

**Maine Medical Center Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC)**  
Meeting Minutes

**Date:** February 8, 2022

**Time:** 12:00p.m.

**Location:** via Zoom

**Recurrence:** Monthly, 2nd Wednesday

**Minutes Submitted by:** Anne Pringle

**Minutes Edited by:** NAC Members

**Previous Meeting Minutes (December 8, 2021 and January 12, 2022) Status:**  
Approved

**Attendees**

Brian Batson (MMC) co-chair

Anne Pringle (WPNA) co-chair

Alvah Davis (WPNA)

Emma Holder (PNA)

Tim Karu (PNA)

Tim McNamara (SJVNA)

Lin Parsons (WENA)

Peter Hall (WENA)

Damon Yakovleff (LNA)

Chaning Michelle (LNA)

Walter Pochebit (MMC)

Victoria Pelletier (District 2 City Councilor)

Matt Wickenheiser (MMC)

Al Green (MaineHealth)

**1) Minutes** The Minutes of December 8, 2021 and January 12, 2022 were **Approved** as presented.

**2) Construction Update (*was provided in writing prior to meeting*)**

Congress St/Malone Family Tower- No February scheduled activities that could impact neighborhoods. Tower cranes erecting large structural steel....all activities within site and no impacts to roadways/sidewalks etc.

Pizza Villa wall – Expect permit by end of the month. Contractor may erect staging in anticipation of permit while install crew are available. Perimeter chain link/security fence will remain in place... additionally once installed, staging will have 8'-0 high plywood around perimeter to keep anyone from accessing and “camping out” etc.

Greyhound/Food Pantry – Permit review continues. Architect met with city permitting department January 11. City asked for additional design documents and clarifications ...currently under review.

Recuperative Services Project/Gilman & Congress – Renovations continue... June/July completion schedule remains unchanged.

Discussion Summary: A question was raised as to when the Gilman Street parking will be restored: answer, by the end of this week. Is there a month-by-month schedule for the Tower Project? Answer: no, the work will be status quo until mid-summer, with little impact, no road closures, no pedestrian pathway detours. The project is schedule to be completed by late 2023 or early 2024.

Action to be taken: None

### **3) MMC Update**

Recuperative Care Center is expected be complete by June/July, three subcommittees are working on detail. SJVNA seeking to provide input during the planning process.

Pizza Villa There were three housing units, all were vacated, but one former tenant has moved back in without approval. Efforts are being made to find him safe housing.

Gilman Block There are no current plans, but the intent is to involve the neighborhoods as a plan begins to emerge.

Greyhound Building Update noted above.

Thomas/Chisholm Houses under contract, with a confidentiality agreement.

Covid See the light at the end of the tunnel. Covid census down from 125 to 50. MCC is experiencing the same workforce challenges as other businesses. Using traveling nurses and the National Guard to ease staffing pressures.

Discussion Summary: Interest was expressed about the status of the unauthorized tenant. As noted, efforts are being made to secure safe housing.

Action to be taken: None

**4) Greyhound Wall Mural** MMC would like reaction to the idea of establishing a subcommittee, chaired by Tim McNamara of SJVNA (at least initially) and including NAC members and interested neighborhood residents, artists. The subcommittee would develop a process for soliciting design proposals, perhaps with the advice of Dina Minot of Creative Portland. Nell Donaldson expressed a willingness to help with this process. Once a process is defined, the subcommittee will report back to the full NAC. NAC members Peter Hall and Channing Michele offered to serve on the subcommittee. MMC will develop and share its financial contribution to the mural cost.

Discussion Summary: The NAC welcomed the suggested process. Mention was made of MMC interest in wall themes; the hospital just wants to assure that there will be no themes that might reflect badly on the institution. The new wall will be finished by early May and ready for painting. An issue was raised about snow piling up near the wall; this will be removed before work starts and new fencing will be erected around the work zone.

Action to be taken: Recruit other subcommittee members, develop a process to be reported back to the NAC.

## **5) 2022 Work Plan**

As an introduction, Co-chair Anne Pringle suggested that an Annual Work Plan would help focus consideration of issues to be addressed on an annual basis as well as topics that the group wishes to bring forward for information-sharing, education, etc. She suggested, based experience with another such group, that only one or two issues be scheduled for each meeting, to assure adequate time for discussion of those issues and time to discuss other issues such as construction and MMC updates, as well as new business.

Discussion Summary: Examples provided were discussed, items were added, and a timeline was established for some issues. Regarding the TDM Plan (Transportation Demand Management), it was reported that Bruce Hyman at the City is developing a template for all required TDMS, to be finalized soon, and it is expected that the Annual MMC TDM report will be available by mid-summer. A new Grants

Subcommittee is needed, with representatives from each neighborhood. Volunteers were: Alvah (WPNA), Emma (PNA), Damon (LNA), and Lin (WENA). SJVNA?

Action to be taken: Anne Pringle will put the suggestions raised into a Proposed 2022 Work Plan for discussion at the March meeting.

#### 6) New Business

Tim Karu was welcomed as a new PNA rep and introduced himself: owns/operates the Wild Iris Inn, a resident of Parkside for 8 years, a Portland native, Secretary of PNA.

“Housekeeping Issues” (trash, graffiti, etc.) These should be addressed to Brian Batson, who will send them to the appropriate MMC person for follow up. If issues persist or MMC is not responsive, the issue should be brought forward to the full NAC.

WENA Grant It was reported that the grant to acquire furniture for the Community Room is on hold because of the impact of Reiche construction on space availability and also problem with access the space because of staffing shortages at Parks ad Rec., which controls the space. Suggestions of alternative spaces were made. WENA is actively discussing other ideas.

PNA Grant The two bike repair stations, funded by an MMC grant to PNA, have been shipped and are on the way to Portland DPW (per Bruce Hyman).

Next meeting: March 9, 2022 @ 12pm

Submitted by: Anne Pringle

On date: February 14, 2022

#### **Zoom Link:**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96265248325>

#### **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