

11/13/19

Maine Medical Center Neighborhood Advisory MMC NAC Notes

Name	Email	Role	Attending?
1 Spencer Thibodeau	sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov	District 2 City Councilor	Yes -by phone
2 Nell Donaldson	hcd@portlandmaine.gov	Portland Senior Planner	yes
3 Peter Hall	spruceboy@maine.rr.com	West End	yes
4 Lin Parsons	linparsons@maine.rr.com	West End	no
5 Anne Pringle	oldmayor@maine.rr.com	Western Prom	yes
6 Alvah Davis	alvah.davis@gmail.com	Western Prom	no
7 Brett Gabor	brett.gabor@gmail.com	Libbytown	yes
8 Ed Suslovic	esuslovic@gmail.com	Libbytown	yes
9 Emma Holder	emma@emmaholder.com	Parkside	yes
10 Liz Trice	liztrice@gmail.com	Parkside	yes
11 Moses Sabina	mosessabina@yahoo.com	St John Valley Neighborhood	yes
12 Tim McNamara	stjohnvalley@live.com	St John Valley Neighborhood	yes
13 Jennifer L. McCarthy	JMcCarthy@mmc.org	MH Chief Operating Officer	yes

Guests: Walter Pebochit, Matt Wickenhauser, Al Green

Approved previous minutes.

Housing Grant: It's advancing slowly. Tim, Lin and Nell will meet to advance an RFP for housing developers - will be workforce housing Will distribute final draft of RFP to NAC.

Sound Issues: 65 DNL (Day/Night average); if you have a fireworks on the 4th of July that's 110 DB, that's ok. They used info in 2017 to calculate baseline DNL for helipad, then estimated new DNL for new location with increased number of flights. They created a circle where the DNL is above or below DNL, and found that the circle was right at the footprint of the east tower. So they built in a complaint process, and require a sound study every 2 or 3 years, and if that point the circle has moved, then properties inside the circle would be eligible for mitigation. Right now estimation is 450 flights/year, 2 per day. Coast guard helicopters is largest and biggest, but there are very few of them. Flight paths are approved by FAA, but are only guidelines, final path is up to the pilots, and may be affected by instructions from jetport air traffic control. Observation by Brett and Peter that they've observed Coast Guard doing trainings - up to 30 minutes at a time circling, doing touch and goes. Tim has received notice before that Coast Guard was doing training. Al thinks it's more likely that a helicopter was waiting for an available pad. Jen points out that we can't control what every helicopter does, but that MMC has a commitment to the neighborhood to mitigate as necessary. Current live date is proposed to be Dec 10.

Liz asks - how can circle be at line instead of following flight path? Al says, yes, it's just an illustration. Liz asks: what will maximum sound of landing be?

Al: FAA uses term LMax, for CP3 location, nearest location to east tower, LMX was between 93-97, about 2x a food blender.

Al: there are no permanent sound measurement devices

Liz: I'm concerned that what is measured is average, what if it's very disruptive to people living there?.

Al: if 10 complaints are logged about an existing flight then MMC will create process, if 20 complaints are filed about flights in a 6 month period, then process will ensue, measuring DNL for one month and doing mitigation if DNL has gone above 65.

Jen: We have to be reasonable about this. If you want a direct answer, we're going to follow the sound management plan, but we want you to trust that we're going to do the right thing.

Ed: He chaired the airports sound level committee; they found that different individuals have very different tolerances, so you have to rely on standard levels.

Jen: we have to get it going, and then see what the complaints are.

Brett: doesn't believe that new windows would improve the situation for homeowners.

Al: reducing the number of flights would not be an option. Mitigation is spelled out by the FAA - there is acquisition of land or property rights, construction of noise barriers, and/or insulation of residences. We've already done what we can re noise barriers.

Emma: there is some responsibility for people who bought houses close the the hospital

Jen: I asked why didn't we decide 15 years ago to move off the peninsula.

Liz: In terms of good will, it will be important to respond very quickly to complaints; don't wait 6 months, get on it, and be very responsive.

Jen: Hospital won't reimburse for helicopters if its not medically necessary; these are emergencies.

Anne: Will there be a communication of process for complaints etc?

Jen: That's the role of the committee- you guys communicate that.

Al: Complaints go to a phone number that generates an email. Right now Matt is on the receiving end of that email.

Jen: Please follow that number, in order for us to track it properly, we need people to follow that process.

Change to St John Street.

Nell: she's been working on striping plan effect on on street parking on St John street. There's an item on Mondays city council agenda for an alternative striping plan that would restore some parking spaces. New plan would restore some spots on D street, Nell will make sure that everyone gets a chance to look at it. The interesting thing is that the revised plan only adds 2 spaces, which means the city engineer could do it without city council approval.

Emma asks if there's any cyclists advising, Nelle says yes, Bruce Hyman, Mike Tremblay, Tim: is hearing that business owners are very angry, that the left hand turn lane was co-opted by hospital to turn shuttle up, and that it would have made sense to go directly from Eagles entrance.

Jen: this isn't about shuttles, we can redirect them. This is about 2,500 cars turning into the garage. This location wasn't our choice - the city asked us to do it, and at considerable cost.

Tim: You could have got by with four lanes, and changed the turning lanes. . .

Jen: we hired consultants, we're doing our best. We had three consulting groups.

Nelle: we're working on a compromise.

Spencer: Allen felt he wasn't heard when he went before the planning board, is not happy with compromise. There are 8 spaces that would have been lost on the East side of St Johns. This compromise returns 2 spaces.

All: it's complicated.

Nelle: the paint that's there will be there through the spring. Garage opens Jan 5.

Moses: Paint is a good way to test things, can be changed.

Ed: ridership on metro has been wildly successful. Went from 1,700 trips per month to 4,200 in October.

Tim: Would like to get roundtable going on process for cones, signs for construction. Signs blow down and stay there for multiple days, condition of job site at Gilman and Congress, there's graffiti.

Brett: who wants to be on grant committee and get all emails for grant requests?