

Feb. 5, 2025 | 6PM | UC215

University District Leadership Team: Tim, Mehrdad, Amy, and Rue

Neighborhoods Rep: Kalina | UM: Emily | Guest: Nick Holloway and Vicki Watson

1. Introduction and Roll Call
 - a. Meeting Called to Order at 6PM
2. Approval Minutes for January at a future meeting.
 - a. Emily did not get the notes in on time enough for review. Will be up for review and approval in the March meeting.
3. Presentations:
 - a) [Nick Holloway](#): With the [City of Missoula Office of Emergency Preparedness](#)
 - Bunch of options to empower people to be prepared for emergencies
 - If you feel threatened – don't wait for an emergency order to be told to go – just go.
 - Option 1: [Sign up for emergency alerts – Smart911](#)
 - Every County has a different platform – Missoula's is Smart 911
 - Within Smart911 you can create a basic or enhanced profile
 - It's voluntary
 - It's free
 - Your information is kept private
 - Provides 911 emergency teams your information in the case of an emergency
 - If 911 is called from any of the listed numbers on your Smart911 the emergency responders have access to the information you loaded into the system.
 - It saves time
 - It saves lives
 - Delaware and Michigan also have Smart911 systems
 - Outbound function of Smart911 are ranked into three priorities:
 - Life saving
 - Property
 - Environment
 - For example, it is primarily used for missing children, older vulnerable adults, and evacuation orders
 - It can be used for targeted communications/audiences such as a specific area or by street - if needed.
 - While you don't need to use the cell phone application (app) a Smart911 app is available.
 - You can make your profile as basic and limited as you want. If you would like to add additional information you can choose to complete the narrative section at the bottom of each subsection. This empowers folks to add pertinent information about themselves, their property or the other loved ones in the home.
 - This profile must be updated every 6 months. Nothing needs to be changed but you must log on and approve that nothing has

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changed. Email reminders come to remind you to re-certify your information.

- If you forget to update – your information will go dormant, but once you login again you can re-activate your account.
 - Option 2: Build a Support Network
 - Shelter, feeding stations, rendezvous point, how to communicate to each other, etc.
 - Department of Emergency Services makes a ton of plans for emergency situations but nothing compares to the plan you and your family and friends make to ensure your safety.
 - Think about different radiuses:
 - If your home was on fire,
 - If your neighborhood was on fire,
 - If your city was on fire, etc.
 - Where can you go?
 - Use the Missoula Office of Emergency Managements [website](#) to review the cities plans and make your own plans based on the scenarios provided (wildfire, flood, and evaluation).
 - Other helpful reminders:
 - Check on your neighbors. The Office of Disaster Emergency Services is triaging the best they can with the resources they have.
 - Example this summers windstorm in Missoula. There were four 911 dispatchers on duty when the storm hit. While others were trying to get in through clogged streets – once the storm hit – Flathead County dispatchers were able to off load some of the volume of calls that were coming in. Due to this pre-planned process, no lives were lost due to the storm.
 - Make sure you have a plan for your pets.
 - Each year – people end up loosing their lives trying to save their animals life.
 - Create a Family Emergency Plan
 - Pre-determine a meet up spot
 - If cell towers are down – what is your plan
 - For fire drills at your home – go through a drill or two to ensure you know what to do.
 - Take pictures and videos on your cell phone of your home and belongings. This way in the events of a disaster and you are submitting an insurance claim you are able to show them what exactly was in your home.
 - Remember to update these videos and pictures every once and a while
- b) Jennipha Nielsen: [Map Your Neighborhood](#)
- The University District Neighborhood is an ever change neighborhood with a mixture of short term and long-term renters as well as newer and older owners. Map your Neighborhood is a great excuse to go knock on your neighbors' doors.
 - While – Nick Holloway was not familiar with this specific program – he believes that anything that elevates emergency preparedness can be good.
 - A couple cavoites:

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- Doesn't replace the Smart911 system
- Many people are concerned about privacy and while he hasn't done a ton of research into this specific program – he would encourage folks to look into how privacy is ensured.
- Another point of possible consideration would include – while you might know that someone has a chainsaw and there was another windstorm and trees are down. Nick pointed out that there may be additional liability a person assumes by taking the lead in assisting to get the down trees chopped. On the other hand – the government generally can't ask for assistance like neighbors helping neighbors can.
- Jennipha reminded folks that one of the lessons she and Mehrdad learned in their Map Your Neighborhood in CA was how to turn off their gas and water. Even the idea of zip tying your meter.
- Nick suggested that as a neighborhood council start with the low hanging fruit and then if we have more capacity they work on more...
- Reminder from Nick – fire extinguishers can go out of date. A "fire extinguisher out of date" means that the extinguisher has reached the end of its lifespan and should no longer be used because the chemicals inside may have deteriorated, rendering it ineffective in a fire emergency; typically, a fire extinguisher is considered out of date after 10-12 years, and should be replaced with a new one.
 - Out of Date fire extinguishers can be used for practice
 - Some Out of Date fire extinguishers can be re-charged.
- Vicki Watson – asked if NW Energy might be willing to walk around the neighborhood and show folks how to turn off their gas in case of an emergency.
 - Not sure if they would have the bandwidth to do that but might be able to assist in a case-by-case basis.
- Jennipha reminded folks that Map Your Neighborhood leads those who are really interested into opportunities to do CERT training.
 - Tim Jacobs of Missoula CERT is great and they support the Missoula Office of Emergency Preparedness a lot.
- Tim, shared that his subsection of the neighborhood has monthly soup nights. This is a way that the neighbors really get to know each other. Many of them have keys to each other's houses.
- Jennipha brought up short term rentals like Air BNB's. Many times folks don't have clear emergency plans or emergency devices like fire extinguishers out for their guests.
- Nick shared the Office of Emergency Managements 6 P's of Evacuation
 - People and pets
 - Papers, phone numbers, and important documents
 - Prescriptions, vitamins and eyeglasses
 - Pictures and irreplaceable memorabilia
 - Personal computer and hard drive

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- Plastic (credit cards, ATM cards) and cash
 - Are you ready to evacuate in an emergency?
 - Sign up for emergency alerts
 - Build an evacuation kit
 - Make emergency communication plans
 - Helpful links:
 - Missoula.co/emerg-alerts
 - Missoula.co/emerg-prep
 - Missoula.co/evac-info
 - Missoula.co/wildfireprep
 - Nick asked if folks had generators. Small to large anything helps in an emergency.
 - Nightmare scenario: human collapse
 - Good read (from Nick) is [One Second After](#) by William R. Forstchen about an EMP (electromagnetic pulse attack).
 - Mehrdad asked if some electric companies are better than others in Missoula.
 - Nick responded that Missoula has NW Energy and Missoula Electric – however Missoula Electric purchase power from NW Energy.
 - Mehrdad asked if NW Energy was working on wildlife mitigation with their lines and serve.
 - Nick explained that after the Paradise, CA fires many companies including NW Energy created more shutoff plans – to prepare for fire emergencies.
 - Jennipha asked are there grants to improve wildfire prevention through OEP or the City of Missoula
 - Nick explained yes but the University District is not, currently one of the qualifying areas as its WUI (Wildland Urban Interface) is currently deemed is less substantial than others.
 - Kalina shared that United Way also has some funds.
 - Nick explained that they are doing together so at this point there aren't funds for the University District to apply for but perhaps in the future there would be.
- c) Nick departed and Kalina asked if that presentation was helpful for the group.
- Amy shared that it was really helpful as she had never heard about Smart911 before.
 - Jennipha shared she got a new iPhone and hadn't downloaded the Smart911 app yet.
 - Reminder – you do not need the Smart911 app on your phone for you to receive inbound alerts or for 911 to get your information if you call from one of the registered numbers.
 - Amy thought Smart911 was really realistic and will be signing her and her household up.

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- Kalina – I thought we talked about Smart911 in one of the Neighborhood Leadership meetings but it really hadn't taken hold in Missoula at that point. She indicated they are gaining momentum now.
- Jennipha – shared about going to the cool gathering she attended at FreeCycle. She would love to promote the opportunity to more people as the next co-hort will be held in June. She would love to see the Map Your Neighborhood event similar to this one.
 - She would love to get a map from the city of the University District Neighborhood with property lines and pins for folks to mark down where they live. This would provide a good overview if we would have neighbor/leads throughout the neighborhood or if we would need to court some additional folks.
 - Rou shared that the initial meeting of folks in the University District could serve as the catalyst for the neighbors to complete Map Your Neighborhood.
 - We would host the initial introductory meeting and show the [first video](#). And walk through the [next steps](#) and provide the [one-sheeter](#).
 - We could also integrate what Nick shared with Map Your Neighborhood to present it at the same time.
 - Jennipha asked if folks were interested into being on an ad-hoc committee to plan this.
 - Kalina asked why not use the time during the University District Leadership time to plan this out. Empowering everyone to be part of it.
 - Kalina reminded the group that it is certainly okay for Leadership Members to gather and meet outside of the University District Leadership meetings but we shouldn't engage in large discussions (as or representing the leadership team) or voting outside of the public meeting times.
 - Tim suggested that perhaps we work on this as a group within our normal University District Leadership Meeting and in March if we needed to put more work into it we could determine if an ad hoc group would be needed.
 - Rou brought up giving the neighbors an option of Smart911, Map Your Neighborhood and both would be nice.
 - Kalina clarified, I heard you all talk about showing the videos at the June meeting. But you all also proposed a second listening session. Do you want to do both? Reminder this meeting would be – most likely in a park/outside – as the UC has moved to summer hours and closes at 6PM.
 - Jennipha thought we could create an agenda and have printable information cards about Smart911 and Map Your Neighborhood to

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- handout. Then we could show the first video from Map Your Neighborhood. We could provide them maps where they could put a pin into where they live and we could start from there.
- Emily asked – what if no one takes the lead and is – for whatever reason people don't have the bandwidth or desire to participate in Map Your Neighborhood. She asked – to ensure that we as a group had fair expectations for not only our desired outcome but what might happen.
 - Amy suggested if no one takes the charge we can keep it as a reminder or option for folks to learn more at any general or listening session.
 - Rou shared while Nicks information was good it still feels disjointed, Map Your Neighborhood provides you the steps in an easy to consume way. It is in depth and free.
 - Jennipha in her experience Map Your Neighborhood really strengthens connections and community.
- Kalina – reminded the group that collaboratively we would need to make the decision on what we wanted to present during the June meeting.
 - Jennipha – the presentation for Map Your Neighborhood would be about an hour in length.
 - Do we do this here or do we offer the opportunity to learn more about this program?
- Rou – this is another catalyst to build community
- Kalina – it does fit the purpose of a mid-session listening session or general meeting.
 - Again, would it be the sole purpose or would you like to have a combination of Map Your Neighborhood and a listening session?
 - We could have information cards about both Map Your Neighborhood and Smart911 to handout
 - There is so much happening in the University District do we want to take away the time to provide updates on things like:
 - Parking
 - 5th and 6th street
 - Other items
- Jennipha perhaps we do Map Your Neighborhoods so folks have to stay to get to the listening session.
- Amy, I really like the passion. Let's think about why most of the neighbors would come to a listening session in June – it would be to share their thoughts and issues.
- Rou suggested perhaps the general meeting could be a listening session and then a teaser about Map Your Neighborhood.
- Amy suggested we could gather interested folks' emails and set up a time and date for Map Your Neighborhood kickoff
- Mehrdad suggested perhaps a Facebook group for the University District interested folks.

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- Reminder it is hard to moderate and run a Facebook Group (time)
- Kalina – is this team leading the whole Map Your Neighborhood project? Or just doing the kick off?
- Mehrdad said in California the leadership team kicked it off and then when people were interested they went to the leadership team to get connected.
- Kalina – so what does that look like?
 - Jennipha – they would reach out and we would point them to the [website](#).
- Emily will bring her laptop and hdmi cord to March's meeting so that we can all watch the [Map Your Neighborhood video](#) as a leadership team. To refresh our minds.

4. Items to be Discussed:

- a. Signage: we are moving to make campaign style yard signs with the date, time and location of the leadership meetings.
 - Jennipha made some update on the image she created in Canva for the UDLT General Meeting.
 - Suggestion to change the QR code to go right to the [University District Leadership Team link](#) and keep the tiny URL to the main [Neighborhoods website](#).
 - Art and design looks really good and clean
 - Kalina suggested perhaps we think about two signs per leadership member which would mean 10 signs and putting a limit like not over \$200.
 - Amy moved to approve
 - Rou seconded the motion
 - All voting members were in favor and voiced it with an "I"
 - Jennipha will work with Emily to get them priced out through UM's Paw Print and printed if it meets our expectations.
- b. Leadership Team Roles: we have a couple positions currently open. 1) Community Forum Representative, 2) Chair or Co-Chairs, 3) Note taker – currently being done by Emily.
 - Jennipha nominated Mehrdad and he shook his head no.
 - Rou asked for clarity on the roles and time expectations
 - Kalina, responded great question. The chair or co-chairs help run the meeting. They assist with agenda creation. They are the point person – if they want to be on specific areas of the meeting. This really changes from leadership team to leadership team. From really structured to not at all. The Community Forum representative is responsible to going to the Community Forums (fourth Thursday of the month from 6-7:30 in City Council Chambers), presenting and reporting out from our neighborhood while also bringing back highlights to the UDLT.
 - Jennipha has been our Community Forum representative but forgot to go last month.
 - Amy got nominated for Community Forum representative but getting away at night with young children is difficult. She would be happy to be the alternate if needed.

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- Tim got nominated for either position and kindly declined.
- Amy and Mehrdad agreed to be co-chairs
- Rou agreed to cover the next Community Forum on Feb. 27th as Jennipha is unable to attend.

5. Community Forum Report

- None

6. Missoula Neighborhoods Report- Melissa/Kalina

- None

7. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

- Vicki Watson came to ask about if the college students would be shoveling walks for folks in the neighborhood.
 - Emily provided some background on the former program run by Rick with both FSI and athletes. This program ceased to exist when Rick departed the council. We can certainly talk about it more if there is renewed interest.
- Missoula Aging Services creating a new program that will connect aging folks with people who can assist with services like yard work and snow removal. Currently they have the [CleanUp Crew](#) but will be launching the new program soon.
- Rou brought up Bob, from FreeCycles response with study about 5th and 6th streets. While he wasn't able to make this meeting he is planning on making a future meeting.
- Kalina brought up Ellie Boldman's email where she shared that she "submitted a bill draft request for the University Neighborhood's traffic issue. It is [LC3319](#). I am working on language now and I will forward as we get something drafted." and that she had shared it with Gwen Jones who was surprise as the Missoula City Transportation Staff and Council were not aware of this.
- Kalina will try to get [Jodi Pilgrim](#) to come to an upcoming meeting. When that meeting is determined, Emily can reach out to [Bill Donovan](#) who is in charge of parking on campus. Then we can hear from both and also share the experiences from the neighborhood.

8. Announcements

- None

9. Adjournment @ 7:46PM | Next Meeting is March 5th @ 6PM in UC215