

Occupy Portland Spokes Council – Portland Oregon April 11, 2013

Spokes Council

Elder

Info

Medical

FoOP

Agenda

Kari-Daniel – email exchange.

Occupy Love

Canvas

Occupy We the People – Fundraiser

GA – special GA for voting on the office space.

Kari-Daniel – email exchange

Emails were sent to entities in the referral directory from Nov 30, 2012.

Kari received several because she was involved in a number of entities.

Action Lab not currently function

We are Oregon – not a Occupy organization but coordinating occupy.

Daniel read e-mail from Occupy.

The reply suggested a comprehensive and simple calendar and a map to show what has sprouted from Occupy.

Daniel responded – found parts deeply disturbing and confusing. Suggesting a name change, office irrelevant....

C: Occupy is focused on the group,...need to focus on movement, new space could create a buzz.

C: Dan K– received an email from Elona – PDXCal.org calendar hub, aggregated calendar, put event oncalendars, list of groups so link to it. She didn't say replace OP with that calendar. Great, if they want to create a hub for activists in PDX. Great, do it. Occupy is international. I don't see it going away. Actions are happening locally, nationally, and internationally, under the Occupy name. Purpose and values are still there. Also, anyone who has ...this at Gresham GA.... [they discussed a name change.] All people no longer associated or feel name is stigmatized are gone, they were gone 6 months ago. Occupy is still alive and we are still doing the work. Kari was one of original leaders, so assume she had some sort of investment in it. ... and other people say its dead. They're in a position to say exactly what she said...to me it seems like all the other groups ...[when we are all spread out and separate]...then all we are is anonymous activists in the community. Occupy is still meaningful,...Vigil, Occupy St. John things are going ahead. Occupy Gresham almost to tears about Occupy Portland not going on.

We're behind and with, the name is not serving us...so we're doing this. To sum it up, if folks want to come and go from Occupy great. Utilize it the way they want or separate and go off, but

to have a formal media,that's also what I got out of Occupy Gresham...putting Occupy to rest?... and it's like ..."no."

C: Giving a new name letter using cap T and O. What she is saying is exactly what we are trying to do. We passed, is exactly what she proposed... in order to have Occupy survive. We've got XL pipeline right now...when this stuff comes up [the next big thing like the bank bail out] there will be another movement, another 99% that will say this hasn't changed and its getting worse.

C: Agree. If corporate media were to read first draft , they would say Occupy was dead and they admit it.

C: Michael – responded directly to Kari – the name Occupy cannot be compromised. It is important, Wall Street is out to screw you and we're out to tell you. Then I come all the way around...there was a little bit of paternalism in it from her side. Those people are fantastic, they are energetic and brilliant. If you listen to the second or last statement, you could have taken that out of the conversation we've been having.

Q: Who is they –

A: Some people in Occupy.

C: Kari and some friends. Looking at getting something effective on line. Great to come here and do it for Occupy. Another concern, with the track record with the GA site and OPDX site not maintained, these sites or groups start up and go away. With that I'm seeing the same thing with this. Its staring out to be this great wonderful thing and who knows where it will be 6 -8 mos down line. Maintain energies over the longer run – not dependent on it in lieu of Occupy.

C: Can't kill Occupy. Can't kill the 99%. The movement will always be there. The letter from Kari indicates they have energies in the same way that we are thinking. Maybe they might be willing to join energies.

C: This kind of a letter is why I am concerned about having relocations subjected to GA. Could monkey wrench whole thing using existing process. Not as emotionally connected. Cases for and against rebranding. To Occupy was a tactic, somehow the tactic got mistaken and confused with the message and the substance of what we were doing, and that is when things went down – defend park instead of message, then put tents up in this park rather than that park. Diluted the message of Occupy. As a tactic, it is ephemeral. We are past that stage, the slogan changes. That is going to be obsolete, 6 months down the road. Advantage is signifying history – important – and connection with groups around the world. A larger discussion down the road. What we do here and what we have heresome people don't like it , we cannot keep everyone happy. This represents commitment responsibility, stability, this is the linchpin that kept occupy together today. Take this away [this – Office Space and Web space], it's gone. Splinter groups go all directions and not talk together. If we are going to go direction to be nexus locally and globally, and what we are historically good at is to educate... when we had park workshops all day 9 a.m. to 11 p.m ...a lot of teach in and educational stuff. A good way to empower people. Those are the things that are not as visible as being pepper sprayed but those are important. As much as mixed about brand what..

C: Agreed. Not attached to the name but not against keeping. Name of a tactic, that became a movement, that became a group. But agree ...not boycotting movement or tactic. Best trait is unification. Website is one piece. Occupy Portland as a Facebook group is still active. Best tactic is to have an office space with computer lab, area for banners, and meetings, teach-ins – that is the best thing we could do as part of a movement. Don't forget Idle No More is still a movement. We should be plugging more into that. What I have noticed with Portland ...CSE Guild Hall, if we found the right space, a big enough space – we have the Guild Hall, Culture Mend, ...we could serve as the community center that says “You don't have a computer lab? Use ours.” We should have them pop up all over the place. We could serve an important part of whatever is going on. We have a pretty reliable funding source. We have not defaulted yet, have we? We have a base that is willing to contribute still. As for the name, I could care less. Why change it. Create a computer lab and a resource center. ... we are constantly being hit with our so called past. All this infighting. Oregon Historic Society ... installing an exhibit. Have those pictures of what happened there and afterwards. Don't give up the name. Did some great things, how can we do some other great things.

C: Oregon Historical Society - they would be amenable – keeping Walmart out of Sellwood they were interested.

C: I agree we should be that great big thing. Unfortunately we are that little thing – we need to accept that. Right out of the box we are not the be all and end all out of this space. The space is a year lease, so we have a restraint on jumping up to a larger space. Nice about the Church all these rooms we can let people use. A great gift to community.

C: As far as general talk about the Occupy Name – other people have expressed sentiments ... some people have evolved beyond occupy because ...they've removed energy from Occupy to get done what they wanted to do. One thing we need to give time and energy to is a decision making model, if we are going to keep Occupy alive. One of the reasons....maybe people are not coming. In a way we do a little bit of a charade by perpetuating the Spokes GA name game--alternating name game. Prior to May Day communicate with each other a way to message during May Daw about how we function over summer and more talk about what we do with space.

C: As far as thoughts about what you're talking about, I think the reason 13th and Couch is so attractive is exposure to public, like buying a couple bill boards. Beyond that, Info people would get ... Keystone, climate change, homeless issues, those are the events and actions that are happening. So the space there would be to build that and do outreach. That is why I am willing to pay \$100 more a mo. Other options don't change a lot: a space with computers where info team could show up.

C: Shoring movies outside. Good way to generate \$ along with barbecues.

C: If we can find a way for the group to step back from the name “Occupy Portland” we make it immortal. But keep Occupy in the title. Where do we stand on the budget?

R: 2100+ 100 today. Another deposit soon. Close to \$3000. Right now at 2700. The new location is \$650/mo. Budgeted about \$150/mo for everything else. Final budget is \$933 per month.

C: Currently no telephone – free online. Clear internet service. For \$50/mo.

C: Might use Google numbers for phone – for Friends of Portland Community Gardens Registered a number and rings on specified phone.

C: Name is important, history is important to refer to and connect us to other Occupys around the world. Eugene has a spot on main street you have to drive past. People don't know we are still here.

C: not thinking separate computer lab – a decentralized office is what we'd be talking about, Occupy office would be everywhere. Gresham – is concerned if we lose occupy PDX, they feed off us. Their reputation is connected to us. Importance to other groups.

C: Heard through grapevine on Facebook world: Occupy Salem is disbanding because of money issues. Diversification and fragmenting going on. We may have an important role not just for this area but for Oregon. ...that would help the general public know about Occupy. No one has asserted ownership of Occupy PDX.

C: Occupy Salem does not seem to be meeting but they meet as Cascadia. They seem to be active, not in meetings, but still active.

C: We were at Occupy St Johns – not running on a lot of cash but money isn't everything. So when it comes to Occupy Salem formally disbanding, that's their loss because it doesn't cost money to occupy.

C: They had an office more about a place for people to come and do some work. You said that they are disbanding...we could not have meeting and say we are disbanding. Things like what Seattle did 8-9 mos ago – no facilitation until others step up. No you don't need money. Gresham is at a church, St Johns meets at Anna Banannas. Here I think it's important to have a place where people can walk in. People from all over the world walk in. Helen Caldecott sat there and had an interview with KBOO.

C: Used to say during camp and until a couple months ago, let action be our currency. Salem in situation where their local stuff gets ignored because folks focus on state issue. They are a cushion for us to come down there. They can reserve steps of capital. But should not outshine the fact that they have their own issues down there. There is no Occupy until you are doing an action in the name of Occupy.

C: How are you keeping the pieces of occupy together? Why are you continuing to do the work.

Consensus: not to get rid of name. Keep going.

C: PBJ moving because don't like being near the homeless.

C: Not a done deal. Only people watching those who have always been against us.

C: What is PAL doing these days? [in hibernation] this is a movement. Movements have ebbs and flows. Its normal. In this case focus on office. Do we call an office or community center. Office says, this is professional get stuff done.

C: Action center is better – activism center. Implies that open to criticisms when they see that you're on OK Cupid . Even though we recognize homeless people need rent and shelter. "Office" negative to professionalism. Relates to how the place gets used. For us it is important that we know what we are thinking about.

C: ...in jest but we don't want them to capture the language from us. The 99% connect... an office where people get together. Occupy Portland.

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Occupy Love – coming to Clinton St theater. 6:30 and 9:00 p.m. V. ripper Q&A via skype between. Hopefully Occupy will get \$700 out of it. More posters to put up. Folks volunteered to contact key people about putting posters up. Mungencakes –getting it organized.

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Officially discuss as part of spokes: Fundraising and informational canvases: Joe K., Danial H. and Dan K. Not a lot to it other than getting trained up and providing information door-to-door. A professional fundraising effort to raise funds for Occupy Portland. Separate from FoOP. They will be promoting Occupy. Goal is raise awareness and funds with a professional canvas 4-5 nights a week.

Q: If this is provisionaly, will canvases get paid? Chosen which group yet?

R: Joe will do organizing. We made it clear he could only do it on his own, we were not authorizing paying anyone. That organization can do whatever they want. But Joe also said that if GA and Spokes did not agree, he would not do it.

C: Sasha- history of Owen Sanders wanting to do it for money. Michael Schultz should talk with Joe.

C: Started several weeks ago, getting the buzz out there. Took it to vigil a few months ago. It will be a paid canvas. Community organizing, paid canvas 3.5 years.

C: Concern – paid not paid, hearing all the arguments about, could give us a bad reputation – Occupy sold out going for money.

Jim – question about messaging.

C: We need the money – Joe K. the ideal guy to do that. He came to us and we had the good communication. Whoever Joe gets to do it, he will train well and [it will be good for] someone who needs the money. There will be things like renting and office and getting a lawyer. We will have to deal with some of that. Emphasis on returning money to Occupy but still be trained right.

C: History and what is happening right now. Engage about what they want. Register for people to vote, sign petitions, going to solutions committee. Occupy St. Johns, Occupy Gresham.

C: Need to get the buzz out there about this idea. It's not a done deal.

C: Possibly like what rumors did with the cookies last year – something like that.

Announcement: Occupy We the People – fundraiser – bob white theater. Funds diverted to GG Williams – going to Cannes film festival. Outside of Occupy. Don't feel obligated to promote. It is on the calendar.

GA to Vote on Office Space

C: Believe strongly in consensus, like it was for first office and when FoOP was created. It is clear ... if spokes and GA ... more people inclined to come.

There was a discussion about having some special meetings on the upcoming office decision and a desire to make sure the broader community is involved.

It was suggested we might have a Sunday meeting.

C: Have meeting on the Sunday and then followup meeting with people writing "yes" or "no" and put in box. Count up at the end of series of meeting. Have several meetings so its all inclusive. Have a discussion then at next meeting new people vote – at end of the week count up.

C: It's been obliquely mentioned several times that we are in need of a procedural change. You are saying you want a consensus. Hard to achieve 90%. A group this size is good for consensus. 30-40 gets ugly. End up in 6 month decision process.

C: Only so many things can be done by consensus. Some things like this have to be done in small group.

C: We have gone through the office move issue numerous times. St francis. Having GAs and Spokes and talking about this. Lots of [important] decisions [have been made] without special GA or spokes. If people are interested or concerned [they can come] here to make these decisions. Mostly be concerned with are we serving Occupy PDX. Homeless show up and say we need a place to be... back to where we were 9 months ago. If there is a concern, ...I know there is a concern from the homeless caucus, ...here a couple weeks ago. Concern about how homeless have been restricted and kicked out of Occupy – not true but that is how they saw. We need to make sure our decisions are sound and we can back up what our actions are. Rather than a special assembly to make this decision. Why are we having this be special.

C: Why – there were just enough voices to be heard, but knowing how this is a long process, many opportunities. You've convinced me that we've progressed and move on without this being a special GA thing.

C: [with multiple meetings you'd get into] voter ID.

C: Rather just get it done – brought-up just because GA.

C: If [folks are] concerned they can come to meeting and express that concern.

C: Put off final decision one more week if we see people against. If they say no, refund all Indigogo money? Don't see any functionality.

C: My suggestion on voting was just because this decision is special. But generally whoever shows up, shows up. That is symptomatic of problem. We are waiting for the bewildered heard to show up. Need to stop doing that. ... that some day 500 people will show up. Focus on what we are good at: having an office space and being the facility for action and hoping that we connect with the next buzz. Cannot just sit waiting for all.

C: Agree with previous comment and that many decisions have been authorized under the current structure.

Jack – Looks like we'll be in Fremont in the interim. As soon as we have office, invite neighbors and other activist groups in. GA in the parking lot.

Announcements

Apr 26 Tom Hhartmann – 1st Unitarian 7 pm. 28th amend ending corporat personhood
Elder Caucus working on gathering with S. Brian Willson chats.

Ana banna's – good for that kind of things. Hot lips pizza. CSEverything.
Many more posts submitted to OP calendar later.