

Maine Medical Center Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC)
Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, May 10, 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)

Lin Parsons (WENA)

Steven Scharf (WENA)

Damon Yakovleff (LNA)

Moses Sabina (SJVNA)

Sophie Vanderburgh (SJVNA)

Jennifer McCarthy (MMC)

Brian Batson (MMC)

Matt Wickenheiser (MMC)

Al Green (MMC)

Natalie Dubail (MMC)

Victoria Pelletier (City Council)

Nell Donaldson (CoP)

1) Minutes Minutes of April 12th, 2023 were **APPROVED** after a revision was requested and then amended.

2) Construction Update (Q&A) - Jennifer McCarthy (5 minutes)

Discussion Summary: There was a short update provided by Jennifer during the meeting. As there are currently no scheduled or planned construction activities that would impact the surrounding neighborhoods for the next month and a half.

A committee member asked if MMC had a target date for the completion of the new addition. Jennifer stated that the plan is to host a grand opening in April/May 2024. Although, everything on the exterior of the building will start to come together by this fall.

While the current “main entrance” will stay, the new building will feature a secondary entrance on Congress Street. Jennifer commented on how the contractor parking signs seem to be working well. The question was asked on what would become of the current space in the visitor parking garage, which is currently occupied by the construction workers for the project. Jennifer said that while there are no solid current plans with that space, the hospital plans to keep it occupied. Once construction is done MMC will evaluate how to best utilize the space.

3) Caring Community Grant Process – Damon Yakovleff (10 minutes)

Discussion Summary: Damon reminded the group that the deadline for grant proposals will be Friday, June 2nd

Anyone interested in making a proposal will first send it to their respective NAC for review and recommendations, who will then bring it to this committee. The Final vote on proposals will take place in July. The amount of grant money this year is totaled at 30,000.

Damon has created a google drive for collaboration and tracking progress on grant efforts. All the information regarding the caring community grant process is captured on the drive.

Nell offered herself as a connection to help anyone who may have questions regarding grant proposals for a city project. As certain city projects may require a partnership with a CoP employee for guidance.

If there is a city project, it was emphasized that a short documentation of the proposal should be done. When proposing these grants, they should be short, to the point and a 5 page maximum.

A committee member asked for a rough count to see who is planning on proposing a grant. Each committee member raised their hand and expressed they would all make 1-2 proposals. The suggestion was made that people mark to make clear on which grant project would be a priority for them if they were to submit multiple proposals.

Action to be taken: Nell and Damon will connect regarding the process and drive. Steve will follow up with Nell for additional questions.

4) Maine Med Update

Discussion Summary: There was a short update provided by Jennifer.

There are no new pressing issues that the hospital is currently facing at this time.

Jennifer went on to explain that MMC is starting to return back to a pre-COVID environment by eliminating mask requirements and other COVID related practices. On another positive note, it is nurse's week and MMC recently received outstanding ratings from "Leapfrog", which is a company who measures the hospital's safety grade rating. MMC just recently received a rating of "A" for the 6th time in a row.

5) Old Business (10 Minutes)

- **Neighborhood Parking Management – Brian Batson**

Discussion Summary: Brian read over the new parking policy that Jennifer created to the group. He highlighted the enforcement portion, adding that repeat offenders will have their supervisor notified, as well as the hospital's HR department. Jennifer added that she rewrote the policy to change the verbiage to reflect stricter enforcement.

A committee member asked if security is onsite and looking for parking offenders. Jennifer reiterated that security monitors all MMC parking lots, but MMC cannot enforce parking if they do not own the land. Jennifer expressed the necessity for the cities partnership on this issue.

The member then suggested using a grant proposal to allocate an overtime budget to CoP parking enforcement officers. It was discussed that while MMC and the CoP are trying their best to have coverage and address the parking issues, it is evident staffing shortages are effecting the level of enforcement. Another suggestion was made to change the times of day parking is being monitored to catch other offenders. Although, ultimately Jennifer said because of the set shifts, mixing it up wouldn't make much of a difference.

Members from SJVNAC expressed their frustration about the same 5 cars parking on Gilman Street – Jennifer asked Brian to follow up with Jamie Grant about this.

Another member asked Jennifer how MMC is currently enforcing parking. Jennifer stated that we have security onsite all of our parking areas and they are constantly patrolling, monitoring and collecting data.

Action to Be Taken: Brian to follow up with Jamie about patrol (Gilman St.)

- **Recuperative Care Center, Food Pantry – Brian Batson**

Discussion Summary: Brian updated the group on discussions with Ann Tucker after the April meeting. The smoking area that was installed at the RCC seems to be working well. Brian relayed that there is a desire to get a picnic table for the facility, so folks can sit outside. He also mentioned that more cameras have since been installed in the area. The discovery was made that residents in the area were putting their own trash in the dumpster, which was creating the mess and overflow. Since there has been more monitoring of the dumpster, the garbage situation has gotten better. Brian then addressed the parking issue that was brought up about the RCC last meeting. They have not seen any instances since, but continue to monitor the situation.

The 1st meeting for the food pantry mural has taken place. Various community members and MMC staff have started to collaborate on a vision for the mural. Some of the themes and ideas have included ideas directly relating to food and Maine culture, such as farms, gardens, fishing, lighthouses and bright, welcoming colors.

Brian touched on how Carol, the community policewoman has been settling into her job and reaching out to community members offering resources and assistance. The question was asked if there are parking spaces in the area designated for the police officers. Brian said yes, there are multiple places for the police to park, as well as everyone who is using the pantry, in the plaza area.

6) New Business?

- Ann offered up the opportunity for anyone who may be interested in taking over as co-chair of the committee

10) Adjourned 12:51pm

Next meeting: June 14, 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