

SpokesCouncil Meeting 11/18
Day 44 of Occupation
Meeting Location: First Congregational Church of Portland

Meeting began at 7 pm: notetaking begins around 8:20 pm as groups reported back from a round of caucusing within groups.

Open Caucus: New Occupation space should be indoors not on grass. Using state/public property has practical difficulties but valuable symbolism. A home base camp is vital to center movement and allow free communication. When you do civic service, make sure people know you're part of the Occupation. There's support for an Occupation-branded civic service. The movement should have clear proposals and sensible missions. Next physical Occupation should have social services as a vital part.

Coffee 0:00: Bring your own mugs. Rumor asks for donations to support their provision of coffee to all comers at all public meetings.

Peace/Safety/Conflict Resolution 1:00:

1. A grand plan is being coordinated. It is a work in progress. P/S/CR needs help to make sure this grand plan reflects the community. There will be non-escalation training. "No-police zone" is still a goal for the next Occupation.
2. The media is involved with oppression.
3. There is a meeting tomorrow Saturday at James Bean coffee house, 2nd and Yamhill, 9:30 am, please participate.

facilitation team encouraged Jokes from Spokes

Medical 3:41: Medical emphasizes: consider Medical's needs in considering new location. Concerns of Occupier accessibility, emergency personnel accessibility, and safe storage.

Occupy PSU 4:40:

1. OPSU through students of PSU has access to legal advice. They want to use this resource to expand idea of community code of conduct. They want to address whether non-PSU students can be on "campus."
2. ASPU has fruit and canned foods for students, there is an option to use this food for the movement.
3. Couch-surfing.org is a website the movement could use to find homeless members housing.
4. OPSU is pursuing creating a student group to educate people and gain official resources.
5. OPSU wants to set up a website but they haven't figured anything out yet.
6. OPSU wants to remind Strategy that the concept of "the American Dream" has great messaging potential.

facilitation asked that people be more succinct

Elder Council 8:38:

1. EC is full of fire.
2. EC wants public funding of elections.
3. EC doesn't see movement ever dying.
4. EC proposes street theater to uplift and spread message.
5. EC is passionately frustrated but has solutions. "A solution to factory farming is going vegan." "Work community gardens."
6. Everyone in EC wants a bigger megaphone.
7. EC encourages you to use prepaid envelopes in credit card offers to send things to credit card companies.

Faith and Spirit 11:45:

1. F&S is planting seeds.
2. F&S is working with Com. Nick Fish to pass resolution to allow congregations to open their parking lots to camping.
3. F&S is looking to connect communities with tribes to ensure sharing of abundance. Particulars might involve hotel vouchers, etc.. F&S needs help with outreach to faith communities. They need resources and volunteers. Contact Kate.
4. F&S has considered a "circle of care" where people offer food/blankets/other emergency supplies at movement meetings.
5. F&S is considering instituting "inter-faith centerings" at starts of meetings to get everyone's energy in order.
6. No one's sleeping, let's support each other. Support yourself to prevent burnout.
7. F&S is considering working with medics to provide chaplains.
8. F&S is working with media, the mainstream media respects people of faith and so they can make good spokespeople.

facilitator emphasized short time remaining, asked again for brevity

Media 16:15:

1. Media is doing outreach for evidence/testimony about police actions against innocent sleeping people.
2. Media wants to shift from reacting to acting, they want to start driving the communication. They ask that everyone come out on Sunday to talk with the public and get the word out so interested people can join. Sunday 3 pm Ankeny Plaza.

Facilitation 18:15:

1. F congratulates other groups on good ideas.
2. F is concerned about re-occupying before safety/community concerns are addressed.
3. F still needs more facilitators, there are meetings every day of the week, it is a strain. It is a beautiful experience to join.
4. F is concerned that having too many all-Occupy meetings is sapping energy, disempowering people whose focus is small group actions. There are many options for meetings, we need to make sure that all meetings are advancing human energy.

temp check revealed widespread support but strong opposition to reducing the number of meetings

Action 24:00

1. Action discussed the actions they're having. Rally post-action with food or music could be good for morale.
2. Action has discussed having a combined meeting with the strategy group. There are allies available—other groups, elders.
3. Action discussed how to be an empowering responsible clearing-house.

Finance 26:50

1. Lysistrata was staged against the Iraq war a while ago. That was the end of a movement. This is the beginning of a movement.
2. Finance committee can't do anything without a way to raise money or handle money. There is an option to create a non-profit organization or work with an existing non-profit organization. Without finances there is no point to a finance committee.
3. FC isn't trying to control anything but they are the finance committee, they think financially.

members expressed displeasure at movement's use of money. facilitators asked that discussion to wait until the later consensus portion of meeting.

Tribal 29:45

1. Homeless people are getting kicked around by the cops. It is hard for the homeless to believe in the movement when they are unsupported on the streets. People need warm safe dry places to sleep. Can people with homes/apartments offer space in solidarity?
2. Tribal is exploring symbolic stands against banks and economic injustice.
3. Tribal wants regular meetings to reinforce solidarity.

Volunteer 31:20:

1. We're here to bring you guys fresh bodies but we don't know where to send people. Help exists. Delegate.
2. Volunteer is exploring different organizational systems feel free to add your input.
3. Volunteers maintains a webpage: <http://occupyportland.org/volunteer/> Go to that webpage to volunteer. Contact Volunteers directly at op.volunteer.coordinator@gmail.com but please use the website first.

Women's Caucus 32:50:

1. WC's discussions are mirrored by safety and other committees.
2. WC reminds community that we sometimes struggle upholding community agreements, they want to start/deepen the conversation about how we can remember and sustain community agreements.

Seamus 34:30

1. Collaboration is good.
2. Meeting tomorrow 10 am Met's Common's Cafe something and foster.

3. There should be a spoke specifically for homeless issue.

facilitator proposed some collaborations between relevant committees.

The rest of the meeting was spent discussing whether Occupy Portland should have a movement-wide finance committee. Substantial philosophical disagreements existed about the symbolic and practical implications of involving money in our movement. The discussion lasted until 10 pm and ended without clear resolution.