

Notes from the Elizabeth Lofts Safety Committee held on Tuesday, September 12, 2017.

PRESENT: John Warner, Guest, Emergency Response Expert
 Paul Roelofs, Elizabeth Lofts Board Member
 Janice Cooper, committee member
 Bob Garsha, committee member
 Teresa Jankus, committee member

NOTES

Meeting called to order at 5:09 pm.

The Pearl District's emergency preparedness began at The Sitka, where John Warner resides. Currently, approximately 30 condominium buildings out of 55 in the Pearl have a plan. At the core of any plan should be resilience; a reasonable coordination of resources in the community to prepare and plan for a disaster. The plan should be sufficient but not so much as to turn people off. The most successful approach is both top down and bottom up.

John felt that the current Elizabeth Resident Safety and Response Manual is similar to several other buildings' plans in that it focuses on emergencies as opposed to disasters. At a minimum, the plan should include what to do in the event of a fire and earthquake.

Disasters such as wildfires, storms, active shooter and general anarchy would not be emergencies John would consider addressing in the plan because statistics don't support it.

Our plan should include utility and access control:

- Utilities are defined as water and gas – we have an automatic gas shutoff but we should have someone to shut off water – need to follow up on whether the concierge's and porters are trained to shut off the water. Possibly define and ask CMI to take on the responsibility. Each resident should understand where and how to shut these off in each of their units.
- Preference is to turn the water and gas off so residents can shelter in place.

- Fob-controlled access will be rendered useless without power usually. How does the Elizabeth's work? Some buildings auto unlock and then anyone can get in. Some buildings auto lock and there is a key available to unlock the doors manually – this is the preferred method.
- Have food and water on hand – this is the responsibility of residents and not the Committee. However, some buildings have purchased a supply of water, e.g. a pallet, to have on hand for residents in the event of a disaster. The Elizabeth has a large supply of clean, drinkable water available in the intake pipe located in the pump room – see video for details. The Committee should understand how much and how to access it and what supplies should be acquired and kept in the pump room to distribute it, if necessary.
- Two 5 gallon buckets should be available for every resident to employ the PHLUSH method for human waste disposal (one for feces and one for urine). Get standard guidelines for how to use these and distribute. It is recommended that these buckets be provided for all residents and Paul suggested we use the trash rooms on each floor for storage of them.
- Have a cache of tools and supplies, e.g. flashlights, radios, etc. in a secured location (see supply list John referenced and provided).
- Consider the key situation at the Elizabeth. Paul said that there are only 3 keys for the building. Perhaps, additional keys should be made and distributed. The Safety Committee should know who has each key and how to contact those individuals in the event of a disaster.
- Make sure that every resident knows when and how to use the fire extinguishers provided on each floor of the Elizabeth and where they are located.
- Create an evacuation plan for the community when it isn't possible to shelter in place.

Red Cross provides first aid/emergency trainings. The PDNA Board has provided wilderness trainings. We should look at what each of these trainings entails and decide if we should arrange these for the Elizabeth residents or share the information with residents so they know they are available.

If possible, try to identify the following individuals in the building:

- Handicapped
- Pets
- Children
- Medical professionals

There are limited City services, such as the Fire Department, and in the event of a disaster they will prioritize facilities such as hospitals over condominium buildings so having a prepared community is key. Station 3 in the Alhabet District serves the Pearl as well as other NW neighborhoods, including Goose

Hollow and greater NW Portland. The City is not likely to invest in building more infrastructure and providing more resources because it is not cost effective for the potential number of disasters.

Resident outreach approach:

- Large meetings as a way to disseminate information isn't recommended. People tend to shy away from this type of setting or tune out if too much information is shared.
- Word of mouth has proven more effective initially.
- Each floor should be treated as its own community, if possible. Start conversations there with your neighbors. Others will hear about it and will engage. When residents start asking about what they are hearing and for more information, this is a good time to hold larger gatherings.
- PDNA has a Preparedness WORD document (green pamphlet) that we can leverage at the Elizabeth, replacing their name with ours. It suggests to residents what a household should have on hand in the event of a disaster.
- Pearl Waterfront has the best website approach in terms of providing safety and preparedness information. Paul suggested we reach out to them to gain access to their site and possibly replicate some of their ideas on our new Elizabeth website.
- John also shared a template plan and supply list and will provide these in electronic form following the meeting. The PDNA plan can be customized for the Elizabeth (compliments the green pamphlet). The two documents outlined at the end of the green Preparedness pamphlet are also useful resources. The supply list includes links to companies from which the item(s) can be ordered. Some of these tools may not be operable by the Elizabeth Safety Committee but rather by PDNA/NET personnel if we need to dispatch them to the Elizabeth to assist after a disaster, e.g. pry bars. PDNA plan can be customized for the Elizabeth (compliments the green, here's what you as a household should have – plus the 2 docs at the end of the green handout

Lessons Learned by the PDNA/NET:

- Community not catastrophe
 - Pull resident in instead of pushing them away.
 - Build relationships.
- What matters most in life is what matter in emergencies
 - Use common things like pets to talk about resilience and emergency preparedness.

- Encourage people to connect and arrange plans to cover each other, e.g. John's dog story about buddying up with a neighbor to take care of each other's pets when they couldn't themselves.
- Also kid pick up lists.
- Putting people together to cover each other helps take the responsibility off the "floor captain", should we choose to have "floor captains".
- Don't let this be overwhelming – to the residents or the Committee
 - Small steps are best and will make a bigger impact over time.

Keep John up to date on our progress.

John offered to answer our follow up questions and even come back to the Elizabeth for a follow up meeting or to speak at a meeting.

Make sure to add something about preparedness to our Orientation packet/walkthrough.

PDNA meets monthly – John suggested that we nominate someone to come update them on the Elizabeth and get updates from the PDNA.

John suggests SKED stretcher rather than stair chairs.

Action – Tracy to send John an email reminding him to send these 3 documents.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.