

## Notes for 11/14/2011 General Assembly

### Agenda:

Check in about the weekend  
Committee announcements  
Discussion on GA location for the week  
Proposal announcements  
Jordan has a proposal?  
Discussion of the next steps  
General announcements

### Process Explanation

Icebreaker - small group discussions of most positive experience and ideas for moving forward

Overall we can't separate the encampments, that will tax our solidarity. Strength in numbers.

Our group decided that what we need to do is have a parlay with the Mayor's office and police department to let them know that we intend to continue to be honest and maintain integrity and they need to do the same and we will help them.

New members good, Decentralize and spread.

We need 1000 people at Sat. at 2 pm to take over Washington High School. We need to evolve, like Sam Adams said.

--Missed what was said.

Tie your bandanas in a half hitch. The police will drag you by your bandana until you are choked out.

Count how many people need beds every night so the city knows and bring a friend to GA every night.

After discussions of PSU encampment, have a discussion about having a 24/7 work camp at PSU and stay elsewhere so the students aren't bothered during finals.

Weekly solidarity march for those who can't stay at the camp to show the support from the community.

To move forward, need to communicate better with other Occupations and be unified.

We would like to rename Black Friday to Red White and Blue Friday to encourage purchase of US made goods.

Fav: police letting swarm through. Maintaining a physical space is important, perhaps a foreclosed space.

We still need a visible camp as soon as possible with enforceable boundaries or rules and accountability. Continue outreach and get those 5000 people down to the occupation.

We should use the exploratory team to find abandoned buildings to occupy and pay using donations.

Enjoyed meeting everyone and making mistakes to learn from. Money seems to be a problem, if we occupy places that are financially difficult to remove us from then perhaps the city will move to a toleration policy and break the financial system that keeps us un-occupying.

Build the love.

Town hall meetings for outreach to the broader 99% and more bike actions.

Reoccupy immediately.

Want to see occupations across the city. One base camp and legal daily occupations all over. Video projection on building of photos and videos.

Continue persistent physical occupation and civil disobedience and through the system via the soon to be open council seats.

The upside down flag should be the symbol of the movement. Demand an apology from the city. Capable of more creative solutions. Challenge the police to take the opportunity to rebuild trust and hold themselves accountable and the officers are reprimanded. Occupy Washington High School.

Good to be here and give people who work and have families the ability to be involved.

Along the lines of having several occupations so that if the police remove from one, can go to the others. Also Washington High School. Have a march on Black Friday.

Get money and use those funds to get a warehouse in a central location and occupy parks and other places for one day. This is winter and the climate is not good for occupying.

POP: people only speak and give report back if they are not repeating. Opt not to give report back.

Occupy the PSU Park blocks for a centralized location and a lot of people and the civil peacetime flag.

Have urban planning in the new camp that specifically includes the use of tribes to have accountability of people's actions while they are living with us.

Take as a model, how Pioneer Square was built. PS was intended to be a parking lot and was turned into a square by people without grass. Do that with the former camp.

No amount of money will we accept the silence of the people. Hundreds, possibly thousands, gather to make fliers and have voices heard. We will post this on the fence around the parks. They may silence us, but we will not accept that, we will stand up and fight.

Occupy Holladay Park and the mall on Black Friday.

Keep this a non-violent movement of solidarity and emphasize education to bring in the rest of the 99%.

Mayor Sam Adams wants to repeal corporate personhood, but group said that was weak and wants more. Want presidential permission to look into corporate pressure on politics.

Talk to media more and tell them our side. Assemble every evening in the same place and time so people know what's going on. Delta Park at the end of Yellow Line.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM SEATTLE: Joining LA, SF, Buffalo. Resolution 31337 recognizes the Occupation as a 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment right. Passed unanimously.

## COMMITTEE REPORT BACKS

Action committee: needs help to organize a Black Friday sit in. Taking over multi-national corporations. Will be posted.

Solutions committee: Dec. 5 is legislative deadline. Any Oregon law we want considered, needs to be proposed by then. Have a GA just for this later.

Relaxation Station committee: not official committee, but official enough to get arrested yesterday. Justin Bridges is on his way to talk to them. There was police violence against non-violent people. That information needs to go out, spread that word. It's sad that the eviction had to happen to get these numbers to GA, but love you all.

Justin Bridges: I want to thank all of you for being out here tonight. The police say that they were trying to help me. That they were trying to pull me to safety and protect me from the mob. I announced that I have a broken back. Other people announced that I have a broken back. They proceeded to drag me by my legs. Then they proceeded to flip me around. And when I put my hands behind my back, they tried to break my fingers and said I was resisting arrest. I had a knee driven into my lower back by an officer multiple times. I was then zip tied and when I couldn't walk, they proceeded to scream at me and tell me to stand up. When I couldn't, they picked me up by my arms. They raised my arms behind me past my head. They grabbed my legs and somebody else grabbed my collar. I announced they were choking me. An officer made a joke and said "Because you can speak you are not choking." I passed out. I regained consciousness looking at the trees. We were completely peaceful. Just so you know, I had the lawyers number on my arm. While I was being abused, they scrubbed part of the number off of my arm. We have the right to peacefully assemble. I still love everyone of them with all my heart. I'm sorry I'm not signing now, I have numbness in my arm and leg. My hand is swollen, but I had to come down here and tell everyone of you I love you. Thank you. I have something to show you. This is the jacket I was wearing when I was being beat. How can they say they were being peaceful? Wake up America.

Earlier today the police released a video of his arrest. This contained footage from the police videographers. Earlier, the media team asked for the raw footage. The police said it was unavailable due to an ongoing investigation. Two hours later, they released a cut together video using this footage. I think this means we should get the raw video.

Justin: I told these officers, right before they started the beating that I love everyone of them and that I was disappointed with their actions. All I have to say is the cowards that showed up in uniform yesterday were not the same respectable men that stood on the front lines the morning before. Those are officers of the peace. The cowards yesterday were not the same men. You cannot attack peace with violence and expect us to dissipate. We will only grow stronger. I'm in excruciating pain, but I had to come tell you the truth. The police are bold face liars. Wake up America.

Justin was signing for our GA that I was facilitating right before he was attacked. We were peacefully assembling. We were pushed back and we stood in Main St. for four hours in solidarity with those who were holding the square. We will continue to meet in our GA and exercise our 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment rights to peacefully assemble as long as it take.

We are very concerned that we find every speck of video of any part of the attack. Or photos. If you were there and snapped a picture, please send it to [occupyportland.org](mailto:occupyportland.org). [Radiomaker.keller@gmail.com](mailto:Radiomaker.keller@gmail.com) Anything evidence. There was another gentlemen that was fell before Justin. He yelled out "My back, my back" as he fell. He was dragged away from us, and we don't know who he is. If you know who he is, get in touch with Deborah Norton. Charles aka Earth Child.

A lot of perception around Portland is that this movement consists of just the young and “radicals.” According to the PPB, of the people arrested yesterday, the youngest was 16 and the oldest was 81.

Justin: Grateful for the outpouring of support and Minnesota is putting together a benefit show to help with his medical bills.

Examples like Justin and Scott Olsen and the people on Wall St. that glue and bring this movement together. But that's not all. Let's not just focus on the state of oppression that is visited upon us. Let's use other things to make this movement go forward. One of those things is the GA and another is the Spokes Council. These are things we need to talk about. They are currently the only space we have. Let's discuss where to have these gatherings.

#### REST OF COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS:

From Occupy Salem: Invitation to come to capitol steps on Wednesday at 11 to start legislative phase.

Kitchen committee: Kitchen will be up again as soon as we have a place to occupy. If you want to donate call 503-547-9910.

A Camp: A couple models, sees some \_\_\_\_ people and some people who have been here since the beginning. One bad day don't make a bad week. One bad week don't make a bad month. One bad month don't make a bad year. Sit down when people try to talk, take a drink if you're thirsty, and if you are groggy then jump.

Tomorrow the Women's Caucus is having our first meeting. Unknown when it will be because we've been busy. It will be around 5 or 6. Purpose is to provide a forum to discuss and address women's issue within our community and our movement. Talk to Natasha if you want to join.

Occupy Portland University: having a brain trust 3 pm in Pioneer Square to discuss past and future.

Alex from Information Committee: Occupation is still alive and well. A lot of events are still being planned and going on. Check calendar and there is a wiki page. Check them out, come to events and help plan them.

Finance Committee: Anyone there Saturday have things in storage with AFL-CIO? If you have anything in storage, there is a number to get it.

Facilitation Committee: Tomorrow at 7 will be a spokes council meeting. If you are involved with a committee or caucus come down. It will be at the First Congregational Church 1126 SW Park.

Pit bull puppy found.

Discussion will be around whether spokes will happen tomorrow, so that is not a final plan.

Operations Committee: direct arm of GA and last line of defense and first line of action when there are no other way to fulfill the ratified actions of the GA. Mission is to serve.

Slept under bridge with street families. We have failed a lot of people, we need to come up with a plan. Boston Tea Party inspired revolution, we need to do the same. People are calling for us to have a plan. The pressing interest, the needs of the bleeding edge of the 99% aren't being discussed. I guess I'll just go back to being a street thug.

I've been here for 5 weeks, I've been camping. I was a little confused, I didn't know about OWS, I didn't know shit. I was in a media blackout. You aren't going to silence me. This is not a GA. I lived here for 5 weeks, I give a shit about your GA. Go back to your houses, I don't have a house. My house is a tent on Main St. I don't have anything to say except, thank you. Portland rocks. No back to what I had to say. Thank you because I came here 5 weeks ago and I don't know shit. I rolled up in here and you guys welcomed me and you guys loved me. Now I know A Camp, my info bitches. I love all y'all. Now having said that, now we're shut down. What are we doing? How many of you are going to be here in two weeks. Y'all have some place to live, and I don't have a place to live. I love Portland and I love your homeless and your people with mental issues and your drug addicts and alcoholics. I love Portland, but I ain't got a place to live when this is over. How many of you are going to be here in a week? In a month? We have to take Portland and put it in their faces. We are fucked up, but we are weird as shit. But we love who the fuck we are. So let's make it real. How are we going to do it? That's what this is about, right? This is their shit, they made this. So what are we going to do? What are we occupying next. This is for real, this is not for play.

## DISCUSSION OF WHAT TO DO NEXT

GA Tonight in Pioneer Square and Spokes Council tomorrow and will be going on tomorrow. Where? Facilitator Team is going to propose an idea and we will discuss.

Facilitation team suggests GA's in Pioneer Square and Spokes Council meeting at First Congregational Church for one night tomorrow. Where is the cohesive element going to meet? If we don't have a GA or spokes council we can't move forward.

I like the momentum of dedicated volunteers of GA's at Pioneer Square, can we have the spokes council earlier so people can go to both?

We need to decide where to have spokes council tomorrow and the Wednesday GA.

Have the GA's in Pioneer Square.

POP, we're talking about spokes council.

Instead of having tomorrow's meeting in a church, we do it in Terry Schrunk because it's round.

Terry Schrunk is closed.

Spokes council is different, spoke speaks for the group they are apart of. People sit in a circle and we need a large flat space. An indoor space is amenable to that. The First Congregational Church graciously allowed us space tomorrow and I'm going to be speaking with them for an ongoing basis. Because of their centrality, I suggest we stay there.

We need to change the way this is being decided. I don't know why we're talking about something that has already been decided. GA's drag on and we need to make a decision. Short and sweet.

I think the spokes council model is great. It should happen in a visible central location. Let's do it here.

Currently two options: Pioneer Square and the First Congregational Church. Temp check.

Pioneer Square: more

First Congregational: less

Block and no consensus. Another stack.

POP: This doesn't need to be a decision that reaches consensus. Someone could be empowered to decide that the church is a better venue and we could agree with that and not spend 45 minutes discussing something that is not that important.

Conversation seems unproductive. Another temp check in order to move forward.

POI: OWS employed spokes council and decided to do it inside so that notes could be passed to the spoke.

POI: Spokes council is to decide where they meet, but there wasn't a contingency plan made at the last one.

Consensus on the church.

PROPOSAL

Hold a large march to organize every person who didn't support our eviction at the place we originally marched from, Ankeny Plaza, on Sunday at 3 pm, a week from the arrests. The spokes council will be drafting an open letter tomorrow.

Reminder that Police Chief Mike Reese is planning to run for Mayor.

## QUESTIONS

I propose an amendment that at the end of the march we reoccupy somewhere.  
Amendments come at another point.

I wanted to know where we're meeting.

The proposal is to meet in Ankeny Park, under the west end of the Burnside Bridge where we met on Oct. 6 when we had about 10,000 people.

## CONCERNS

POP: Recommend when deciding to consensus, you don't limit how many clarifying questions are taken. What about the four other people?  
Facilitator didn't see.

Why are we not marching tonight? I marched all night last night.

This proposal is not to the exclusion of anything. The point of this is to get the people who are at home right now to come out.

At what hour would the march begin?

The proposal is for 3 pm. Saturday Market closes at 4 and starts packing up around 3.

Why Sunday and not Saturday?

There are two other events organized for Saturday and didn't want to interfere.

## EVOLUTION

Amendment: At the end of the march, we take another park or the same one.

## QUESTIONS

Do we want to wait until Sunday to have another camp?

We should have the number before taking a camp.

Ankeny Park has shelter from the bridges.

## CONCERNS

POP: The amendment completely changes the proposal. If an amendment completely changes the proposal, it should probably be a different proposal. It isn't efficient.

I'm concerned that the people won't come out in numbers if we are going to occupy at the end.

I understand that a lot of people here have just been through a lot and are operating on very little sleep. Some people have immediate survival needs in their minds. Other people are in heightened states of emotional response to traumatic events. We need to keep that in mind. If we want to discuss reoccupying, it needs to be done in a strategic and organized manner or it will just fail. The police are trained and they operate in shifts. They plan against our actions. Everything we discuss here is public information. Let's be smart.

A march to reoccupy Chapman and Lownsdale, they are fenced. We would need many, many thousands to retake those parks. Think about another park, like the South Park blocks.

For a movement to maintain its momentum, it has to remain fluid. If you think it has to be a certain way, it's going to break. You have to be adaptable. There's more than just marching and occupying. There are ideas to come up with. If it's just a kinetic occupying space, it's just going to be more confrontations. All of this I've been here for this long and I'm more Occupy than you is a problem. The police are middle class and part of the 99% as well. We need to extend respect to everyone.

If we decide to occupy another park after the march, do we have the capacity to fulfill that amendment?

#### TEMP CHECK ON AMENDMENT DISCUSSION

Not enough consensus to move it forward.

#### CONSENSUS FOR PROPOSAL

Serious concerns: 1

My understanding that the other night, 500 people were evicted from their homes. Our brothers in solidarity that didn't have anywhere to go spent the night on the street last night. Police are targeting them. We need a place for them to stay. An occupation is a home.

We shouldn't try to reoccupy with this march, we should reoccupy sooner.

90% support, PASSES

## PROPOSAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Labor Outreach: a proposal announcement to get support from union members. Endorse and edit a resolution passed by the AFL-CIO in June that has a lot in common with the goals of the Occupation. He'll be hanging out over by the tree.

Action Committee: got kicked out because of money. The Portland Business Alliance was afraid that Occupy was going to lose them money on Black Friday. The PBA controls local elections. On Friday we are going to shut down every business that is a part of PBA. Propose to move forward with this action, will be details to come.

If you need a place to stay tonight, go to where that guy is waving, we are forming a mobile occupy and we will go from park to park starting tonight.

Exploratory Indoor Committee: use the resources, \$1600 and possible another \$1000 from Unitarians to rent for a month a large warehouse within ½ mile from here to set up kitchen and day care and everything in there and set up another online account to accept donations. Might not pass GA, might just need to do it.

Sick of the idea of press? Buy Nothing Day, Black Friday, do something positive that day, making gifts, support local businesses, do something to support the local business community and rebuke the bad press.

I propose that we run for mayor. I made copies of the application.

Solution Committee: Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for the Oregon Legislature. Thursday, Dec. 2 be a GA to talk about legislation to introduce.

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special emergency announcement of utmost importance, as many people as possible should go get wasted under the Hawthorne Bridge.

1881, the government stands for corporations. The gouvernement is a corporation. Got to YouTube and look up USA Inc.

A new group called Unsettle Portland to support those who are occupying foreclosed homes and other vacant buildings. For more info go to [unsettleportland.org](http://unsettleportland.org)

Your minds and your brains, listen closely. We need to be focused. Like fucking focused. Get a hold of yourselves. Come together in one unity to make sure this thing goes down. It should go down. You all are the ones that can. If my mom asked me what was going on in this world, I would say that this thing is going on. I love eating cereal.

Went to OWS for a week and learned a lot. If you want to talk, send an e-mail [lovecontext@hotmail.com](mailto:lovecontext@hotmail.com)

While we were occupying Wall St. a working group called Theoretical Practices brought these questions to their GA:

Where do you see the Occupy Movement going in the future?

What is the next stage?

What is the role of occupying public space in our movement?

How are we, the Movement, going to engage with the old system that still exists?

How are we going to reach the rest of our community?

If you are interested in asking or answering these kinds of questions, we would also like to form a Theoretical Practice Working group. E-mail the previous e-mail.

November 17 is a great opportunity to show this city that we still have a movement here. It is a day to occupy the banks. I want to see all of you at 8 am on the east side of the Steel Bridge or at 10 am at the Waterfront Park at Ankeny.

I have a petition about police in riot gear. If this belongs to you, please come get it.

I am one of the homeless people here. I've been from Seattle, at the occupy there for 10 day. At Olympia there for 2 and half weeks. I've been here for a week. The whole reason for sticking it out at Occupy, for all of us who are coming together who wouldn't be coming together if it wasn't for this occupy. I've started to question why I'm here? Why are you here?

Emergency Announcement: Right now, Zucotti Park is being raided! Being raided by over 100 riot cops! I find it coincidental that a few days after mayors had a conference call about what to do about Occupy, we, the largest Occupy, were evicted, Oakland was evicted yesterday and Wall St. is being evicted now. Think about it. Come to the spokes council tomorrow. We need to make this movement stronger. The Spokes Council Meeting is at 7 pm at 1126 SW Park.

Last week, with your approval we formed the liaison committee to act as an informational highway between the occupation and the city. We did this in good faith because our city said they wanted to work with us. Tomorrow morning at 7 am, we as the liaison team are holding a press conference announcing the dissolution of the committee. We will not liaise with a city that uses force against us. The last paragraph says we want to work with the city, and demand an apology to us, the Occupy Movement and the city at large.

Concrete Kid is looking for contact info to get his wallet back.

Shepard feels that it's important to use good language with the media so that our message gets out to the 1%. Be mindful of the language you use.

Field trip to Occupy Seattle. Leaving on Thursday evening, looking for drivers. Will have gas money.

Press Conference tomorrow is at City Hall.