

Notes: were taken by Ani

About 40 people were taking part in Wednesday's GA.

The agenda for the meeting was set as:

Introductions / explanation of process

Urgent committee announcements (defined as something a committee or working group needs to bring to the attention of the GA, that is very time sensitive)

The proposal - regarding applying for a permit to establish a "permanent" daytime occupation site

Proposal Announcements

General Announcements

Urgent Committee Announcements:

* A person spoke about the group that has been holding a vigil at city hall since Saturday night, with the message to repeal the camping ban ordinance. She asked for more support for that vigil, and that people come by for a couple of hours to help that effort, and engage the public about our core issues.

* A person spoke about an "Occupy House" that has formed, providing shelter to some occupiers. He says they are having some difficulty with some people who are now staying there who are not really a part of the movement, and they are doing things (engaging in drugs and perhaps violence) that could jeopardize the home. He asked for advice in how to handle the situation.

* A person spoke from the Time Travelers, stating they need support of various kinds. That they have continued to feed people out of their own resources. They also bring people to the meetings and need gas money to continue this kind of support.

Suggestion to approach spending committee with needs. She says they haven't heard her. A member of spending who was present assured her that he heard her, and asked her to work with spending committee to address the issue.

* A man from Legal spoke about the "emergency park closure" that happened last Saturday night. It's legal's understanding that the closure order was given by the Director of City Parks, and they do not believe that this person is authorized to make that order. They are looking into this and other issues. He also announced the plans for the proposal that he was going to bring forward tonight, regarding a permit, and following legal strategy.

A woman asked him what the point of a permitted daytime occupation was. He replied that it was part of an overall legal strategy. She spoke of further concerns of people not supporting those who would remain being left vulnerable, without the support of the large group. Facilitators asked that we hold off on the discussion of this item, until we were discussing the proposal that was directly about it. It was the next thing on the agenda.

Proposal

Alex made the proposal to: Apply for a permit for a park, likely Terry Schunk-- though not necessarily. If the permit is denied, we appeal. If it is denied again, we sue them in court on constitutional grounds regarding the freedom to assemble. Doing this at Terry Schunk could also result in the fences being taken down, to allow use.

Questions were primarily centered on what would happen in the meantime, as the permit / legal

process was pursued. It could take weeks.

Answer: People are working on holding a "permanent" daytime Occupation to happen very soon. There is an emergency meeting called about that for tomorrow at noon. No one is saying to wait on things until this permit is approved.

When concerns were called for, there were none voiced.

Moved into evolution. One suggested amendment was to have this vote be approval for the permit application and legal process only. That if we are issued a permit, the idea would come back to GA and SC for another approval, as it will cost money (no firm figures, but someone said that in their research, it could be around \$750), and could change the character of the movement (to work with a permit).

People were reminded that we have a prior agreement to always seek approval for expenses from Spokes or Spending (depending on the dollar amount), so it would come back for fund allocation, if we were to be granted a permit. Person making the amendment agreed to withdraw the amendment.

Call for Agreement:

No one voiced strong concerns

1 person stood aside

All others voiced agreement.

Proposal was approved!

Proposal Announcements:

1) a person wants to propose at Saturday night's GA a need for a march to protest the National Defense Authorization Act, as it has provisions that allow anyone to be picked up for "terrorism" and processed through military courts. He says he is concerned that Occupy will be targeted. someone points out that there is a march this Friday at 5 pm, meeting at Shemanski Park, to address this issue.

Several people had questions about exactly where the bill was and what it said. The person making the proposal announcement said he was announcing it tonight so everyone can do their own homework to find out more about this Act. There was a lot of energy around this.

2) A person brought forth a proposal to alter the meeting structure, replacing the Monday GA and Friday SC with something new-- perhaps an open forum, or Occupy Cafe, or workgroup time. Along with this announcement came the announcement that there is a structure and process evolution meeting this Sunday, 12/11, at 10 am. People interested should call David and gave his number.

3) There was a proposal announcement made by an individual that there is momentum towards a large national action perhaps to start on May Day with a permanent and huge occupation at the Capitol in Washington DC. He wanted to let folks know he was working on this.

4) A person announced a proposal to recognize Mary Nichols to speak as an autonomous person, but backed by Occupy Portland to speak on behalf of Occupy Portland at an event at City Hall. Details were

not clear but will be presented at the next spokescouncil meeting.

General Announcements:

There were a few, I don't have any specifics on these, except for Lucky, who spoke earlier about the Occupy house that is having challenges. He also asked for support for dog food / vet care. Some others also had information about this situation, and it seems that there are only two Occupiers in the house, with about 10 people who have come in and are doing harmful things.

A person spoke regarding the need for social justice. He is from Lebanon. We must educate one another, and realize that hate breeds hate. (he said more, including when asked about what we could do to support he replied that boycotting Starbucks is one thing to do as he said 10 - 20 % of there profits are supporting ???didn't catch what specifically--again, anyone else with this information?)

Metal came to the facilitation team during the general announcements, to say he had a proposal, that was announced at last night's SC, and needed to be heard tonight. As the facilitators had told the assembled that we were nearly through, the facilitator did a temp check with the group to see if they would hear a second proposal. The vast majority did, so we proceeded.

Proposal:

To invite the chief of the tribe of Portland, otherwise known as Mayor Sam Adams, and the chief of the biggest street gang, otherwise known at Police Chief Mike Reese to become Spokes, and to participate with us as equals to address their concerns, as a part of our process.

Questions about how this differs from the police liaison group that we had and disbanded due to breach of trust from the PPB.

Answer: this is inviting them into the Occupy structure, as part of the 99%. This is not us talking with the police / city outside of our decision making meetings.

Concerns revolved primarily around "security culture" and people not feeling free to speak in front of police. That even if they are of the 99%, their jobs are allied with protecting and maintaining status quo. Another concern was that this seemed like a big deal, potentially working with the city and police in a whole new way, and that there were relatively few people participating in this decision, would it be better to hear it in a larger group (we had about 30 people at this time).

Temp checked the group to see if it has energy to move forward to evolution, the large majority of people did, no one had strong objections.

An amendment was made to invite the cops and mayor to have a spoke, but that they would not have "voting power" much like the open caucus of the SC.

In testing for agreement, there was nearly an even split, with most people not agreeing nor disagreeing. Most did not participate.

One of the assembled asked for us to hold for a moment while he went to get people to be present and focused on the proposal.

Within a couple of minutes we resumed with more people present. Metal restated it, and we went back to concerns, as the people who hadn't been with us during the first part of this discussion had some.

Again, concerns were primarily around police spying, threat of being labeled terrorists and working with cops, inviting them into our structure leaves us open to co-optation.

During the evolution phase, the same idea was brought up regarding having the mayor and police chief be non-voting spokes. The temp check on that was still about half and half. I stated that the group didn't seem to have a lot of enthusiasm for that idea, and people agreed, and it was not made a part of the proposal.

Also during the evolution we heard a mic check from the south end of the block that there were now police present. An announcement over a loudspeaker from the police, (I didn't hear what they announced). As people started to react to this, I asked that we could hold our focus through this discussion, and not respond to the police. People did, and we continued to hear concerns about and support of the proposal.

Metal announced that he would like it tabled for the evening, and that he would be taking it back to SC and a future GA, but that it looked like people weren't ready for this tonight.

We ended the meeting.