

General Assembly notes for 10/24/2011

Meeting start (7pm)

Facilitators explain GA process

- Collective body get together and make decisions
- Explained hand signals
- Roles of facilitators: Ensure decisions are made together, facilitate conversation, hold the container
- Process of consensus model, everyone agrees, also use 90% for proposals to pass
- If proposal is not passed can be taken back to work group, work on concerns and re-proposed.
- Hand signals used to not talk over one another. Hands up = supportive
Twinkle down = not supportive Wrap it up motion, Raise roof = speak louder, Point of Process = hand triangle over head, Clarifying questions = C hand motion
- Ask to move to consensus, ask to raise up 1 hand in agreement (voting process)
- Stacks explained, to keep on track throughout the night, to have as many voices heard as possible
- Concerns, regarding proposals can be discussed before moving ahead, propose amendments.

Meeting Agenda:

- 1) Committee announcements
- 2) Open announcements
- 3) (3)-Proposals, amendments, general consensus.

Committee announcements:

- 1) Things have gone missing from engineering, will try to clamp down on area
 - 1a) Information committee went to engineering was delegating tasks, slowed process
- 2) Peter from Events + Outreach: Had conversation with Pink Martini to coordinate their support with a free concert and event on Friday 10/28 12 NOON in Pioneer Sq. Event called "This land is our land" to stand in solidarity with OWS. There will be a big rally, also representatives from Labor Union in attendance. Will help reach out to the broader community, create positive awareness.
- 3) Tony Z. from Union Outreach: Announcement that on Wed 10/26 there will be a Big Labor Union march, among the 99% marching will be longshoreman, electricians, a lot of unions, Flyers were posted on 10/25 along march route. Assemble at Director Park 5 PM (Corners of Yamhill/Park Ave)
- 4) Communications Committee: Spoke about Nov 5th event: Close your Bank Account Day at your corp. bank, take money to credit unions. In the week leading up to that, they will be presenting awareness in various forms of media: Videos, marches, images, please make signs for the march.

General/Open announcements:

- 1) Tony: People at camp are in need notebook donations. Especially for the homeless, so they can write ideas, keep schedules, etc. Any other ideas welcome, don't wait, just do it on your own. Help each other.
- 2) Steve (With Working Group on internet): Hoping to spread the message by setting up general information resource for public relations, hand out flyers along the MAX. Create more awareness.
- 3) Someone speaks about personal opinion that Occupy Portland organization has been going astray from goals, seems stagnant to a point where decisions made by individuals and committees rather than people as a whole. (Decisions made and announced without being addressed to the camp first.)
- 4) Joe (with Jobs for Justice): Last Tuesday (10/18), the body endorsed the march on Sat. (10/22) in Vancouver, WA. The bus was filled with 60 people, other people joined along the way. Flyers about March coming up Wed (10/26) are available.
- 5) Terry (from Health Committee + Jobs for Justice): Announcement regarding true universal access to healthcare - Flyers available for anyone who wants more information.
- 6) Someone from Food station: Spoke about the big mission of Occupy is to show a new way of living. Addressed energy use, mainstream use of resources still going on, particularly regarding camp. Suggested changing fuels from fossil fuels to alternatives such as veggie oil, etc. Workshop on simple living will be on the workshop board for 10/25.
- 7) Cameron: Spoke about Housing Authority issue (3rd and Ash) there are flyers available in regards to where people can stay. (Providing resource information.)
- 8) Circus from Occupy Seattle: Sent a message of solidarity to Portland. Spoke about the hard time

Seattle is having with the mayors office and business district. SEA marched 2 weekends ago with 5000 people, tents were set up. They lasted the weekend, then police came in in the night, kept people awake, broke their spirits through sleep deprivation, and tore tents down. He, and Seattle, appreciate whats going on in Portland, hoping they can get to where we are here.

9) Announcement about the Comedy event 11/8/2011 at Baghdad theater. This will be a fun fund raising event with a silent auction. They are currently looking for anyone who can donate help, services, performances, etc. Please email with any contacts or info to: occupycomedypdx@gmail.com

10) Mary (Lives downtown): PBA wants the Mayor to evict camp from the area. She belongs to a business group called VOIS, Oregon Integration Sustainability. There is a survey in portland biz journal about what should portland do, 1) let them stay 2) let them stay but enforce drug/alcohol ordinance 3) Leave

Proposals:

Takes survey of whose first GA, whose been sleeping at camp

Facilitation team are people who have been staying in occupy camp; The committee is open to new people on team if interested in helping/contributing.

1st proposal: Cameron speaks: Yesterday he announced to expand occupation, and it was decided Jamison Sq (NW 11th/NWJohnson) will be occupied on 10/29. A huge march planned to sit in solidarity for all camps that have been raided across the country. The March begins at 12 pm, from the convention center to Jamison Sq, chosen because of its close proximity to original camp site. It is located in heart of Pearl district, center of many wealthy citizens in our community. Those who wish to separate themselves from the drug/alcohol issues in the current camp are welcomed to move there. There will be a Potluck at 7pm feel free to bring dishes for 6 or more people; At 10 pm there will be an organized party. If more than 100 people are there to support this site, they will stay the night and break the curfew. Bring non permanent structures to camp out. If they make it thru the night, they will bring in more tents. Donations are needed, sleeping bags, tarps, anything to stay warm overnight.

Clarification Questions:

Q: Could you repeat the objection to S. Park blocks?

A: Did not choose S. Park bc visibility there does not help Occupy, more grass area, Jamison has more direct action towards people we want to reach out to

Q: If you want to donate things for Jamison Square, where should we take them?

A: To Community Needs or the Jamison Square booth on Saturday

Q: Are we being required to move all of our personal belongings with us?

A: This is not a mandatory movvement, it is voluntary expansion. We will sit in to test the waters to see if enough people can occupy the area. We want to take the square and THEN occupy it.

Q: I am wondering if everyone will move to Jamison Sq, or just additional people?

A: There is overcrowding in current camp, violating fire codes, this will help solve through expansion. It is additional. The march starts at 12, convention center to Jamison Square and sit in all night.

Q: What is surrounding Jamison Sq?

A: Safeway, streetcar, condos, connected to another park.

Concerns:

Concern: Jamison Sq is not near any near major sources of power, like courthouse, or city hall, so it has less symbolic significance. We need to be clear about our message when we are there.

Response: Alot of citizens live near Jamison Sq, if they can see a nice clean camp of Occupiers it will get across our message

Concern: Jamison Sq is near many residential buildings. (Could not hear 2nd half of concern)

Response: If there is an ammendment to the proposal please share now.

-Moving on to consensus.

-Will occupy jamison sq be supported by Occupy Portland and on the website

1st Proposal: Voted to pass, with only 1 opposed

-(1) opposed point of view: Who cares about Jamison Sq, its residential, we shouldn't bother these people, it seems like we're splitting portions.

Proposal announcements:

1) Meredith speaks: Next Monday 10/31 is Halloween. The Action Committee is working on a Zombie March, sponsored by Rising Tides a volunteer group. Zombification station from 12 Noon to 3 on Halloween at Art Tent. March will stand against bankers funding coal industry. March leaves from art tent at 3pm on Halloween

Clarification question

Q: Was it cold or coal?

A: Banks are funders of coal industry

2) Someone suggests a fully stocked bar for people with addiction...? If people want to work on the proposal go to tent right across from media.

3) Speaking about original 10/6 March, people shared their stories; We were reminded why we're here. Suggested every 4th day/GA, everybody come down and share their story. Everyone there, everyone working. Continue open dialogue amongst community.

Concerns:

-Time sensitive issue

-Hard to keep track if it's every 4 days, why not twice a week?

-Could it be at Pioneer Sq perhaps? Larger space.

Clarified that actual suggestion is to meet on 10/26 Wed 5:30pm in Terry Schunk plaza to discuss possibility of adding this aspect to GA either here (current GA site), or at Pioneer Sq.

2nd Proposal: Action Committee proposes 11/12/2011 all cultures in the city come together united as one to make history, erase colors. Share and respect everybody. It starts within everyone. Make a rally on 11/12 to unite all of our communities in Cultural Awareness Day. We need to unite ourselves, proposer is asking for help to make it happen.

Clarification Questions:

Q: What sort of form would this take? March, protest? How will we recognize this day?

A: Could not discern or hear**

Q: What stage in the planning process is this currently at?

A: Could not discern or hear**

Q: Where will we meet?

A: Proposer is asking for suggestions. The Action Committee continues to work on this, if you have any ideas, speak to Action Committee for Cultural Awareness Day, Nov 12th

Q: Have we thought about specifics?

A: Speaker knows a lot of organizations interested in this idea, organizing teams within action committee to go and talk to people.

Q: To simplify, is he asking for endorsement of idea and support more than anything?

A: Yes

Concerns:

-They may target this event to look for undocumented immigrants/workers

-2nd concern echoing 1st concern, cannot make a decision without details, doesn't seem fully thought

out.

-ANSWER: The purpose of proposal is asking for support from GA, then they will work on details.

Discussion:

-Speaking about undocumented workers, we need to support them because they are part of our community, especially if they are willing to come out to support in solidarity.

-The rally is good idea to raise the issue and expose whats going on with these people, they are not criminals, simply undocumented/exploited.

-Amendment proposed: Make a plan to protect undocumented people if police decide to harass them during this rally.

-Suggested that we take a lead from OWS: They have come up with their own constitution (inaudible second half), sounded like a secondary proposal according to facilitator.

-Temp check for protecting undocumented workers: Good

-Someone asks what support will be given to undocumented workers, another suggests some sort of warning system if there seems to be police activity.

-Direct response: There is a planning meeting for the event, these issues can be discussed and they will resolve a solution. There is a plan for the situation when it arises. Committees will be formed to address police harassment.

-Someone speaks about getting African Am. comm in N. Portland more involved.

-Friendly amendment: In support of people in contention here in US undocumented, (audio was too choppy!) But nobody opposed in temp check, few stand asides.

-Amendment passed

-Another amendment: Come up with strategy/action plan to nonviolently but physically protect people from being arrested and have a process to help those who are arrested, legally.

-Direct response: There is a process in place for the community by the committee that formed this event.

-Temp check: Friendly amendment opposed/not passed

Q: Is there a plan with outreach? Are they involved?

A: Could not discern or hear answer**

-People speaking up that the issues are getting bogged down in this conversation.

-Proposer answers the group at GA could be of great help to this rally, he is coming to GA for support.

-Out of time for proposal, and friendly amendments.

2nd Proposal: Voted to pass, none opposed

Planning meeting: Tomorrow at 5pm in plaza (10/25)

3rd proposal

Boycott credit cards as well as big banks. Proposer is calling on other groups to spread the word. Everyone who uses Credit Cards should realize that 2-5% of all purchases go to the banks. They take it out of the community. If it is a successful boycott, all the banks will go down because we will not be using their products. Stop credit cards! Write checks, use cash, keep money local. Stop supporting corporations.

Clarification questions:

Q: What are some of the tools that we'll be using to regulate or help people understand how to do this?

A: Spread the word, please stop using your Credit Cards.

Q: Are there any tools we can use?

A: We are trying to find a way to get the word out: If you support Occupy Portland, dont use Credit Cards, promote message through the internet, suggest any ideas. Flyers are at information booth with his name and email (Proposer).

Q: Should we consider support for those individuals who use Credit Cards instead of cash? If we can't get 100%, it's difficult for people who want to make online purchases. Why not propose to use CC as little as possible?

A: Proposal is to REFRAIN from using your credit card.

Q: What about using debit/Visa card from credit union?

A: Debit purchases still benefit the banks, but not as much as Credit Cards. On small purchases however, the banks will actually make more via debit. Move money to credit union, use cash, use debit cards if need be, avoid the 25% interests on credit cards. They are the big ticket money for banks.

Concerns:

Concern: If we are about taking the power back from the banks, can you talk about the perks banks are getting?

Response: (A bit inaudible) Repeats please refrain from using CCs

Concern: Also to be addressed should be direct deposit advances, teaching fiscal responsibilities to others who are unaware.

Amendment proposed: Would like to see more education about fiscal responsibility, make an amendment to allocate and put into action.

Response: Moving money to credit union step in right direction, but by still using Mastercard or Visa, the banks are still benefiting.

3rd Proposal with educational amendment: Voted to pass

General announcements:

-Woman who set up OccupyPdx on Twitter did so the first day OWS went into action, knowing we would be involved at some point. There are 145 active twitters across the US, showing that the movement is succeeding. Woman was tear gassed at 8 years old, been an activist with her parents for a long time, conveys that she has never seen a movement like this. Urges people to stand here, we have the right and the voice. Encourages everyone to participate in being an ambassador as much as humanly possible. She sees people in camp on drugs, drunk, however do not be discouraged because overall we are not vandals, we are not busting windows of Starbucks. She is in communication with MSM, tells people that we shouldn't block them because they have a voice too. MSM asks if we need a leader. She says no, we are all ambassadors, we don't need a leader so they can be persecuted. If you are ever interviewed even for 10 seconds, just say this is awesome! Encourages everyone as leaders of this movement, there are thousands of occupiers who can't be here for their own reasons. We need more people to help this process. Bring people in, educate, our voice needs to come from within. Please be backed up by GA, share information.

-In case anyone is wondering about where the money that was donated to this movement currently is, the finance committee is still holding it, so if anybody wants to talk to the finance committee about how to get that money back to the camp, their information is available, talk to anyone working at INFO booth.

End of GA.