

Notes for the General Assembly

Monday, November 21, 2011

Director's Park.

There will be a facilitator training 2 – 4, Saturday, December 3rd. Anyone interested in attending should contact ani at aniraven@gmail.com

Committee announcements:

Included the following (partial list)

- announcement from Spokes Council
 - Spokes agreed last night to move forward in researching the creation of a legal entity for Occupy Portland, to handle donations, etc.
- Announcement of Occu-pella, a group that will carol the Occupy Message, through flash mob. The proposer wanted to get a quick temp check on whether there was energy to go on with this. There was, though some concern regarding timing it to be a “part” of the tree lighting in Pioneer Square. People interested should talk with Bao.
- Kitchen: is continuing to make food for people. They served over 4,000 meals in one day, once. They will continue to take food to a park to feed people,. Information about where might be found on the occupyportland.org website. Wants a huge march against the starvation of the 99%, that would end in a re-encampment.
- Wednesday , November 23rd, there will be a raking and clean-up of Chapman Square. RSVP is required, you can do a couple of hours, or all day. There is more information on occupyportland.org
- Portland People Alliance is putting a call-out for the Solutions Team.

First Proposal:

Proposal: Agreement between Occupy Portland and city/PPB

Jennifer, the author of this proposal read the full 2+ page letter for the assembled. This is a link to the text: <http://occupyportland.org/forum/viewtopic.php?f=36&t=1178&hilit=riot+gear>

There were questions regarding what happens in the case of autonomous actions that would not follow the agreement as it is written.

A: There is text in the agreement that acknowledges some people may take autonomous actions, but as a whole, we would be agreeing to follow traffic laws, etc.

There were concerns regarding this seeming like a compromise of our freedoms to get the cops to de-escalate, not wear riot gear, and do their jobs. Concerns about just saying “no more police repression” without “agreeing” to alter our (already) non-violent behavior.

The proposal was temp checked after two rounds of concerns. The proposal failed the temp check, which means discussion ended at this time. The proposal was not taken to the evolutionary step, or call for agreement.

Proposal Announcements:

Steve Renolds asked to make a general announcement at this time, as he had something time urgent, and he had to leave soon. He said:

He’s running for Congress, Dist. 1. He wants support in the political process, and says that as a 3rd party candidate, he’s being cut out of debates, etc. There is a debate scheduled at the KATU studios, on November 27th.

Proposal announcements (not complete):

- Proposal to develop a strategy to work locally to curtail or stop corporate power. Example of Pennsylvania given as a place this has been done. Information can be found at Paul Cienfuegos’ website. He’s been working on this for more than 10 years, and gave some workshops at Occupy, when we had workshop space. His website is paulcienfuegos.com
- Suggestion to add a new hand-signal to the decision making / GA process--- forming a “V” with palms together, finger tips angled apart would basically act the same as “calling for a vote”—if the assembled feel that there is general support on the proposal, this would be a way to signal to the facilitators that people are ready to move to the agreement stage.
- Suggestion to have general announcements in small clusters throughout the meeting, instead of holding them all at the end. This can give people a chance to digest what’s just happened before moving right into another action item.
- Action committee to hold a march to focus on diversity within the 99% and the movement. This is going to be timed to be the day before a day recognizing immigrants. I think the date proposed was December 17th, 2011.
- Launch99.org is a site created to promote an action of creating hot air balloons that would carry our message.

Second proposal:

The Action Committee proposes a solidarity action with Oakland, who has called for a shut down of west coast ports on December 12th. The full text of a letter of solidarity is read.

During the reading of the letter, most of the assembled “twinkled” throughout.

Questions: Have you done outreach to the unions that would be involved?

A: Not yet, we're doing that tomorrow.

Question: Wouldn't it be better to have the endorsement of the unions (especially the ILWU) before we pass this?

A: Agreed, we'd totally need the union support—offered to withdraw the motion until the unions agreed to the solidarity action. The proposer asked if he would need to bring it back to a GA following the agreement with the unions, to have it approved. There was a lot of support for this proposal, and the only concern expressed was about wanting to get the union support up front.

Facilitator asked the group if they would support the letter of support in spirit now, with the understanding that the Action Group needs buy-in from the ILWU, and / or other key unions working on the ports. Asked if the group would like to empower the action group to move forward with this statement, as soon as the unions agree, without returning to the GA.

There was overwhelming support for this suggestion.

Outcome: Facilitator clarified that in her understanding, this GA just empowered the Action Committee to move on the Solidarity action as soon as they have agreement from the unions. It will not need to return to GA. Again, there is overwhelming support of this statement.

Third Proposal:

Brought by Tad, and the Operations Committee.

Create an online structure to facilitate communication, transparency, and information sharing.

After a round of clarifying questions, it was seen that the people actually participating at the GA had dwindled to about 15 or 20 (down from about 100 at the beginning of the meeting). Concerns shared that this did not seem like an adequate number of people to pass a proposal.

Agreed that Tad will bring the two proposals that he had been on the agenda for tonight, to the Wednesday GA. These two proposals will likely go first on the agenda (barring a serious emergency).

General announcements:

- There is a high-school student working on banning military recruitment efforts. Is seeking support. Anyone that would like to connect about this should talk with Amy.

Meeting wrapped up.