

Linda Momborquette <ldm@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Proposed shelter - follow up

1 message

Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>
To: "Momborquette, Linda" <ldm@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, Jul 9, 2018 at 8:31 AM

Director, Health & Human Services
City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04101
o 207.874.8775
c 207.956.3262
dcs@portlandmaine.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Michael Sauschuck** <mjs@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Mon, Jul 9, 2018 at 8:06 AM
Subject: Fwd: Proposed shelter - follow up
To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>

Thanks

Michael J. Sauschuck
Chief of Police
Portland Police Department
109 Middle Street
Portland, Maine 04101
207-874-8601

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sean Kerwin** <cairdhubain@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Jul 9, 2018 at 8:03 AM
Subject: Proposed shelter - follow up
To: pali@portlandmaine.gov
Cc: bbatson@portlandmaine.gov, Belinda Ray <BSR@portlandmaine.gov>, Ethan Strimling <estrimling@portlandmaine.gov>, Spencer Thibodeau <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, jcosta@portlandmaine.gov, kcook@portlandmaine.gov, jduson@portlandmaine.gov, nmm@portlandmaine.gov, John Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>, Robert Parritt <rwp@portlandmaine.gov>, Michael Sauschuck <mjs@portlandmaine.gov>

Greetings Councilor Ali;

I previously cc'd you on a message that I sent to Councilor Batson with regards to the new shelter proposal at the Barron Center. That message is directed at the public stance he has taken in opposition. While you have taken no such position, I shared it with you to inform you of my opinions on the issue. Being an At-Large councilor calls upon you to look at this from a citywide perspective, which I hope makes your support flow more easily than it does from Brian.

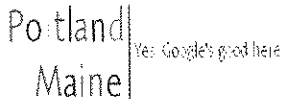
I have heard you ask about the option of building multiple smaller shelters. That issue has been explored, but as any who have worked through that process will tell you it would be prohibitively expensive. And beyond expense, one of the great benefits of the proposed center is that many services and service providers can locate on site. It would not be possible to replicate such services at multiple small shelters

scattered around the city. I think the multiple shelter option is enticing as political cover, but I think it fails the fiscal, "best practice," and best interest of the clients tests.

I do hope we can count on you to push hard to get the details of this project right, but ultimately, to support this much needed step forward for our homeless population and for our city. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Sean Kerwin
18 Parris St.



Linda Momborquette <ldm@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Proposed shelter

1 message

Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>
To: "Momborquette, Linda" <ldm@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, Jul 9, 2018 at 8:36 AM

Director, Health & Human Services
City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04101
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dcs@portlandmaine.gov

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From: **Michael Sauschuck** <mjs@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Mon, Jul 9, 2018 at 8:05 AM
Subject: Fwd: Proposed shelter
To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>, Robert Parritt <rwp@portlandmaine.gov>

Just an fyi. Thanks

Michael J. Sauschuck
Chief of Police
Portland Police Department
109 Middle Street
Portland, Maine 04101
207-874-8601

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sean Kerwin** <cairdhubain@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Jul 9, 2018 at 7:55 AM
Subject: Proposed shelter
To: bbatson@portlandmaine.gov
Cc: pali@portlandmaine.gov, Belinda Ray <BSR@portlandmaine.gov>, Ethan Strimling <estrimling@portlandmaine.gov>, Spencer Thibodeau <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, jcosta@portlandmaine.gov, kcook@portlandmaine.gov, jduson@portlandmaine.gov, nmm@portlandmaine.gov, John Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>, Robert Parritt <rwp@portlandmaine.gov>, Michael Sauschuck <mjs@portlandmaine.gov>

Greetings Councilor Batson,

I read with disappointment your letter to the Nason's Corner Neighborhood Association on their Facebook page regarding the siting of a new shelter on the Barron Center property. It is to be expected that the residents of any neighborhood where a shelter is proposed will offer resistance, but I had hopes that you - particularly given your experience in the healthcare field - would demonstrate greater leadership than your communication with them indicates.

As you know, this is an issue that the city and stakeholders have been working on for years. There have been two separate homeless shelter task forces, and countless hours of meetings between stakeholders over the years that have lead to this proposal. Of course, until it potentially impacts them personally, most citizens of Portland are not going to tune into that long process until it becomes more concrete and

personal, but we cannot, and should not, wind back the clock on years of hard and open work as every new participant enters the process.

Threading the needle of what we need to see in a new shelter to provide the best situation for the homeless, for our service providers, and for our neighborhoods is admittedly tricky, but this location addresses all of those concerns. It is located in a neighborhood (rather than an industrial area like some feared) yet it is contained to its own campus, a well thought out system to access transportation is part of the proposal, partner providers will have space on site to serve their clients, a medical center will exist on site as well as a community policing office, and the fact that it is city owned land makes the financing of this proposal hard to improve upon. This proposal has the support of the police department, the manager of the shelter, and most of the social service providers who work with the homeless. This proposal is absolutely based on a review of "best practices" that you call for.

Again, I understand that the people of Nason's corner are concerned - that is to be expected. I have hopes that, instead of feeding their fears, you will have the courage to step up and lead - to push to make this project the very best it can be, but to explain to your constituents that what is proposed is not what they fear, and is critically needed. I assume you agree that the current situation is untenable chaos destructive to all, most particularly to the homeless themselves. We do not need to step back and study the situation. That has been done - for years. We are in a moment of crisis and the time to lead is now.

Thank you for considering my concerns and opinion.

Respectfully,

Sean Kerwin
18 Parris St.

Fwd: public opinion

1 message

Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>
To: "Momborquette, Linda" <ldm@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, Jul 9, 2018 at 9:49 AM

Director, Health & Human Services
City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04101
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From: **Jon Jennings** <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Sat, Jul 7, 2018 at 6:34 PM
Subject: Fwd: public opinion
To: Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>, Mike Sauschuck <mjs@portlandmaine.gov>

Jon P. Jennings
City Manager
City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 874-8689 Office
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Begin forwarded message:

From: Debora <bora555@yahoo.com>
Date: July 7, 2018 at 9:50:09 AM EDT
To: Brian Batson <bbatson@portlandmaine.gov>, "bsr@portlandmaine.gov" <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, "pali@portlandmaine.gov" <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, "estrimling@portlandmaine.gov" <estrimling@portlandmaine.gov>, Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>
Subject: public opinion

Good Morning,

My heart is breaking and I feel a sense of huge loss. I have yet another question.....

Why do you put the opinion of Social Workers from here and away above those of your own community?

I base this assessment on the comment from Manager Jennings "Well, I certainly can't be accused of Hiding the Homeless on Brighton Avenue"

I certainly feel for those who are suffering and feel we have an obligation to help. But I do not think we need to base our decision on the opinion of SOCIAL WORKERS from away.

A Homeless Shelter in any community offers a service to people in need of assistance. Providing that assistance is what the center is about. It's location should only matter to The City of Portland - not a select few worried about appearances.

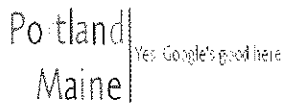
I consider the community of the Nason's Corner to have a very significant and viable opinion on the location selection as do the rest of Portland taxpayers.

Your model of a Self-Contained all inclusive facility still hide the homeless. It Hides those who are welcome inside the walls of protection. The ones you will exclude, substance abuser & alcoholics, the ones your currently exclude will still be outside milling about. When you exclude them, as you will, they are the ones who will continue cause problems.

It is wonderful to think this new model will solve all the problems - in reality it will only move them. It will protect the people who are not substance abusers and shield them (hide them from predators)

Please put your facility in an industrial zone as originally suggested. At least there the help can continue and the problems outside the walls will affect fewer residence than and established neighborhood of Nason's Corner. Stop worrying that 'people will think you are hiding the homeless'.

Respectfully,
Debora Broderson
10 Dorset St



Linda Momborquette <ldm@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: Nason's Corner Neighborhood

1 message

Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>
To: "Momborquette, Linda" <ldm@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, Jul 9, 2018 at 9:47 AM

Director, Health & Human Services
City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04101
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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Diana Cundy** <dcundy@maine.edu>
Date: Sat, Jul 7, 2018 at 8:42 PM
Subject: Nason's Corner Neighborhood
To: dcs@portlandmaine.gov
Cc: jpj@portlandmaine.gov

July 7, 2018

Dear Ms. Stiles,

I am writing about the decision to move the homeless shelter from Oxford St. in the Bayside neighborhood to Nason's Corner. I have attended several meetings at which you, as the director of the Health & Human Services Department, were present, but did not hear any responses from you to the many questions that were directed to the councilors and individuals employed by the City.

Robert Parritt clearly cares deeply about the homeless population and understandably wants a better shelter to serve their needs more effectively than can be done in the crowded, limited, and outdated property on Oxford St. It seems to me that questions at the level of, "How suitable is the neighborhood of Nason's Corner for the new shelter?" would be the responsibility of people at a different level in city government.

So I am writing to encourage you to go to the site and walk around. Notice that the shopping center was created for the automobile and does not fit the definition of "walkable." Take a walk behind Lowe's and Joanne's - this is where a large encampment of homeless people recently had to be broken up. Several days ago, my husband and I also found evidence of a campsite behind O'Reilly's Tire Center. Also notice the panhandlers on the corner of Brighton and Riverside and recall how the woman from Loring House expressed fear about being broken into if she did not lock the ground floor windows. This is our present situation.

A few short blocks down Brighton Avenue you'll find a large public housing project with many small children. At the corner of Wessex and Brighton is where a new low income elderly housing project has recently been planned by Avesta. When you turn in on Warwick Street, you are several blocks from an elementary school. At the corner of Dorset Street and Brighton Ave., there is already a sober house. A few blocks further down Brighton is the Breakwater School. Nason's Corner already has a heavy share of vulnerable people and a demographic that makes the decision to locate a homeless shelter here puzzling.

There is a Rite Aid that has been empty for years. There are other empty storefronts in the Pine Tree Shopping Center and the strip mall across the street. We already have problems with abandoned shopping carts and trash.

In my opinion, there is a lack of trust among the residents of Nason's Corner because the area is already at risk and is experiencing some degree of blight. We know about the past history of Sagamore Village and are relieved that it seems to be a better place to live now. We hope the new elderly housing will go well. Whatever the city has been doing to ensure that this is a safe place does not seem very effective at the moment. This is one big reason for skepticism and anger.

We know there is sometimes a relationship between homelessness and criminality for a certain group of people who already are having a negative impact on our community. This does not mean we do not care about the tragic and complex problem of homelessness. The opioid epidemic makes the situation more frightening for us and more difficult for you. We already have predators and dealers here and bringing the shelter here is not going to make them go away. This is wishful thinking on the part of providers. No one has adequately explained how this will come to pass. This shelter site is conveniently located by two highway exits and is perfect for out of town dealers.

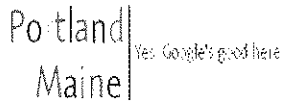
7/9/2018

City of Portland Mail - Fwd: Nason's Corner Neighborhood

I have asked a number of city leaders what happens when an individual who is addicted does not want to come into the shelter for the night and why they will not end up sleeping in the woods behind our houses. No one has answered this adequately. They tell me they will "have control". The woods is close to impossible to control short of logging it, which is not what any of us would desire as a solution.

Thank you for considering my concerns. I hope you or someone else will be able to supply some answers. And please, please come and walk around. These guests do not have vehicles and it will help your decisionmaking to see our area as they would see it.

Respectfully,
Diana Cundy
18 Orono Rd.



Linda Momborquette <ldm@portlandmaine.gov>

Fwd: "BNA Barron Center Site Support Letter"

1 message

Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>
To: "Momborquette, Linda" <ldm@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, Jul 9, 2018 at 9:40 AM

Director, Health & Human Services
City of Portland
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From: **Jon Jennings** <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Sun, Jul 8, 2018 at 6:12 AM
Subject: Fwd: "BNA Barron Center Site Support Letter"
To: Mike Sauschuck <mjs@portlandmaine.gov>, Dawn Stiles <dcs@portlandmaine.gov>

Jon P. Jennings
City Manager
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389 Congress Street
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Begin forwarded message:

From: Sarah Michniewicz <sarahmichniewicz@mac.com>
Date: July 7, 2018 at 11:56:43 PM EDT
To: Belinda Ray <bsr@portlandmaine.gov>, Ali Pious <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, Brian Batson <bbatson@portlandmaine.gov>
Cc: Nicholas Mavodones <nmm@portlandmaine.gov>, Justin Costa <jcosta@portlandmaine.gov>, Cook Kim <kcook@portlandmaine.gov>, Jill Duson <jduson@portlandmaine.gov>, Spencer Thibodeau <sthibodeau@portlandmaine.gov>, Ethan Strimling <estrimling@portlandmaine.gov>, Jon Jennings <jpj@portlandmaine.gov>, Michael Sauschuck <mjs@portlandmaine.gov>
Subject: "BNA Barron Center Site Support Letter"

July 7, 2018

Health and Human Services and Public Safety Committee

City of Portland

389 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101

To Councilors Ray, Ali and Batson,

The Bayside Neighborhood Association supports both the proposal to build a new homeless services center, and to locate it on the Barron Center campus.

The BNA advocates for the Bayside neighborhood where the current Oxford Street Shelter, along with a large number of Portland's essential social service providers, is located. This facility has been inadequate for many years and is unable to properly carry out the City of Portland's stated obligation to do the vital work of caring for our most vulnerable citizens.

The current model of serving the homeless with mats to sleep on in one location and food, medical care, and various other necessary supportive services scattered around the general vicinity is outdated, ineffective and inhumane. Although this system may have been sustainable when the number of clients was much lower and their needs less intense, it has broken down irreparably in the face of economic challenges, the opioid epidemic, reduced access to health care, and numerous other factors.

As demand has outstripped resources, the Bayside neighborhood has disproportionately borne the impact of hosting a population whose basic needs are often unmet, the opportunists that are drawn here to prey on them, and the behaviors that accompany such stressors. Building an adequate and humane homeless services center is a vital first step toward achieving the balance to which every citizen and neighborhood in Portland is entitled.

The BNA has invested a great amount of time and energy over the years, and especially in the last few, educating ourselves in order to understand the situation in our neighborhood. Through emails, phone calls, and meetings, conversations with city staff, social service providers, shelter clients, neighbors, law enforcement, the district attorney's office, judges, elected officials at the local, state and federal levels of government, and residents and leaders of other neighborhoods, we are intimately involved in seeking solutions.

Our endorsement of the proposed facility at the Barron Center campus is therefore based on our understanding of the careful work and thoughtful consideration that has gone into its selection, and considers the following factors, most of which are mandated by the revised emergency shelter conditional use standards:

- Best practices: Research by councilors and city staff into effective service delivery models; consultation with homeless services providers; surveys of shelter clients; site

visits to well-regarded homeless service facilities in Boston; building to accommodate delivery of necessary wrap-around services; clear site lines; on-site meals and laundry; voluntary adoption of multiple best practices at the existing city shelter.

- **Accessibility:** Proximity to existing transportation infrastructure and bus routes; plans to incorporate a dedicated shuttle in addition to existing modes of transportation provided through taxi vouchers and city vehicles as needed.
- **Financial factors:** The use of city-owned land; planned space for partner providers to deliver preventative, routine, and follow-up care to reduce the need and cost of emergency services; existing funding for necessary upgrades to sidewalks, lighting, streets and safety features; potential for public/private partnership to finance construction, potential reduction in expenses for city services such as emergency response, police and street sweeping.
- **Established Infrastructure:** Existing kitchen and laundry facilities at the Barron Center; existing water, sewer and utility access; and existing vehicle access to site reduce construction costs.
- **Visibility:** Prominent location and campus setting promotes clients' sense of social inclusion while providing privacy via on-site services and a screened courtyard.
- **Safety:** Shielding a vulnerable population from the volatile and unsafe environment that was allowed to grow unchecked in Bayside; providing a stable and private base from which to work on housing, employment and recovery; an invested neighborhood with many "eyes on the street."
- **Neighborhood prioritization:** Amended conditional use standards that require a management plan with provisions for working with the surrounding neighborhood; permanent positions for current trained security staff, which have served to improve conditions around the existing shelter; plans to continue the OSS "Hotline" for neighbors to reach out with questions or concerns; street outreach positions to engage potential clients and support the surrounding neighborhood; strong, clear, responsive and adaptable community policing standards; experience with community engagement and collaboration to maintain existing quality of life.

*Please note: Neighborhood engagement and safety is a non-negotiable priority for the BNA, and our continued support is predicated on the robustness and effectiveness of the above measures.

- Community amenities: Plans for a public health clinic and community policing/police substation to benefit the neighborhood and fill community needs; appropriate architecture to complement existing structures and add value to the neighborhood.
- Equitability: Engaging other areas of the city to support the goals of the new comprehensive plan, our shared interests, and the common good.
- Completing the picture: Asking other communities to participate through reimbursement and by caring for their own population; continuing the exploration of small shelter zoning to augment a coordinated entry model.

While at one point it may have been feasible to correct the deficiencies of the existing city shelter, that opportunity is long past. The toxic and increasingly dangerous conditions that have been allowed to flourish in Bayside make the city's social obligations far more difficult and costly than they should be, and normalcy almost impossible for residents, visitors, providers, and social service clients alike.

The current situation is not sustainable, and we will not stand for it to continue, here or in any other neighborhood.

The BNA firmly believes that these conditions are not simply the result of hosting the city's shelter and so many other social services, but of an entrenched and fearful mindset that has kept better options from being pursued in the past. Indeed, there has long been an attitude that there are no better options. The selection of the Barron Center campus site is proof that current city leadership is ready to change that narrative, and is willing and able to act.

We urge you to vote to recommend to the full council that the new homeless services center be sited on the Barron Center campus, and to move forward at the pace which this emergency situation demands.

Sincerely,

Sarah Michniewicz
President, Bayside Neighborhood Association

7/9/2018

City of Portland Mail - Fwd: "BNA Barron Center Site Support Letter"



BNA-Barron Center Site Support Letter.pdf
78K