

**North End Neighborhood Organization
Building Community Committee**

January 12, 2021 Meeting Notes

Present: Karin Groening, Jacob Sugarman, Alexis Kramer, Jubilee Dee, Michelle Boone, Alan Richardson Hohn, Junaael-No More Streets, Mikki Murray, Steve Tuckner, Stephen Horn, Steve Struhar, Turning Point, April, Ceci Organista, Dionne Alkamooneh, Kerry Antrim

The meeting was dedicated to continue the encampment discussion that began at the January 4, 2021 Board of Directors meeting. The discussion regarded the letter requesting that the City stop all encampment evictions.

Camp support was discussed with finding out what residents would like to see. Some will not go back to shelters, some are “banned” from shelters, families (as they define themselves) are unable to stay together and concerns regarding COVID-19. Is there a short-term shelter option?

Historically Saint Paul was getting little help and some are afraid of Saint Paul.

The loss of belongings is worrisome.

Camp residents want stable housing but it is difficult to achieve; regulations, mail, finances, waiting lists were also discussed.

Affordable housing is not affordable for residents making \$10/hour. Deeply affordable housing: should not be the Federal guidelines but 30% of what people actually bring home.

The fact that officials stating that being unsheltered is “undignified” is not true but a word being used by officials.

Forcing people into housing is wrong and people disagreed with the evictions.

The question of what exactly is the city or county’s current policy was discussed.

The evictions are driven by the Mayor’s office and four councilmembers are not in favor of the evictions and some are attempting to get the city council to schedule a special council meeting or agenda it.

It was recommended that the NENBO board sign-off on the letter or create a newer version. The committee concurred with no objections.