

Organizational Meeting Notes: 12-22-11

Present:

Lisa, Axcelle, Ben, Owen, David, Liam, Michael C, Troy, Ann

1) Discussion about challenges faced in the movement, why is strategic coordination needed [what is the space to be used for]?

Challenges:

- Separation of People downtown (underprivileged) and people at office (activist)
- Lack of full information -> small group organization/ delegation limited capacity
- Communication Breakdown – too many groups

Internal communications

- What committees are doing what?
- Autonomy requires Coordination (affiliation with larger groups)
 - o Lack of direction
 - o Coordination While being inclusive
- total inclusivity
- Committee inter-communication and communication outside of committees (with people not organized in that fashion)

Needs:

- Accessibility – Need Open Space
- Boundaries by self selection
- Collective Tone for Actions

2) Discussion and description about proposal on the table for a Strategy Coordination Body, guided by principles of informed action and reflection and unity.

- The way I've proposed to implement the proposal (ie the agenda)
- Approval/ Amendment/ Counter proposals?

Criticisms of Proposed Agenda: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NSxsjWBmhdJCoIxrli5btgCqAKoSz0ONr7bvwmz1s8/edit>

- Needs to be broken into 2 or more parts, the proposed agenda has too much

on it to discuss in one sitting. Proposal to break down things into different meetings we need to get done.

- One seminar on unity and our differences (what is solidarity, for example, to some people its going to the death with them, for others its respecting where people are at right now)
 - Coordination Component
- How can we actually get people to show?
 - By using already used spaces in the facilitation model
- Long Term Strategy (short, medium, and long term) is not addressed as a topic
- Very Intentional Facilitation would be needed, as we have:
 - Diverse Long Term Visions and Goals
 - We have to be ok with not coming to agreement
 - Perhaps principles of unity could result
- Add time to have informal socializing where people can talk about each other's work
- Long Term Vision: (15min)
 - Create criteria for what subjects hit on long term vision.
 - Several items are vital as first steps toward many common visions.
- Not creating work, enriching work/ counter – the work is for plugging people into work

Solutions

- Clear Intention/ Goals solved participation and consistent attendance
- Reasonable and constructive goals
- Good facilitation
- Starting on time

- Personal Outreach to groups you thin want to participate
- Agenda Setting 15 minutes before
- Confrontational statement to start

3) **How should the space be facilitated?**

I have some guiding ideas about facilitation:

A facilitator should try to bring out the opposing views in the room

We should challenge ourselves and each other in these spaces

We should understand and recognize issues of oppression

Ideas on what the Spokes-council we form looks like:

- Committee Show and Tell
- Focused subject based discussions
- 15-20 Minutes for breakouts about current projects
- Strategy Party => Coordination In-reach Party!
- Town Hall like organization
- Survey's every meeting for feedback about things we did not get to

Conversations we could have (that need to happen):

- Long-Term Vision, Goals and Strategy
- NVC – creating constructive space that builds trust and affinity
- Fundamental Schisms:
 - Between people who want to radically change the system or reject it and people who want more access to it.
 - Transformation vs. Revolution (slow, relationship building vs fast moving), **people who want revolution may feel a sense of urgency** – exactly the kind of connections we are looking for, perspective and humanizing our perspectives, rather than dominating based on majority rule or objective “rightness”
 - Depends on your place in time

- Internal vs. External Strategy –
 - We are focusing on the internal in this group.
- Privilege and Oppression
- Clustering – how groups can work together, how groups overlap and relate to one another, building capacity (reminds me of work the coalition for a livable future does)
- Inverse Triangle of Tactics – Strategy – Vision

4) **What groups should be involved**, ie what work is going on in the movement (individuals present their knowledge of groups that exist, we write this down and we see if anyone has updates about work in these groups), and what do these groups need, or how can these groups benefit from a Strategy Coordination space?

Groups to be involved and WHY: [to be fleshed out later]

Tribes + Action (to get in contact with tribes go to vigil table)

Action Lab

Hella 503

Rising Tide

Women's Caucus

Liberation and Solidarity

Outreach

PR – consistently talking about message/ vision

For Next Agenda

Visionary Work:

What work needs to be done in the movement:

some things need to be developed

some things need to be started

Address:

What ideas about the group's structure do we want to consent on?

How can we get groups here? How can we incentivize their participation?

Strategy of individual groups as understood **by Ben and Axcelle on 12_23**

One of the primary concerns coming from Axcelle was that the politically oriented group did not have a full grasp on the social situations that have to be considered to begin to form real solutions. I.e. historical oppression, poverty, resource access etc. This would be something that would have to be addressed if we broke down the group discussions that addressed privilege and the ones that addressed common work.

Ben suggested that we create super-clusters very much like the intercommunications cluster meeting, for groups that are doing similar work and have similar interests

Axcelle was concerned that the groups are ineffective when they are so separated off, for example it has been hard to do anti-oppression work, because we often end up preaching to the choir.

Ben reasserted that it would be helpful to have people plug into super-clusters rather than have to choose between groups.

We identified four super-clusters after discussion about what some groups were trying to accomplish.

Action Committee—

Strategy:

- Get ppl involved
- Bring public attention to issues
- Create Alliances
- Building Capacity for Direct Action and personal empowerment
- Directly harm those benefiting from current economic system

Needs:

- Get people plugged in Follow through
- Rally Points
- Educational Points
- Support Solutions (in Action, more than symbolic)
- breakouts (tried at N17)

Need more clarity on Action Lab (N17), Hella 503, Rising Tide
OP Vision —

Strategy:

- Obtain community input
- Gauging Support for various initiatives
- Empowering ppl to:
 - Take ownership of ideas
 - Plug in
 - Take action and self organize

Needs:

- Some way for people to follow up, or something for them to plug into

Vision plugs into Political Solutions- (IRV, Community Rights, Anticorp Personhood)

Strategy:

- Making the system more accessible to create community solutions
- Providing Relief to acute social problems

Needs:

- More publicity
- To be building Capacity for Direct Action
- To address social as well as political issues with policy
- Can provide excellent outreach opportunities if ???

We also spoke about how we could try to address issues that affect all group's capacity in a way that helps those groups. For example sharing knowledge and skills, and identifying and dealing with oppressive behaviors. This some of this may be able to be solved through a series of discussions that need to happen within larger clusters (that may need to be facilitated, or assisted).

The four clusters Ben and Axcelle identified were:

first the intercommunications cluster, which already exists to try to solve the problem of lacking communication within the branches of communication and the greater movement. They have talked about two things that are relevant to us: Communication exercises within groups and volunteer coordination. Next the planning and logistics, or political action supercluster, which is

mainly made up of action and solutions committees. The rationale behind this is that the various tactics within direct action and policy that are trying to either go around the system or work through it, need to coordinate, and can help and lend power and leverage to one another.

We thought that it is important that historical oppression be addressed in the work we are doing, but ended up creating an enriching supercluster called 'perspectives' that included Our School, the education and anti-oppression groups present.

The building cluster (that actively builds alternatives) which includes groups like OP Healthcare and groups like Food, if they develop into wanting to move into addressing issues of local food security or want to find a sustainable means of providing food for the movement.