

Audre Lorde to Howard Zinn Library
Meeting Minutes | Monday, November 28, 6:30 pm
Facilitators: Heather M. and Anna R.

Introductions

Chris G., Heather M., Justin, Kristin, Anna R., Meghan, Karan, Rebecca, John, Terranova

Free School University

- Eden cannot stay in camp past December. How can we help? Possible areas: signage, microphone equipment management
- ***Action Item*** *Eden was not able to attend meeting - need point person to follow up with her. Details of what assistance is needed is in an email to the listserv from Eden dated 11/28/11 at 3:43pm; subject line: "FSU & the library meeting tonight."*

Financial Accountability WG proposal - This topic to be addressed via email. (Heather)

- Heather M. talked to John and will initiate further discussion via listserv
 - Do we want/need money from the donations to OB? There is [a proposal](#) about determining which working groups get \$100 stipend. Maybe we could ask to be reimbursed for specific items instead?

Long-term/Emergency Planning

- Nonviolence/Civil Disobedience training
 - Cathy Hoffman of the [Nonviolence Working Group](#) facilitated circle discussion and activities related to nonviolence and civil disobedience and provided us with some inspirational quotes and reading materials
 - Rebecca will circulate those readings to listserv
 - Talking about non-violence
 - We had several additional attendees at the meeting who were interested in participating in the training; most of them left once the training was over
 - We began by thinking of a word or phrase that described nonviolence to us; we shared our words with the group and found that most were powerful words that elicited feelings of courage, active engagement, intentional choice and community
 - We continued by sharing stories with partners of ways in which we have each responded to nonviolence in our day-to-day lives; we shared with the group what about our partner's story/our partner inspired us
 - Activity on non-violence
 - We moved outside for an activity related to responding to/intervening in a violent act without making physical contact (Scenario: you come across an individual beating a dog. What to do?)
 - Some successful tactics and interactions included
 - Making eye contact
 - Breaking individual's attention/focus
 - Asking questions that might pique curiosity (e.g., for directions, their name, the dog's name)
 - Commenting on the situation (e.g., looks like you need a cup of coffee)
 - Some unsuccessful tactics
 - Negative actions words - "Stop!" "Don't..."
 - Judgements on action - "That's illegal!" "That's wrong!"
 - Overall - *be creative!* Take attention away from the victim or the

- focus of the violence and channel it in a new direction
 - Cathy shared with us the following: violence is the last resort of those who have lost their imagination
- Discussion: Questions/considerations on civil disobedience
 - Cathy suggests that in addition to having a plan for the books we need to have a plan for ourselves - some of the questions she suggests asking and answering as a group are below
 - What is our collective/community expectation for behavior and for response to arrest, brutality and other violence?
 - What are our fears and feelings related to civil disobedience, arrest and nonviolence?
 - This also connects with our own vision of the library - as a space of housing the spirit of those radicals, activists, change-makers who came before and influence us; as a space to elicit and facilitate reflection, optimism, intentionality; as a space erected in service to the information needs of the movement
 - What are our personal expectations of behavior and response to arrest, brutality and violence?
 - What are our individual fears and feelings related to nonviolent civil disobedience and arrest?
 - How can we support each other in staying committed to nonviolent action in personal awareness, interpersonal interaction and community engagement? What are some cues and tactics for engaging with and quelling anger, frustration, negativity, fear, etc. in one another? (i.e., what are our personal pressure points?)
 - Who's (un)willing and/or (un)able to be arrested?
 - If willing/able to be arrested, how? Being dragged? Walking out with police?
 - Who's willing and able to provide support for arrestees?
 - Support can come in the form of bearing witness, watering plants and house-sitting, contacting partners or other family, ensuring medical and/or legal access while in jail, tracking arrestee from site-of-arrest to jail to court, etc.
 - How should we present our decision to the rest of Dewey Sq.? Might help to share our experience and decisions to get conversations started in other working groups (if not already occurring) at a GA - this might also elicit feedback based on other plans of action, tactics circulating in camp - maybe also email obgroups@occupyboston.org as it seems like many on the lists are different than the GA attendees.

- Future trainings
 - Discussed having a full two-hour nonviolence and civil disobedience training separate from a library meeting; we also floated the idea of meeting for three hours - first two for the training and the third for strategy discussion and reflection
 - Rebecca will put out a Doodle poll for training dates and ask group whether we should do one three hour session that includes training and strategy or two sessions - one for training, one for strategy
- Review of emergency plan
 - Discussed different scenarios including an immediate raid and an eviction with prior notice
 - Thought of alternative situations in which we might not be able to get our cars close enough to the site to load
 - Kristin identified several local parking lots and garages and a local storage facility that might be useful for our use - these will be listed in the emergency document Heather M. is preparing
 - Karan also suggested taking materials to Encuentro 5 at 33 Harrison as a safe space for emergency situations
 - Further developed the list of “vital materials” that we should ensure to remove from camp in either scenario
 - These materials need to be identified in some way - with colored sticker
 - Decided that the emergency plan needs to be re-circulated to the listserv
 - Heather M. will initiate discussion via listserv and circulate document that details full emergency plan - [building on FAQ that Susie created](#)
 - Heather M. will coordinate with Vered to determine whether we’re going to use Twitter or an SMS service to get in touch with one another (**DONE!** - Vered is going to set this up soon. No need for a Twitter account or prior Twitter knowledge to participate.)

Collection Updates

- LibraryThing scanning our collection?
 - Vered emailed the listserv with an update on this project:
 - Bobbe Anderson has volunteered to come to the OB library on Friday, 12/2, around 430pm with a barcode reader to catalog our books

A-Z Library Archive

- Coverage for the Dec. 1st hearing
 - Kristin will be at camp for a few days surrounding the hearing; she’ll try and attend if it’s made public and will report back to this group on any happenings there
 - Heather M. will print court decisions and bring to camp on that day (around 530pm) and coordinate with Legal and Info tents/working groups to provide enough copies for all three locations
 - ***Action Item*** Assistance needed in compiling press coverage of the hearing. Several people needed to keep an eye out for coverage in blogs, local media, international media, indymedia, etc. [Rebecca has created a Google Doc to get us started.](#)

Outreach/Programming

- Coordinated night for librarians to stay over - November 30 through December 2
 - Kristin will email listserv with dates to invite larger number of librarians to sleep in both library and women’s safety tents

- Mobile reference in the Dec. 3rd distributed march
 - Kristin will take lead on coordinating volunteers and getting in touch with march organizers
 - Myrna noted that though she'll be out-of-town, she's willing to assist with pre-planning/coordination

Announcements

- Occupy Boston Women's March - Sunday, Dec. 4
 - Roundtrip march departs from Dewey Sq. from 12noon-2pm, music/spoken word, 2pm-4pm

Facilitators for next meeting

Kristin & Terranova

Items tabled for next meeting

Collection updates

- Book stamp {Rebecca}
- Booksmith sales of our weeded books update {Kristin}

Library Vision & Mission Statement

- Discuss draft {Myrna and Rebecca}

A-Z Library Archive

- Milestone, summit, Occupier documentation update {Kristin}
- Oral History project?

Technology/Communication Issues

- Housing one or more camp computers? {Heather}
- Nick C's laptop - much less overhead related to managing users' time as this could be for us to use when we are in the tent. HM has a security cord and the computer could be kept out of sight when not in use. {Heather or Nick}

Outreach/Programming

- GA announcements from the Library Working Group
- Writing workshop {Angela/Alana}
- Potential community spaces as hosts {Susie}
- Other models for public space libraries/ collections {Rebecca}
- Travelling Collections {Kristin}