

## NEPNA Monthly Meeting

1.12.23

**Time:** 6:30 PM to 8:15 PM - Zoom Meeting

**Board Attendance:** Katie K, September L, Amanda T, Mark T, Lydia M-R, Luna M

**Guests:** Margo Ashmore (Northeaster), Lucas Franco (LIUNA Local 563), Amanda Kohn (UMN Office of Sustainability, Kyle Makarios (Minneapolis Building Trades Council), Kali Suchy (CTUL), Merle Payne (CTUL), Doug Mork (Director, Building Dignity and Respect Standards Council), Tre Tellor (CTUL), Carlos Garcia Velasco (CTUL, Jose Gomez (CTUL), Eustaquio Orozco (CTUL), Woodrow Piner (North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters)

1. Amanda Kohn and Carley Rice joined us from the U of M to speak about their work developing the U's Climate Action Plan (CAP)
  - a. For additional information: [usustain@umn.edu](mailto:usustain@umn.edu)
  - b. Webform and listserv available for neighbors to provide input and stay up to date on upcoming engagement opportunities
2. CTUL (led by Merle Payne) joined us again for a follow-up conversation on worker's rights on construction sites in our community, specifically regarding the Youngblood development being spearheaded by Solhem.
  - a. Absolute Drywall has worked on several Solhem projects who have over \$100K of unpaid wages and accusations of sexual assault
  - b. Testimony was read by worker who experienced a workplace accident and how CTUL has supported them
  - c. Doug Mork (Please reach out with any additional questions at [doug@buildingdignityandrespect.org](mailto:doug@buildingdignityandrespect.org)) spoke from the [Building, Dignity, and Respect Program \(BDC\)](#) who partners with CTUL to help construction companies and contractors avoid workers rights violations
    - i. BDC website: <https://www.buildingdignityandrespect.org/what-is-bdc>
  - d. Discussion:
    - i. From Evan R to Everyone 07:07 PM: Has Solhem met with CTUL since the last meeting? Answer: No
    - ii. From Amanda Tempel (she/her/hers) to Everyone 07:09 PM: Has NEPNA heard from Solhem since December? Answer: No. They did reach out to Rep. Sydney Jordan, however.
    - iii. From Mark: What other developers who do work in Mpls have signed on? Answer: BDC program began about a year ago and so far no developers have joined in Minneapolis, meaning no projects are being monitored under the program
    - iv. From Evan R to Everyone 07:10 PM: What is the criteria Solhem is using to determine if their housing is affordable? Answer: We don't know what they're determining as affordable. We are thinking they haven't applied for affordable housing program yet (30% of folks income = affordability)
    - v. Mandy: CM Payne asked specifically to meet with parties separately if I recall. Has CTUL reached out to CM Payne and if not, can they do that before NEPNA's

February Meeting? Answer: Kyle spoke with Liam in Payne's office and so far no contact has been made with Solhem

- vi. From Kyle Makarios to Everyone 07:19 PM: One important point on Solhem's proposed "affordable" housing. Mr. Gunsbury last month said that 120 of the 600 units would be affordable.
  - vii. From Sky Lohse to Everyone 07:19 PM: I'm still wondering about how traffic is going to affect the community, but I guess if they aren't willing to connect, maybe the concerns of the neighborhood and community are not a priority?
  - viii. Katie Kottenbrock noted that letters of supports from neighborhood orgs hold less weight than they used to. Developments were not receiving letters from neighborhood orgs, so the 20/40 plan eliminated the requirement for these.
  - ix. From Amanda Tempel (she/her/hers) to Everyone 07:27 PM: Letters of non- support or contingent support might hold weight if multiple organizations sign on to the letter. Neighborhoods, local businesses, unions, etc.
  - x. From September to Everyone 07:27 PM: Solhem did meet with CM Payne
  - xi. From Woodrow Piner (He/His) to Everyone 07:28 PM: Our organization (Carpenters Union) has been reaching out to Curt Gunsbury since 2018 sharing the public documentation in regards to subcontractors who have been on several of their projects in NE Mpls with zero response. It's unfortunate
  - xii. From Dan McConnell to Everyone 07:29 PM: Same with the my organization (Mpls Bldg Trades) We've tried multiple times over several years. Thank you all for your help
  - xiii. From Amanda Tempel (she/her/hers) to Everyone 07:29 PM: We should ask CM Payne's office for an update on this for the February meeting
- e. Asks from CTUL
- i. **Immediate Ask:** We would like to ask NEPNA to write a public letter stating that NEPNA's support for the project at the former Youngblood site relies on Solhem signing into BDR. In the letter, we ask that NEPNA make clear that if Solhem is not willing to ensure the basic dignity and respect of all workers on this job site by signing into BDR, NEPNA will oppose the project.
  - ii. NEPNA remains in touch to provide updates
  - iii. NEPNA provides delegation to CTUL to see space and meet members and workers who have built the Twin Cities
  - iv. CTUL would like to explore a long-term relationship with NEPNA to make long-term changes on a city level
- f. Mandy commented that we should create standard acceptance criteria for future developments, not just the Youngblood one
- i. If we adopt this position for all construction, it would be great to have the statement on our website. Katie responded that we should talk about this and vote on the idea as a board.
  - ii. Mandy suggested that NEPNA joins Minneapolis Community Conference to act as an example for other neighborhoods to show how we approached this development request

- g. NEPNA voted on CTUL's Immediate Ask, Lydia motioned, Luna seconded: everyone voted yes and this passed unanimously
    - h. Mandy motioned, Luna seconded: In all future letters of support for developments, NEPNA will require they join BDR. Vote passed.
    - i. NEPNA will maintain ongoing relationship with CTUL
- 3. Board Meet and Greet on 1/10/23 went well – Luna, Laurie, and Nicolle attended. February vote for merger, and then based on that a meeting will take place for next steps based on Feb. vote.
  - a. Conversation about whether or not other neighborhood orgs truly want to merge. Time to move forward, Katie is tired of talking about it.
- 4. **For February meeting:** Talk about equitable engagement outreach, Indeed We Can award, future engagement with CTUL and workers rights and contingencies in letter to Solhem