

February 21, 2013
Spokes Council

10 people

Agenda

Outreach report back.

Where do we go from here?

Workplace descrimination

Workshop on world view and communication around words: solidarity, respect, communication and discrimination

Many groups have freed themselves from Occupy structure. Publicize that on the next few spokes Council, that FOOP should evolve some articles of inc that to not involve the spokes council.

Formally ask the current group to accept the current reality that we do not have functional spokes. Technically for stuff, the way we are set up we cannot pass anything.

Spokes with at least one person present.

Medical

Labor Solidarity

Finance

Info Team

Calendar Committee

Elder Caucus

Facilitators

Agree that not putting each other down for individual differences.

Synopsis: Provided some advice and support for an attendee in a difficult job position.

Discussed the results of effort to outreach, past mistakes/events, how to proceed.

Talked about whether the spokes format was still appropriate for the current functioning of Occupy.

Reviewed the "Where do we go from here?" proposal.

AGENDA TOPIC: Person seeking assistance with employment situation– interested in some help and any ideas that can help me on my way with workplace discrimination. Problem of gang stocking. A control system. I was singled out for downsizing, single female easy to isolate and abuse without witnesses. I need to break out and get some help. I'm a locomotive engineer and know that. Blacklisted from lawyers. Trying to run me out of money, drooling over my house as we speak. Not comfortable talking in group about it.

Q: How can you be blacklisted from a lawyer.

A: I believe a mental assessment/hearing done behind my back. Uncomfortable talking on livestream.

Suggestion: Check with Jobs for Justice, and Portland Solidarity Network.

Q: Union help?

A: Union conspiring with the railroad, I was a bargaining chip.

Comment: Encourage you. One of the most valuable lessons of occupy, people opening up, learning to advocate for themselves.

1st Report Back on Outreach: Contacted two women as part of outreach. One said no way would she come back. The other said she would like to talk about it. Both said they would be glad to talk to him. Not knowing where we want to go as far as rejuvenating. One suggestion change the name.

2nd Report Back on Outreach: talked to some women and large portions of various radical and activists, noncapitalists groups. All gave the same message, stuff last year in February was too much and there is a large feeling in the way-left wing that we have a “systemic institutional discrimination against those who are not part of the dominant demographic in town.” The process is not streamlined enough to get points across. Talked to multiple groups and multiple people. Most don’t want to come back. The most recent stuff with transgendered community just reinforced that. That is what I got back so far.

3rd Report Back on Outreach: along same line ...Support Everything and Vigil. What I’ve gotten in terms of Occupy, as well as people leaving and not going to meetings, people are not comfortable with Occupy because of sexism, it would probably be good to have those people...if they are concerned maybe they could consult, somehow, on this issue... lots of workshops where we could plug in to get a better understanding and educate ourselves. After listening for a while, ...the people who are still here and involved are open minded and inclusive of everyone and have our norms so everyone can be involved.

Many people thought Occupy name was holding things back. Still involved with Occupy, still networking with Occupy. Have gotten to point now where this is what we have. All those other groups doing their thing and we are all connected. The media,... some people who are focused on their specific agenda, and themselves not wanting to be inclusive if they are so radical, they have their preconceived notions about how other people act, they are all different but headed toward the same thing. The houseless, CSE, EC and other groups, still want to be connected. Also, it has moved to Facebook. Spokes and GA was set up for camps, with many people coming together we needed this function. People have learned how to do it and network without the meetings. We should teach ourselves to communicate better with other people we perceive as different. I am quite comfortable with going forward and people will continue to do what they are doing. Works both ways, tolerate each other but above all we have to go out.

Comment: That spoke to me. I’ve heard from people I’ve talked with: there is something or some group of things that have alienated them from the space and structure of Occupy but they are active doing something somewhere. Something has soured their perception of Occupy. In my perspective, we’ve had some toxic meetings and looking at whose left: the most thoughtful kind welcoming individuals that are left. We need to get message out that, that was then. We were borne one-and-a-half years ago, in organizational time, that was nothing. We are learning all the time. Its’ beyond the February debacle. But we’ve lost since then in other events. That

was a blow up blackblock, radical v. reformist. Before that there was language: decolonize vs. occupy and racist language in January. Then the “feminazi” comment in the Spring. I don’t know how we get to heal these factures but they are there.

We might be a nexus for groups doing a variety of actions. Many groups are about what they are about. Many people have an inkling of what we are about but don’t know where to turn. To continue being a nexus or focal point, to get people plugged in, to act as catalysts: that is all to the good. How to reinvigorate Occupy as a whole is something I am flummoxed by. Not sure how to engage in that. Need to look at our structures. Spokes made since when it was formed Nov 11 and coordinating camp on a daily basis. Spokes makes less sense. Report back night a coordinating night. Evolve our process as our reality evolves.

Comment: I’m a little Pollyanna-ish. Many people have left but only in physical position, not left spiritually. Seeing a lot of that. I was with some young people last night and mentioned one of the people active in occupy. They were like “you guy’s still meet?” we had strong idealistic people in movement. It’s a challenge for everyone to walk through a purity filter. We have strong opinions but we’re willing to work witheach oother. I see a real positive mission for us and something that will grow us.

Comment: Coming back may be a longer slower process, we should not be discourage..

Comment: Occupy Eugene going strong. Many other groups still are going strong. We should not just focus on what we have here and our problems and successes. Those of other occupies that are national and international...I see us as part of that. It keeps me thinking we need to keep connected and keep working on these issues and focusing on being more inclusive ourselves.

Comment: It should be noted that 7 days ago the women of Occupy kicked and took the streets. That’s what the women of Occupy did, even if they were not identifying themselves at that time as the women of Occupy. Two weeks from now, the first Thursday of Women’s History Month. Combine those things to have a resurgence faster than the gradual thing.

Comment: As much as we avoid hierarchy, the GAs seems chaotic. A group has distilled out to the Spokes, that has structure and mutual respect to manage problems and settle differences.

Comment: At one time FOOP had different rules. At present changes are needed to by laws. .

AGENDA TOPIC: Where do we go from here? Proposal – appended to end.

Comment: Important how we present to other groups. They may not want us to be that hub. What we see as our natural job. Communicate with those other groups carefully.

Comment: The proposal is what we’ve been doing. I guess that is just getting this out there. We have our focus to get an office we can afford. Working on getting funds to do that and move on with that. Being on the calendar committee, I am finding a lot more stuff that is going on in those other groups. To move toward that is a great idea because that is what we’ve been doing from the outset. It is something that we have been doing and it is also something that has been

lacking in the social justice movement. That we have all these groups isolated that nobody knows about. All these other groups that are certain things that we need to do together. We are all volunteers. It's all free. We are not competing for funds that other groups may be. The idea of making that more of our focus is great. As far as the potluck and that sort of thing, that is an idea we have been working on too. That would be one of the events.

Comment: One reservation about the meeting we had [ref to Jan Occupy Town Hall]. Feeling in the room that we were the chosen people to do this. Want to make sure we are humble, that we approach people in service not in direction. Only people who want to deal with us This is a great organization, we have great people, serve the larger community, be the service agent, not tell people what they ought to be doing.

Comment: Occupy Semantics would like to talk about the word "Hub" and "Racial" – we are not just a hub we are a drop box and a web-crawler, how you interact with Occupy is up to you. We can be any of these. We are all on the same page – we want people to know we are an open system structure, there is not any particular way you have to interface with Occupy.

Comment: We spend a lot of time treading water. We've already developed a lot of value. Focus on development and listening. How can we provide service and value that will be recognized. Hard not to take advantage of values we have. Focus on those things and it becomes obvious there is an advantage that comes with occupy.

Comment: I have been trying to avoid this discussion. I feel repressed, as a pagan, we do not have such concepts as approaching a community in humility. Rant of Christian left. As a pagan I feel suppressed when say we have to do that. Try to be aware that people in the movement. Approach movement, feel being preached at. Used word service and humility try not to say this is how we have to do it. Pagan's look at service very differently, look at human – pious not take ego out of the equation. I would like people, there are a lot people in the movement who are pagan. These terms.

Comment: Not all pagans have the same reactions. Say "as a pagan" you feel that way. One of my pet peeves, is people saying "we" feel that way. As a priestess I live my life in service. Humility I don't know. I understand this often from the Christian left, but it comes from other places too. What I heard is that we have to understand that we, those who tend to end up in Spokes Council, we are it, give or take one or two, and should not be directing the movement or telling others how to connect.... as holding space that is an open and inclusive structure.

Comment: Yes, that is where I was going. To be crude and "capitalist" about it, this is a market driven operation and we have a service to provide and we have customers.

Comment: ...agreement that there is nothing that makes us special, except some staying power, and we don't get to tell others what they can do.

Comment: Even though I will not ID as pagan, I'm tribal. I might hear what Wuffa advocating for. If you ask someone besides us,sometimes you don't get that humble stuff.

Comment; It's a fine line to draw. Show some discrimination. Don't have to conform to beliefs in Occupy. Fine line where everyone is welcome, that there are somethings that we are not moving toward that some people would like to move.

Comment there is a dominant worldview in Occupy that lacks enough robustness to cover the people in Occupy,... very committed but happen to be of a minority alternate philosophical, outside of main religious groups.

Everyone has a distinct world view on how one uses humility....focused willful active group, taking into consideration what people want.

Comment: On the proposal, take out "repurpose".

Comment: "Hub" still has a hierarchical feel. Consider some other word. Perhaps "Nexus"

Occupy Portland is not just a network but a network on common cause.

Since this is not just internal about about plans, this should go to spokes and GA. Ponder and get feedback for a 3rd draft.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SWYKCj6uE_ekXuMbfXQg3b9R3Lgdf11xxuo3XRvDID8/edit?usp=sharing

It was agreed that the proposal would be put into a google document for people to comment on and a link would be provided for people to access the document.

AGENDA TOPIC: Concerns of a person not in attendance were relayed. The primary concern was that Occupy Portland has become a group rather than a movement. The group does not include other organizations and is not trying to grow. The office, besides the vigil is the main thing we have going.

Comment: Being a single "group" is not in our structure. We could have a more useful conversation if the person with the concerns was present.

AGENDA TOPIC: Need to change structure to interface with FOOP. The structure need to change and evolve with practice and process. FOOP is tied to spokes. It is not functioning in the way outlined. There are usually not enough people in attendance to have a properly constituted Spokes Council.

Mike agreed to facilitate the process with Wuffa of considering the need for a structural change so that FOOP is properly integrated with Occupy.

Ani: will commit to reviewing bringing proposed revisions to Peace and Safety norms. They were originally written while we were in camp. She welcomes help in reviewing with her. They are long and unwieldy and difficult to publically affirm at each meeting.

Comment: a failed policy. Cannot purge weapons.

Comment: the person who brought the weapon was in an emotionally challenged situation.

Announcements;

Info is continuing to look for office space.

Info meets Thurs @ 5 p.m.

Solutions – 5 people are sponsoring legislation to overturn Citizens United. Need people to get involved with coming through new legislation. Solutions meets, Weds at 6:00 pm.

Vigil needs candles.