt to cover the rest of the cost by working in partnership with other groups (who support these initiatives) to secure the rest of the funding for this project.

PNA:

Primary Grant: Bramhall Square Lighting Project

Seasonal lighting installation in Bramhall Square. The subcommittee supports this project, although would like to see it self-sustaining in the future.

WENA:

Primary Grant: Tree Management and Education Project

A project that will educate West End residents about the importance of urban tree cover and planting new native tree species. The project will also undertake a community-wide campaign to encourage the planting and care of appropriate tree seedling species on private property in the West End.

The question was asked if 100% of the grant funds allocated are going to the education portion of the project and not to buy trees or land. It was confirmed that these funds are going directly to the project and not being used to purchase anything else.

WPA:

Primary Grant: 2023 Western Prom Sunset Concert series

The 2023 Western Prom Sunset Concert Series will be presenting six free one hour sunset concerts on the Western Prom on Wednesday evenings from mid-July through mid-August.

The subcommittee supports this project, although efforts to find a long-term sustainable funding that do not depend on the grant are encouraged in the future. The funding amount was reduced due to a finding that some remaining funding from the previous grant award had rolled over.

Secondary Grant: TEMPOart Western Prom Art Installation

A public artwork entitled *Carousel Cosmos* installation in the Western Promenade Park. The installation consists of seven whimsical animal bench sculptures arranged in the shape of a carousel to evoke a sense of wonder that the carousel is actually turning in a circle on the Earth’s axis while at the same time, like the Earth, hurtling through the cosmos.

Additional Grant: Western Cemetery Fence Repair

Repair and re-install 30+/- feet of historic wrought iron fencing at the upper Western Promenade corner of the Western Cemetery just south of Bowdoin Street.

This is a large project and worthy of support, which will come from many sources. The subcommittee awarded the balance of unallocated funds to assist with this effort.

The question was asked if the requesting group has been successful in raising additional funding. Anne confirmed the first phase of the project is funded and the second phase of the project will require more funding.

VOTE: Documentation for grants and recommendations were **APPROVED**

Actions to be taken:

-NAC will send a list of invoice/check requests to CoP

-Moses will circle back with Tim to confirm that SJVNA received the check for the “Greyhound Mural” (Still need reports from this project)

5) Old Business (10 Minutes)

- **Food Pantry Mural – Brian Batson**

Discussion Summary:

There is positive news regarding the food pantry. A few months ago there was a subcommittee established to make decisions on the mural. The committee reached out to about 15 artists and received many great submissions. Brian explained that they have chosen the final mural design and everyone who was present at the meeting voted on this specific design. Brian and the subcommittee will go back to SJVNA to finalize details and at that point they will notify the artist. Once timing is worked out with the food pantry, he expects the mural will start as soon as possible.

- **Neighborhood Parking – Brian Batson**

Discussion Summary:

Brian touched on parking, as it was the primary discussion point in last month’s listening session. Since then, MMC has implemented more proactive responses. In the morning, MMC Security now monitors the outside employee entrance to connect with care team members and monitor where they may be walking from. A few months back Jennifer rewrote the parking policy with a more formal corrective process in place. A few weeks ago a formal email reminder from the VP of HR was sent out with the new policy. Brian shared that this did get a negative reaction from multiple employees, but the goal of an enforcement reminder was addressed.

Nell shared that the CoP was able to hire more parking officers recently and the city has put an emphasis on increasing their diligence. John Peverada recently did a parking analysis to track repeat parking offenders and traffic in the SJV area.

Anne asked if John was planning to do more analyses in the future and that it would be beneficial to monitor more neighborhoods in the city. Nell said that is definitely an option and that it would have to be brought up to the city on which specific areas need to be addressed.

A few members said they did get the report from John, but they were having trouble reading the data in the format it was in. Nell said after she manipulated the data, it was clearer to her and she can send over her version if anyone was interested. The city is doing their best to work on parking issues and many neighborhoods throughout the city are experiencing these same issues.

The question was asked as to why hospital employees had a negative reaction to MMC's parking email and policy. Jennifer said there are multiple reasons and justifications as to why employees are parking on the street. She explained many of these "offenders" are Portland residents and as CoP tax payers there is nothing preventing them from utilizing these parking spaces.

Anne asked if it was appropriate to draft a letter to the employees explaining why this is an issue for neighbors; for Jennifer to send in an announcement. Jennifer explained due to the NAC being outside of the organization this would be inappropriate and there are certain lines that cannot be crossed in that respect. Brian said in the original announcement from HR the NAC was already mentioned and referenced.

Actions to be taken:

- Moses will send information on a specific vehicle for Brian to address.
- Nell will send her spreadsheet to the group.

10) Adjourned 1:00 pm

Next meeting: August 10, 2023 @ 12pm

Submitted by: Natalie Dubail

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