

Comments for board re: maine med expansion

Kate Beever <kate@mainemusicandhealth.com>

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Posted in group: **Planning Board**

Hi there,

I am working late this evening and can't make the meeting, but I'd love to learn more - I'll be reading through the materials as they're posted.

I've heard that MMC is planning to expand in place, and I have some questions about the plans for keeping the area accessible to both patients and staff. I understand having the emergency department right in town, but I don't see why the rest of the hospital needs to take over any more space in the west end. Portland is becoming so overcrowded and the park there is one of the few green spaces with a nice view that's staying untouched. Aside from views and grass, as someone who contracts weekly at the hospital I find it frustrating to find parking each week when I'm seeing clients. Employees there can park at the satellite lot and bus in- if you have an 8 hour shift, that's fine. But for short shifts, when we need to get in and out quickly to see clients elsewhere, there is only limited street parking up to two hours. The hospital garage is almost always full, particularly in the winter when residents seem to be using it for personal use.

I'm lucky enough to be healthy enough to park farther away and walk, but there are patients and families who have similar trouble finding parking and access to the hospital.

I hope there is a plan in place to remedy this situation in the long term, but more so in the short term - while construction is happening, where will all those cars go?

Thank you.

Kate

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