

Maine Medical Center Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC) Meeting Minutes

Date: September 8, 2021

Time: 12:00p.m.

Location: via Zoom

Recurrence: Monthly, 2nd Wednesday

Minutes Submitted by: Brian Batson

Minutes Edited by: NAC Members

Previous Meeting Minutes (August 11, 2021) Status: Approved

Present Attendees:

Brian Batson (MMC) co-chair

Emma Holder (PNA) co-chair

Alvah Davis (WPNA)

Nell Donaldson (CoP)

Samantha Ward (MMC)

Tim McNamara (SJVNA)

Councilor Spencer Thibodeau (CoP)

Peter Hall (WENA)

Anne Pringle (WPNA)

Todd Reynolds (LNA)

Excused Attendees:

Matt Wickenheiser (MMC)

Moses Sabina (SJVNA)

Al Green (MaineHealth)

Channing Michele (LNA)

Josef Kijewski (PNA)

Jennifer McCarthy (MMC)

Walter Pochebit (MMC)

Lin Parsons (WENA)

Key Topics Covered:

- 1. Healthy Neighborhoods**
- 2. Grant Funds**
- 3. Co- Chair for 2022**

4. Charter Discussion

Action Items / Decisions Made:

1. None

Meeting Minutes: Beginning

Healthy Neighborhoods

Tim- language in zoning/IDP is very vague; mentions nothing about RFP process; can we go back to scratch in developing the process?

Nell- Brian, it would be great to have you involved in this; I think it would be great to revisit this

Brian- happy to be involved

Nell and Time to connect offline

Grant Funds

Emma- PNA would like OK to put grant funds in same account as last time (translation funds); would be very meticulous about record keeping; approval from Grant subcommittee?

Nell- I don't see any problem, as long as the documentation is good

Co-Chair for Next Year

SJV, Libbytown & PNA have had a chance

Alvah (WPNA) throws his name in for next year. Other NA's are welcome to apply.

Charter

The NAC Charter, adopted on 3/6/19, sets forth the the purpose and goals of the NAC, its members and their roles and responsibilities, how it is organized, and the scope of its work.

Since it is now 3 ½ years old, Emma raised for consideration, whether was a pressing need to revise any elements of the Charter. She had encouraged members to review the Charter in advance and makes any suggested changes.

Anne suggested that perhaps the language under “Overview and Purpose”, noting the commitment to “timely sharing of relevant information” could be changed to “early sharing”. Discussion ensued about whether “early” was any more definitive about intent than “timely”, both ambiguous words. The intent is open two-way communication and engagement between MMC and its neighborhood representatives. It was agreed that communication has improved greatly since formation of the NAC and that any additional expectations (e.g. prior discussion with affected NAs before being brought forward to the

full NAC, to avoid surprises) could be part of our operating protocols rather than a Charter change.

Anne noted that this is the only institutional overlay zone; local universities aren't required to establish an IOZ. She reached out to a USM and asked why they didn't have an overlay zone- and was told it was not required by the City. The MMC NAC has demonstrated that the institution doesn't need to fear neighborhoods.

Nell clarified that an IOZ is an elective process, but UNE is working towards it

Emma commented that if this charter was to be the pilot, it makes sense for there to be more; it has been successful; it would be great to have this not be elective

Alvah- anecdotal counterexample from Harvard: <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2021/09/04/business/harvard-owns-roughly-one-third-allston-now-it-needs-win-over-residents>

Emma noted that the Charter includes a commitment to meet at least quarterly, but monthly during construction. Spencer agreed, and there is some benefit to meeting in person, but he totally understand the convenience of Zoom under the pandemic circumstances

COVID aside, Emma sees both sides, noting parking, timing, accessibility issues; maybe a hybrid approach in the future?

Emma asked whether there was anything to add under Scope? We doing well on some, not so well on others

Nell and Brian cited the grant program

and community clean-up projects as examples of collaborative partnerships.

Emma sees more opportunity for partnership; focused on healthcare; transportation- how are we getting around?

Peter raised the issue of shuttle busses picking up/dropping off people at the Ronald McDonald House; is this a regular shuttle? on demand? why is there suddenly more shuttle activity? it blocks the street, horns honking. Brian notes the shuttles are probably serving parents of hospitalized kids. He will look into it.

Spencer noted that members should celebrate successes of these meetings and partnerships; for example, bikes lanes, the relocation of the proposed parking garage, etc.

Nell noted the idea was that every year, the group would take up specific items for the yearly work plan; make a more concerted effort to brainstorm at the beginning of the year.

As an example, Anne cited the lack of affordable housing, which affects each neighborhood, as well as MMC staffing and recruitment; maybe with Healthy Neighborhoods Funds, we could hire someone with expertise on this issue.

Next Meeting Topics

Construction Update

Website Update

Synopsis of how MMC is doing
Greyhound Update – answers from Walter or MH (barricades blocking Pizza Villa building)
Ronald McDonald House situation

Meeting Minutes: End

Adjourned at: 12:58pm

Next Meeting: October 13, 2021

Zoom Link:

[https://zoom.us/j/91871624329?
pwd=N1ByZ3k1RzdMNVU0WlhneUhSaGhzZz09](https://zoom.us/j/91871624329?pwd=N1ByZ3k1RzdMNVU0WlhneUhSaGhzZz09)

Meeting ID: 918 7162 4329

Passcode: 6NgY2Z

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