

Occupy Portland – Spokes Council – April 18, 2013

Spokes Council

Represented Spokes (at least one person for each spoke – 11 people)

Medical

Info Team

Elder Caucus

Solutions

Calendar

Spending

Finance

Homeless Caucus

New person from Indianapolis

Code for notes:

Q = question

A = answer

C = comment

R = response

Agenda

Canvas

Houseless Caucus – item

Finance/Spending – fundraising and the office

Announcements

Canvas. The idea began a couple months ago with the fermentation of establishing a paid canvas to answer some needs. Our ability to go out on an organized basis and organize public support is a prime objective of the canvas. The public support comes down in a couple ways that are critical to occupy at this time. On the outreach side we can galvanize people to support things within occupy and with our associated friends who are doing things also -- to raise support and people support for things we are actively doing. The second side is that we need money. This is a good, legitimate, ethical way to allow people to support us. Whether that support comes in in terms of people volunteering themselves or making a financial contribution as a way to empower support. If I give \$10, I am making a major commitment psychologically and financially. A group of us have been fermenting that plan. We certainly don't have all the answers but we have a game plan and we know from our collective experience what a successful canvas should be like. So over the last months we have been getting ...together... in terms of whether there is a collective buy-in with Occupy. We have been talking with FoOP and went to GA for their approval to go forth. Now we're bringing this thought to the Spokes Council. The proposal is to set up a paid canvas with folks who would do it as a job. That is a whole thing to talk about. There is another area, the management of the canvas and how that works, which is another area to talk about. The management is a coordinator and an assistant coordinator. Functionally, administratively, because of the challenge Occupy has with dealing with money, this would be set up as a separate, nonprofit corporation in Oregon. We would not go after 501(C)(3) or (4) because we don't need it. The understanding would be the moneys generated would be used first

for the canvassers, second for overhead of the canvas, then the balance would go to Occupy through FoOP. FoOP would get the money's for whatever we are doing in Occupy. There is a lot to talk about in that. That is the plan. The GA has approved it and FoOP is willing to work with the canvas. The Spokes,...we're here to let you know this is a moving type of a deal and to see how, and if spokes wants to get plugged in, and spread the word in terms of creating the drive for the canvas. I've always been associated with a canvas – Greenpeace, United Community Action. I know the canvassing scene. Dan has experience. We all have experience in one shape or form with canvassing. They can be horrible or great. There are people who would be well served [by the opportunity to work as canvassers] to have way of generating money to free themselves up to be a full time activist. If you are a canvasser, that is not what you are, you are an activist who canvases. Start with 4-5 [people] and build up to 30. You get 30 people going out on a night and talking about specific issues, and getting financial support, you've got something going. That shot of energy would be cool for Occupy.

Activism is to activate.movement that is neither here nor there, ...we just want people to activate. I could canvas for canvassers very easily. Establishment that is occupying our freedoms is

C: Observation that various committees can get materials out through the canvas and to can target local areas issues (including local neighborhood issues).

R: Various committees can brief the canvas and provide materials for getting things out to the community. Ideally, knock on door and I have in my pocket two or three of the hottest local issues as well as a couple national issues, so I have ability to speak to whoever it is, understand their response, and focus my communication in a way that suits that person. Talking about something local that is happening now is the best way to get that response. You only have 5-10 minutes (maybe 15) in a home....we can pass experience on and train people. As opposed to other situations in Occupy, this is a job. People would be asked to work 4-5 days per week and they would get paid for it. And with that would come what is difficult for Occupy....deal with being in a position where the management folks can say "yes" or "no" to folks. Tricky to make sure we are maximizing what is happening in relation to Occupy.

Q: When you get staffed, what kind of population are they able to reach?

A: One person should be able to hit 70 doors in a 4 hour period of time. People are trained not to waste time at certain doors...qualifying the prospect is understanding time and you move on. A well trained canvassers, on a given night, with the appropriate superstructure around them can, generate \$70-\$150 per night, with the issues Occupy has. People will know of Occupy but they might not know about it. With \$150 or \$70 a night, that more than takes care of the salary for the canvasser, which is minimum wage plus the split. If you raise \$100, and minimum is 9\$, \$40 go to you for wages, then \$60 is left. We don't know the splits but you get a chunk, let's say \$20-\$45 for canvassing. That leaves \$40 left. Some of that goes to the canvas overhead. \$20 might go to overhead, then \$20 to Occupy. Then if 30 people are out there, we're getting support for the issues and maybe \$600 per night. Those numbers are real, not made up numbers.

Assumptions are about well-trained canvassers. Assumption: there is a coordinator and bookkeeper to pay. With the weather what it is and turning, it would be reasonable to build a canvas of 30 folks in a few month period of time. If you ask for help with issues and with a

checkbook, people will say “Yes.” Asking for your support and creativity. If we pull this off it can be a shot in the arm.

C: This will be announced at Occupy Love tomorrow and there will be a sign in sheet. Other ways to get this out there is to recruit people for it. Other groups with issues (Occupy Lake Oswego, St Johns, Gresham, etc.) understand that the canvas could go out there and support those issues to their neighbors and people who have concerns in their communities. This is a way to promote.

C: Turns them into a salesmen of an ideology. Turns people into a business.

R: [That’s] a very important question. This is why I’m making sure everyone knows this ahead of time. We know money as Occupy ... that says we don’t know it, need it, we’re above it. A big part of me is the same way. The reality is that on a volunteer basis, right now, the amount of success we’re having with our volunteer effort is not as good as it could be, not even close. Volunteers say we do it when we want. [With the canvas] there is a chance we pollute our own purity. That’s where the folks involved with putting it together and running have the purity and run it ourselves. You can cause a hell of a lot of trouble and make changes with a good canvas.

C: To look at this as a paying gig...look at as an ends to a means rather than means to the end. It is about philanthropy. Any philanthropist should earn some kind of a stipend to keep beating. [This person offered his writing skills.]

C: If there is no progressive organization offering living or minimum wages, then everyone has to work for Monsanto or UPS etc.

C: Joe [the person presenting the canvassing idea] will not be making money.

C: Daniel will be providing leadership for a volunteer canvas – unpaid. People would have choice to volunteer or work for paid canvas. This allows for a lot of creativity for the utilization of that energy. 30 folks go out talking about a local issue: that lights up things!

C: There will be problems about people getting paid or not getting paid. When people have to commit to a certain number of days and hours, people will want to be more....

C: [Should] allow them to canvas when they want.

C: Anyone can put on a pin and say they are Occupy Portland and canvas. No one is being limited or denied. It is true that in nonprofit world every organization is a synthesis between volunteers and paid staff. The biggest obstacles to canvas is not about making 99% like you it’s about helping the 99% resist the 1%, making people more effective.

C: This is exactly what it was brought to spokes for, to get input and peoples thoughts about it. Being put out for thoughts and positive suggestions.

C: I get school of thought that this is like scientology...but this is about balance...if it’s your passion, anyone should earn a wage for what they are passionate for. The purpose of canvassing for this movement would be to help me network and

C: Need for a name for this canvas [to distinguish it from other efforts that might sprout up].

C: Name recognition at the door is key for things. Whatever the name is, it should be quick, classy but have “occupy” in it, and know that we are a separate corporation but we are Occupy. Anyone who wants to know about the money,...[we’ll] be able to show how it goes.

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Homeless Caucus – Lightening’s Sacred Ground Day, May 19. Requested a couple of bbqs briquettes. Get in touch with Lightening at the City Hall vigil if you have one.

Charles at City Council yesterday. Saw Tequila and Jose. Vigil has smoothed things out. Normal healthy functioning, not too much concern about cash.

Spending –on OPDX Info.org, there is the store. You can see pictures of buttons and t-shirts available. Looking at ways to get more donations, if you know of people who can donate items. Busts, buttons, t-shirts. If you know of others who want to contribute, bring them there. Place on website and get more motion.

Q: How are fund raising and the office going?

A: Indigogo - less traffic Have right-sized the office. Rent is now half of what it was. We did not reach the \$2200 goal for moving to larger building, so we’re in a smaller room. Still aggressively looking for a new space. Have about half of what we were looking to get.

C: We should not move ahead too fast on the office given the possible funding that may be coming in from the canvas.

R: Start up St Fancies Work Group – not call it “office” – call it “meeting place.”

Q: There was a time when Spokes Council passed a resolution that we can bleed from general fund. What is the status on that?

A: Does not have knowledge to respond.

R: Previous spokes decided general funds would be expended for rent as needed. All existing money has been exhausted. Only one account with active funding. Starting in May Occupy will take over from paying for the internet from the individual donor who has been paying. There are no operating reserves.

Announcements

May 1st May Day march. Will not be at the south park blocks – at O’Bryant Square. Noon – need help to set up stage. 2:00 security training and money collection training and new songs. 3:00 rally starts with speakers. Start march at 4:00. Return to park at 5:30 for music and decompression. Permit ends at 6:00.

Q: Will there be tabling?

A: They have not decided yet.

If you bring a table probably OK.

Jamu passed word they may need peacekeepers. I'll be sending out word to our peacekeeping group. Silvio will be giving trainings. We'll have some presence. PSU Keystone group will also be peacekeepers. Permitted march and may have a port-a-potty.

SW off of Terrwilliger – city will buy property off Eagle Point – built in 1893.

Before Occupy the Portland police did not like it that a man was on the sidewalk and they tazed him and beat him up. \$300k jury award. Being appealed. City council was at first going to pay other attorneys to be appeals specialist. [sorry I missed the details on what side of the issue the various Council members are on]

SW trying to put a Walmart in Tigard on Dartmouth. Neighborhood assn. Tigard Metzger. Occupy LO is heading up protest.

There is a new set of Occupy cards out including Walmart and Tarsands.

Tomorrow night is Occupy Love. Mungincakes has free tickets for those who cannot afford. Clinton Street Theater 6:30.