

GA Meeting 10/12  
7 pm-12:00 am

#### FORMAL AGREEMENT BY THE GA:

Occupy Portland has reached the following agreement of the General Assembly through our process of modified consensus: Occupy Portland will continue to use Main Street as a common space for meeting and community building, except for emergency vehicles, bicycles and the anti-war march on Saturday.

We will initiate direct communication with transit and emergency service unions, as well as the community as a whole, to develop a long term plan that honors both the needs for accessible gathering space and the safety of the entire community.

This process will take effect as soon as a protocol is developed. A working group has been tasked with developing this protocol and will begin work immediately on reaching out to the communities mentioned. There will still be room for continued discussion about the use of Main Street. We encourage all members of the community to join us at our next General Assembly meeting by the Elk on Main Street at 7 pm so you can participate in our process.

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#### Agenda:

- \*Committee Announcements

- \*Proposal Announcements (those announced here are new ideas proposed to find working groups, work out kinks on their own time, then bring back formal one at next GA for group discussion/vote)

- \*Recap of Previous GA agreements

- \*Proposals

- \*General Announcements

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- \*Recap of Previous General Assembly (GA) agreements:

There was agreement that there would be no permit sought for the original march

There was agreement that the time and final destination of the march would be released to the general public the morning of the march

There was agreement that a values statement be drafted in solidarity with the marathon

There was agreement that a skeleton crew of Occupy Portland (OP) stay in the park during the marathon and another group march from PSU

There was agreement to occupy Main Street

There was agreement that we will operate on a 90% modified consensus process

There was agreement that we adopt the six point proposal process (in a nutshell: if you have an idea, write up a proposal and announce it and then meet it with folks who are interested in the idea to clarify it, deal with concerns, and then formally approach the GA the next day)

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\*Proposal #1:

AGREED: We propose that regardless of whatever decision that the general assembly comes to regarding opening Main Street, that Occupy Portland release the following statement about our decision to hold Main street thus far.

Direct responses (factual):

\* 50 million Americans without health care, not 40 millions

Clarifying questions:

1.) Should we pass this before we decide what to do with the street?

\*Response: The proposal is that we make a statement REGARDLESS

Concerns/Objections:

1) Concern: language about "greater and ever-present danger" belittles safety in following clause

"however we believe that a political and economic system controlled by the wealth

Temperature check: lots of twinkle fingers!

Evolution (friendly amendments):

1. ) Add a section about the concern for the safety of our people (ADD OR NO?)

Twinkle fingers! ADD YES

Will add to beginning of second paragraph: We too are concerned about the lives and livelihood of the people of Portland, \*\*\*as well as the people of the occupied portland camp\*\*\*; however, we believe that a political and economic system controlled by the wealthiest...

2.) I propose that we insert language about unemployment in addition to the language about jobs with which i agree (ADD OR NO?)

Twinkle fingers: ADD YES

Will add to fifth paragraph: ...real threat to working people is an exploitative economic system in which workers find themselves in low paying jobs, \*\*\*unemployed\*\*\* and with high levels of debt and virtually no control over their working conditions or everyday lives."

3.) Suggestion is to make it stronger by stating trimet unions support us, based on information from holly (ADD OR NO?)

HOLLY RETRACTS NEED FOR ADDITION-NO VOTE

Temperature check on each amendment: all get twinkle fingers one at a time

Call for consensus:

AGREED -virtually unanimous

We are reading two different proposals about options for opening the street. There was no proposal made to completely open the street immediately to all traffic. There was an announcement about a working group to make this proposal earlier. Currently, the two proposals on the table about the street are about HOW and WHEN and WHY to open the street. We will be doing a temperature check on which to decide on first. (split decision on which to talk about first -a coin is tossed—Option Axel will be discussed first)

Proposal #2—Option Axel:

I propose that we take initiative on removing the barricades and craft a press release that explains that we removed the barricades in response to community concerns directly. We have been approached by transit dependent people, transit workers and health care workers, respect their concerns about human life and hope to continue dialogue about any concern with out group.

In this press release we will publicize times that we will reserve to close the street for our own uses. We will open up dialogue and create a forum to address community concerns about the usage of the road that will be accessible onsite and online. We will also create a transportation committee tat will facilitate dialogue and deal with the details of those requests.

Clarifying question:

1) What time are you proposing that we open the street?

Response: up to GA, but could be decision of Transportation committee if it takes that upon itself

2) What is the intent of when the street will be closed? Why will the street be closed?

3) Since it does not specify exactly the terms of how long or when it will be open, it sounds like its asking us to sign a blank check. I am very uncomfortable in doing that. (what are the times?)

4) Was your intent to develop a working group that would later discuss when the streets would be open and closed after we decide that its open tonight, or come up with the open and closed hours as part of the proposal process tonight?

Response: I recognize that there is ambiguity. I really would like if you took responsibility for either option, which is that we either decide tonight to decide what times the streets will be closed, or we give it to a committee to decide that later based on information they find.

5) I think it's important to clarify that if we vote to support this proposal that we will all have time to

add friendly amendments to clearly specify the time that the road is open.

6) Are we going to be dealing immediately with the issues of safety, because we have autistic children and other children with disabilities (living here)?

Concerns:

Point of Process (POP) (facilitator referred to concerns as objections) Yesterday there was clarifying language that these would be called concerns, not objections.

1) My concern is that if you're having a meeting and the fire department needs to get through here. We've got to clear 200-300 people off the street in a matter of seconds. That seems like an overwhelming and incredibly unsafe issue.

POP: Did you clarify time limits on these questions?

POP: Can we make a direct response to a concern?

Facilitator: Yes

2) My concern is the complicated nature of continuously opening and closing the street, even if we internally can decide what times that would be, and that would cause even more distress with the external community.

3) My concern is that I want to keep this street closed. And if we open it, it's going to be very hard to keep it closed.

4) I have two things that I would like to mention about why I think that the street should not be open for those hours. Number 1 is the safety of the small children in this community. The children wander constantly from the kids camp to the food tent. Secondly, I believe this street is a large bargaining chip that we should not give into so easily.

5) I have three concerns about opening this street. First, this street is symbolic. It's called MAIN STREET. How are we going to occupy Wall Street, if we can't hold main street. Second, if the city is concerned about the speed with which EMT vehicles go through this street, they wouldn't have put a statue in the middle of it. Third, if we don't have a space to organize every hour of every day, our movement will be lost.

6) I wish you would let TriMet through here as a concern for the city. That would be appreciated.

POP: That's not a concern, that's a proposal or friendly amendment.

7) My concern is that after the general assembly voted to hold this street, this afternoon there were only 10 people in the street. If we're going to vote to hold the street, we should hold the street.

8) My concern is that within our 99 % not representing all of us, there are people that really want to be freedom fighters (to maintain the street). Theirs should be a concern that we really care about, and that we should encourage these people not to do this. If you do this, you will push them into action.

9) My only concern with this street is that as an assembly we are a small minority of Portland. We are 1 % and the 99% want to use the road. Are we part of the 1 % or the 99%?

DR: We don't know that 99% of people in PDX don't want us to use this street.

10) We have hundreds of people on our livestream right now. They are asking that you try to remain quiet if it is not your turn to speak. Many of them have expressed concern with the language of this proposal that it does not open the street enough.

POP: In order to propose fully opening the street, a formal proposal needs to be made tomorrow. An announcement proposal was made today, but that is not currently an option on the table.

11) My concern is that the police and the city government are misrepresenting the safety hazards of keeping the street closed in order to have an excuse to crack down on the movement. If we are actually afraid of confronting the power of the city, then what are we doing here?

12) My concern is that regardless of how we decide the outcome of this process, that in the morning, that there is not a unilateral action by individuals that undermine the legitimacy of the general assembly.

POP: I am seeing entirely too many direct responses ignored. Why do we have direct responses if we ignore them?

DR: A direct response is not an opinion. That's what you raise your hand for and put yourself on the stack. A DR is NEW information or FACTUALLY information

DR: The only thing that jumps the stack is a POP. A DR can be ignored, or moved to the end of the stack.

13) My concern is that this street has zero tactical advantage. This is a peaceful movement. We came here to start a national dialogue about social injustice. We came here to educate people...

DR: It seems to me that if we assume that every DR is not factual information, then we are silencing people...

Facilitator: What about if someone abuses the DR? Should we not call on them for a DR again?  
Puppydog fingers: crowd disagrees

Evolutionary Section (includes discussion and friendly amendments):

Amendments: Strike every word and replace it with "The GA will open main street."

POP: That is not a friendly amendment. That is a new proposal.

Discussion: This street has zero tactical advantage. This is a peaceful movement. We came here to start a national dialogue about social injustice.

Discussion: I would like to understand that when people are expressing their ideas, they are being hushed. You are representing your own interest and passing your own rules. This may as well be congress.

DR: I feel that this is a friendly amendment because the only thing it does is set the hours to zero.

Discussion: I spend all day on Twitter seeing the comments and the public wants us to open up the street.

DR: if you have Twitter, you have a job and that is not “everyone”

Discussion: I wonder how our sister that she speaks for all of Portland's poor.

POP: Why are people being skipped?

Friendly Amendment: This road be closed at minimum, for GA's.

POP: I am concerned that the process is interfering with the spirit of the process.

Friendly Amendment: We should add a cross walk in the center of the street

we add a cross walk, even if there is a traffic light present

the cross walk should be where there isn't a traffic light present

Discussion: We have many supporters who are not here that do not want to see us arrested over this-- I think opening the road is the only sufficient way to avoid arrests

There is a need for heavy bicyclists to keep the energy going

The open forum for community concerns could start a transportation team

We should decide this this here tonight or to send it to a committee to be decided

temperature check: all in favor

POP: question and pop will there any other time to add friendly amendments included in this proposal to open up the road immediately after this meeting.

I came up earlier and told you that I wanted to report this amendment did I ask you? was that agreed?

POP : Change of facilitator

POP: Did that person get their question answered?

Discussion: When will we determine the times that we decide to opens and close the road

DR: My understanding is this prop does not make provisions for those times. it is incomplete in that way.

POP: I've noticed that ppl are not respecting the process like right now. ppl are speaking over each other and not respecting. I ask you to check yourself and respect the process.

Fac: take temp of proposal. No ammends were passed. It is original prop. That is up for the

temperature check. Those who agree to pass raise hand now (one hand): a temp check is to see if there is enough agreement to move in to evolutionary amendments. temp check: those against.

SUGGESTION: close to 90 (nooo!) Could we take amendments to see if that would help. (no) It does not pass the temp check. By our process we agreed upon earlier, we move to the second proposal.

Proposal #3 -Option Keller:

I propose that Occupy Portland continue to use main street as a common space for meeting and community building, except for emergency vehicles, bicycles and the anti-war march on Saturday.

We will initiate direct communication with transit and emergency service unions as well as the community as a whole to develop a long term plan that honors both the needs for accessible gathering space and the safety of the entire community."

Clarification:

1. How will we open the opening and closing of the road?

Response: We have people who are very capable of organizing themselves here --we can figure it out.

2. My concern is that this prop doesn't take in to consideration the logistics of doing that. Who and how would regulate that?

^ this was not a c ? (facilitator responded-should be expressed in concern section)

3. If we pass this prop the road remains closed. If we don't pass, the road remains closed. How does this prop change what is happening right now?

DR: This proposal does open the road for emergency vehicles, bikes and the anti-war march on Saturday, and opens discussion about what we do in the future. The point is that we should decide that the ppl in the community who haven't spoken can have a voice, not cops, not city, but us.

4. This prop states that we can hold assemblies on the st and also allow for emergency vehicles and bikes to pass through while we are holding GA meetings. What happens when these vehicles want to pass through when we have a meeting?

DR: This block has alternate routes. Remember 2008, when this city was shut down for weeks because of snow. There are alternate routes.

DR: I used to work with large groups like this at many protests. We can develop systems to alert ppl when to clear the rd and to which side they should travel quickly. We will need to monitor our kids more closely, all of us sharing responsibility.

Concerns:

1. If we vote yes on this proposal, will we still get back the chance to vote yes on the other prop?

2. I was wondering if we don't pass this tonight, will we still hold this from the emergency vehicles tomorrow?

POP: Would we be able to move directly to the friendly amendment stage?

DR: I am sensing a lot of people to move directly toward moving to change. Tomorrow is another day for proposals etc.

3. MY voice is gone today if the prop are not passed. Will the GA be here tomorrow to handle this situation- that made me lose my voice and look foolish.

DR: the problem was today there was division amongst us- and if we don't take care of this today we'll look stupid. If your going to vote to be here in the street- you have to be here in the street .

Discussion/Evolutionary Amendments:

AMENDMENT: I applaud everyone for staying with this process. If we can come to 90 percent agreement to agree with this proposal, we are coming to a decision about this street. I suggest that we open it for ER and Bikes \*\*while also talking to people for wanting to open the street \*\*- would be better as well- it's a better step.

Discussion: I wanted to say this during the concerns, but it's still relevant. I was wondering if any decision besides that last prop- if closing the streets would lead to div. amongst us. I noticed that opening the street- we would still have people insisting on staying the street.

AMENDMENT: I would like to add that we also open the street during rush hours 7-10am , 4-7pm , but we still take the street on the weekends.

AMENDMENT: I would like it to directly state that Occupy Portland has reached an agreement that Main Street will be open to Emergency Vehicles.

POP: I want to address the language used to describe this section of the process, it's confusing. is this discussion and amendments, or just discussion?

DR: Evolution and discussion

DISCUSSION: I've been at Wall St at occupy Wall St for 26 days and pdx's live stream for 2 days. You ppl and myself and those ppl in all those buildings are the 99. 350 ppl on the pdx live stream have asked me for you to consider the words of john infinity circle who's a producer at occupy wall st, bc what you do affects what everyone does. And this occupation is not about pdx it's about the country and the world and so we need to have a voice. i will speak for infinity circle.

- hello occupy pdx, i love you. the st issue: is making mountains out of mole hills. we speak for the 99% bc we are the focal project. however, we are not all of the 99%. we must take in to account, all of the 99%. the city has been with us so far. we dont waste that advantage. i'm sorry i'm not pleasing you all - that's not why i'm here. my concern if we do not open the streets, completely, we will loose the backing of the city.

Facilitator. I want to temp check (we are at about 5 to 11). Focus! At this moment, I personally don't see a large form of agreement in this crowd. I'm happy to call for a temp check about tis last prop. (to explicitly state open to emergency vehicles) ::temp check being taken:::: formal agreement past temp check.



More clarification questions:

1. Are cops included in Emergency Vehicles?

DR: When i wrote the prop i meant ambulances and fire. This will now be amended.

2. Are we proposing that we pass this now and continue discussing whether or not we decide to eventually open the street fully?

DR: Yes. That is the proposal process.

3. What is the process for finding out if EMS or fire vehicles need to come through this space?

DR: Thats a great question. We need a working group.

4. Keller, can you tell us when this will kick in if we come to agreement?

DR: It would begin as soon as we develop a protocol. I would be absolutely a part of that. Because I wouldn't propose anything if I'm not willing to do any work on that.

FORMAL AGREEMENT: THIS HAS NOW BEEN PASSED.

There was a call for a count, but it was clear visually so we don't have a count. Buuuuu we will now count who is standing aside. There are about 13. Now those in favor of the proposal. Obviously that it is more than 90...a large agreement.