

4/8/20

Maine Medical Center Neighborhood Advisory MMC NAC Notes

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

Guests: None

Standing Agenda Items (15 minutes total)

- Approve Previous Minutes
- Updates on MMC Expansion Project: Construction, updates, timeline, mitigation
- Subcommittee updates: Grants, Neighborhood Planning
- (MMC and Neighborhood Updates sent out prior to meeting, not discussed unless needed)

Monthly Special Agenda Items (chairs can add/edit/swap as necessary)

March: Propose new meeting format, committees, and workplan (Ed)

Discussion of \$10k set aside for neighborhood planning.

Covid check-in - how are neighborhoods, how can we help?

How is MMC, how can we help?

Grants:

Slate was approved. Ed asks for a one page summary of projects, with Project Name, Check Sent Date, Project Started Date, Completion report received.

Anne will get a copy of a sample project completion form.

Checks go to:

WPNA: City of Portland

WENA: City of Portland

Libbytown: City of Portland,

Parkside: Parkside Neighborhood Association - Spencer and Emma will connect on details.

Spencer will make sure that city is aware of money coming.

Nel asked for email with all applications to be sent again.

Planning Proposal:

\$10k to seed planning proposal, would be supplemented from other funds - thought is to ask city & MMC and/or get it started then use 2021 caring community grants money next year considering current covid stress.

Nel says \$10k + \$30k next year is sufficient for a planning process - she'll look more and add comments. It's also possible to do something for \$10k.

Spencer wants to make sure that outcomes of any plan are clear, that it can be executed.

Lin thought that the NAC might be overstepping, we're not a planning organization, wishes that city would do planning - it's their job. Peter is the same, so WENA is not in favor.

Liz: There's no point in bringing together neighborhoods if there's no plan and if we can't make a plan for how neighborhoods are impacted.

Spencer: MMC is a voting member, too. Reminder that group will still have to create entity to receive funds.

Ed: Sees no barrier to group doing planning, there's no barriers in charter, he thinks the role fits very nicely. He would be surprised if projects are completed by the end of the year. It makes sense to step back and invest this small amount of money to get everyone on the same page - this could help guide future investment. See what common needs and impacts are. That would be money extremely well spent. I would be surprised if Maine Med opposes this after we've properly talk about it.

Anne: we need to develop this proposal more before we can vote on it: determine geography, clarify when we start.

Lin: agrees; we should roll this over into 2021.

Emma: There's no rush, let's discuss more, get more input. One idea would be to wait and see how Parkside's process goes. Also, if we spend it all, that eliminates our pot of money for micro-grants, like garden hose for garden behind Maine Med that was destroyed by ambulance traffic. Nel will look at it; the zoning is very broad, prioritises housing creation, but this could bring us to a finer grain level. The city doesn't have the resources to do neighborhood based planning at this time, so this would be a good way to do it.

Group agrees to look at proposal, and think about how to structure as a group to do this, get feedback from Nel, Maine Med. Ed asks everyone to "reply all" to the email with proposal to share their thoughts, what you like, any questions.

Healthy Neighborhoods:

Nel: They may put out RFP this week, Nel will share. She has a list of CHDOs and developers, those will be directly contacted.

Workplan:

Ed: We likely won't be able to have the updates we wanted from MMC in May, so we can push those updates to June. Suggests we have a good group email discussion about planning, and in May we can have a video discussion.

Anne's notes: (3/8/20 email)

~~A Working Group of NA reps should come together to define the boundaries of the areas "most impacted by MMC", which would seem to me to be within or relatively adjacent to the IDP boundaries and properties owned or rented by MMC and outside the IDP boundary;

~~As each such area might need a different focus, the WG should brainstorm and prioritize possible future projects (housing, neighborhood-focused retail, open space, etc.);

~~This exercise by the WG could help focus subsequent broader community meetings, seeking feedback;

~~Personally, in the interest of time, I would favor a more focused initial effort rather than a "blue sky" community engagement process, which could follow later, after we have some successes under our belt;

~~As a clarification, the proposed timeline of July 2020 - December 2020 needs to be more realistic, as I see no possibility that we could achieve all of what is set forth in Liz's outline in calendar year 2020. I am suggesting a less ambitious and more realistic process. I would see projects funded by Caring Community Grants to be funded in 2021

4/8/20 Nell Email

All,

I had a chance to read through this. I think that, with \$10K, one could pull together a good guiding document that helps provide some structure for future funding out of the Caring Community Grants and establishes some neighborhood-based goals, generated by the neighborhood(s), for future investment more broadly. This is a great concept and, with buy-in from all, could be really productive.

That said, I would be careful about the breadth of the scope given the resources available. There are a number of tasks implied here - best practices research around anchor institutions and around organizational models for neighborhood groups; inventorying assets and needs (presumably by neighborhood?); visioning; transportation, parks, and housing planning; mapping; website development; implementation planning; and broad public engagement throughout. This is a lot. For what it's worth, my advice would be to simplify the scope with specific goals/outcomes in mind.

In this light, it's also worth thinking about who will manage this process, how much time this group has to commit to management, etc. I am certainly happy to help in whatever way I can, but the department has a full slate of ongoing projects, both short- and long-term, that occupy significant resources. In this vein, I think additional funding would likely have to come from future grant allocations.

Happy to continue this conversation or serve on a subgroup thinking about scope if that's helpful.

Nell