

General Assembly

Occupy Boston

3/3/12

notes taken by: Marty (radicaloptimist@occupyboston.org)

WG announcements:

FSU – David, couple things: 1. Tomorrow Sunday Forum in Harvard Sq. After Dewey Sq. Panel Discussion, Katie from outreach and others. Open to the public. 130 to 330 @ DC 45 Mt. Auburn in Harvard Sq. 2. We have a radio show! OBR.FM Lots of great programming! Day before Int. Womens day, special programming

Ideas Wednesday Discussion meeting, 7p 38 Ash St. Rm 505 on Diversity of Tactics.

Safer spaces, working towards community building, meeting each Saturday at 2-3:30 at E5. Community Agreement being brought to GA (on stack). Starting doing joint meetings with other working groups, including Women's Caucus, Decolonize. Coming up on stack: "Statement of commitment to anti-oppression", product of GA workshop.
anna@occupyboston.org

Invest in Boston - City council reviewing legislation to keep city funds in banks that invest in Boston.

QUDUG =- (in pink block) end all marriage all together! Regular meeting 830 friday nights at transportation building. Action coming up tomorrow!!! Meet at E5 at 3p Sunday to get down on the action.

Occupy the T – Continuing to gain momentum, meetings Friday 6p SEIU 615, March 14th 12:30 at transportation building, MBTA public meeting – putting pressure on legislature. Calling out CFO of massdot, privatization expert. Calling him out. Partnering with Mass Senior Action. Lunchtime Action. Middle of the day on a Weds. REALLY cool things planned, visuals. Feeding momentum for mass turnout for April 4th Action. Proposal tonight: call to action for national day of action.

Decolonize - Thanks for coming to the Community Gathering on Monday. It was a great success. Fr those who missed it: a poem by Tiokasin Ghosthorse.

Climate Action - Monday 5:30 steps of the Boston Public Library! Continuation of "Anti-Corruptin Campaign" to get fossil fuel money out of politics. Scott Brown received more than 1\$.9 M from fossil fuel interests and their front groups, and is now trying to help push through the Keystone XL pipeline. He is having a campaign fundraiser Monday at the Hotel next to Copley.

Gen. Strike – weekly meetings Thursday 5:15 at E5. The 15th, bring bands, and people to the meeting on the 15th. Having a block party on May 1st in the financial district. Looking for bands, bbqs, organizations targetting the banks, etc.

Inreach - Open House first Monday's of the month, bring outside folks in, give WGs time to spend with people in small groups. WGs come with ways for people to get involved, not just a mail list: solid actions/next steps.

Secret WG - Keep things secret. Making sure some people don't know certain things (like cops). Keep in mind an awareness of "security culture." Trust people you know you can trust, but only as far as you need to trust them. Come to our WG meetings, if you can figure out where they are.

Social Enterprise WG - Had our first meeting, have experts to help get ideas funded. Next meeting is on the wiki. Next meeting how to set up entities.

Occupy Delaware, Philly – trip north, spreading joy/knowledge, and OB sweatshirts!!!

Strategic Action Assembly! - 5 o'clock this Sunday – planning actions in an open space! Recording the new version of Charlie on the MBTA, recording this Sunday, bring your instruments, voices, ideas, etc...

Inter Occupy - from Delaware, Philly – if interested on being on conference calls or have been on them, flag him down

Women's Caucus – Will be on OB website: GA this Thursday March 8th for Int. Women's Day, going to be at E5, 7p, this Thursday. 7-10pm.

Nick – April 2nd Open House – been meeting with WGs to get descriptions of groups to include on Open House flier. Help distro fliers! Will be discussing at SAA. Also, re: SAA – good event coming up that might merit some attention. (See him). Congress just passed a "no trespass bill," protesting where Secret Service is present considered a federal offense.

Brett - When first moved to Boston – went to Socializing for Justice meetup - a progressive networking opportunity – nonprofits from all different issues, socializing, networking, hosted by a host organization that they do some fundraising for. Doing one for Boston! March 14th Irish pub on Boylston St. Will continue to announce. Needs a couple people to help organize logistics. We want 20-25 people there to help represent OB, converse.

Patty – OD has sweatshirts on the website, giving out pins. Jorge is currently hiking the AT. He has a journal: www.trailjournals.com/halfmoon2012 pictures of OB silkscreen in different places. Holding GA's on the AT!

David – take your day off on May 1st. We're organizing in E. Boston, starting popular assemblies, based on Spain/Argentina popular assemblies. People knew to organizing, doing well, gonna be awesome. Collab with May 1st Coalition.

Patrick – Super Tuesday! - Act heard at the Statehouse: Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana! March 6th Meeting at Dewey Sq at Noon, going over to Statehouse to go to the

hearing for the legalization of Marijuana.

Murphy – friend works at Remingtons : we're loud, we smell, we don't tip well.

Proposals! 1 Rollover and 3 New

Safer Spaces - gonna bring it up next week, don't vote for it. Delay to make sure people can come to the meeting. Working on community agreements and community building in OB. Commitment to Anti Oppression.

OB Radio - OB radio is a vessel for OB to communicate its message, put together programming. Asking for \$1600 to pay rent/expenses to continue having the space they have.

Occupy the T - Trying to make a large mobilization on April 4th. Call to action across the country. Also anniversary of “Beyond Vietnam” and assassination of MLK.

Voting on order of proposals:

Rollover Proposal from Climate Action
Occupy MBTA
OB Radio
Safer Spaces

Proposal 1: Climate Action
Brought by Kathryn on Thursday, rolled over
Originally brought by CASEJ, FSU has cosponsored it.

Synopsis: March 15th Thursday GA to include 15 minute presentation on Fee and Dividend. Raising awareness of options to reduce atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases.

Done Climate Citizens Lobby - promoting Fee and Dividend Carbon tax. Part of a teach-in that FSU/CASEJ planning on controlling Carbon emissions. Giving people sense of where people stand on this issue, to tailor larger presentation. [Explanation of Fee and Dividend – redistributing tax from point of fossil fuel extraction to the public, incentive for clean energy] We need to do something about climate change, this is an important first step.

CC: 15 minutes for discussion? Planned presentation?
Yes, including QnA.

POI: virtually impossible to have something for 15 minutes. (not really a POI).

CC: When?
A week from Thursday.

CC: Are we going to spend a half hour deciding this 15 minute block?
Yes.

Small Group Discussions.

We're Back.

SOS: Thumbs up. I generally don't look to state-based solutions, but we have to deal with CC.

SOS: Great proposal.

SOS; Even if we spend 15 minutes talking about this, its' still worth it. We need to talk MORE about CC.

SOS: We're ALL GONNA DIE.

SOS: Based on stats, much larger chance of bad things happening than not. So let's take action.

SOC: Focus on state-based solution. Also, proposal is about having a discussion at the GA, to the exclusion of other conversations. No procedure in place to make sure that what we discuss is decided horizontally. Concerned about the precedence about bringing proposals to have discussions. We need some sort of mechanism to deal with this ongoing issue.

SOC: Not enough time.

Ammendments:

FA: Max half hour. At least 15 for discussion.

FA: Get some solutions online, things that we can do.

FA: Don't do it at GA.

Re-proposal: Max half hour with at least 15 minutes for discussion. Will get information about Fee and Dividend available before the meeting (online, email).

CC: Was there mention of another event?

Not part of this proposal, there will be another, longer teach-in on this, after the GA.

POI: inviting special guest with knowledge on this, introducing this proposal to make sure there is time for him to speak.

FA: OccupyBoston.org would be a good site to post the information on.

Vote!

[definition of a block]

Passes!

Proposal 2: Occupy the MBTA!

Context: Current policy for calls to action – has to go through the GA. Call for National Day

of Action for Public Transportation on April 4th, 2012.

CC: What is meant by transit?
The ability to get around.

SOS: Everyone should be doing this.

CC: What will happen at the DOA?
Don't know yet, the call has to go out first. Here we've been planning one thing, but different things will happen at different places. To help plan our action, Fridays, 6-8 at SEIU.

CC: GA to approve this action?
GA to approve this CALL to action.

CC: Is there a place/venue so that national actions have a similarity?
Next step will be for interoccupy call, to coordinate.

POI: Interoccupy website has page for calls to action.

POI: Our interoccupy group needs people to help with correspondance! Please come to meetings?

CC: How long did it take to write this?
A long time "about an hour."

Group breakouts.
And we're back!

SOS: Good for OB to making a call to action! Draw attention to some of the worst aspects of austerity in our current system.

SOS: This literally effects everybody. The MBTA is hardworking.

SOS: People need transportation to get jobs! This speaks to financial inequality.

SOS: good public transport is really cool!

SOS: Fully support this. I would help build the railroads. We should coord. with small cities, too!

SOS: This group has been doing a great job recruiting lots of support for the campaign.

SOS: Fantastic proposal. "Transportation should be free" may be hard to digest for some people. But then realized that it should be free, and we should say that.

POI: April 4th is day for final meeting on these hikes/cuts.

SOS: Very well thought out. Really like seeing Boston take leadership on this.

SOC: Tiny concern: don't know that "well-loved" is accurate, when speaking of existing public transportation systems. No language about how this is the lifeline for so many people.

SOC: Nothing is Free. Should be "accessible."

SOC: "Free." "Accessible and affordable" would seem more "realistic."

SOC: National coordinated efforts are a pain in the ass. Support this group, and interoccupy groups need your help with this work.

Amendments

FA: Public transportation is already ours. Redundant to say its a "right."

FA: "well-loved" to "necessary"

FA: include reference to "the commons."

FA: amend the amendments: It COULD be free. Keep that language in there.

Personal stack interlude:

Terra: how do people feel about having other groups come to be part of Open House (tabling, etc.)?

Back to proposal:

"well-loved" to "necessary"

right and accessible to all, instead of "free:

"no to privatization of social capital" (to reference commons)

CC: Not changing preamble?

No.

POI: "Social Capital" includes human relationships. This is something physical.

SOS: I like it.

SOC: Don't like the use of capitalistic language. Concerned that the word "free" is gong, moderating ourselves due to what people might think. We need to be pushing the bar, not conforming with others' standards.

FA: Put "Free" back in.

We already paid for it (taxes).

FA: Would rather not use the word “assets.” Too capitalistic. Like the word “commons.”

FA: “Common Goods.”

FA: “It is ours!”

FA: “public goods”

FA: “Free” triggers thoughts of socialism.

Sustained amendment: “Social Capital” to “our common resources”

blocks? None

vote: Passed!

David: Primate lab at Harvard! 2 primates just passed. Most of them are dehydrated. Tomorrow action at Harvard! Harvard Sq. 1-2:30AM Occupy Harvard will be there.

POI: There was a major scandal last year, primate researcher forged huge amount of data. Needlessly killing primates. Primategate.

Individual stack intermission:

Alex: worried about stress, depression, that people here might be feeling that. Talk to each other, be a community. But today, reminded that you can take time for yourself! It's OK.

Ariel: proxy for Socialist Caucus: demonstration for International Womens Day, March 10th at Noon, meet at Gazebo. Also a benefit show at the Midway in JP, 7P.

Frank: Been doing a lot of work with campaigns and elections. Primaries on Tuesday. If independent can vote for whoever you want. End the Fed rally on Tuesday 3-6 at the Fed (Dewey Sq.).

Will: Keeping things balanced: NDAA goes into effect today, don't disappear. Also, flushing your toilet once is enough water for a person for a day.

Proposal 3: OB radio

Performing dual mission, outreach and in-reach, critical communication channel. Professional

appearance is an imperative. Several programs in place to make it self-sufficient (solicitations, wepay account, fundraiser on/around March 16th). Renting space to produce professional quality programming. Members have purchased/loans for equipment, need to be reimbursed. Obtained significant donations for studio build-out. OB Radio requests \$1,600 to bridge the gap in funding.

CC: We're concerned about our finances. This is not being weighed against requests of other WG's. Why not doing it through the participatory budget process?

A: Decided to bring it to the GA. Would go through PB process if that is the will of the GA.

POI: GA is currently the only way to get money.

CC: How long will \$1600 last?

3 months of rent with \$400 for extraneous expenses, ie. Omni-directional microphones

CC: How much has WG received previously from GA

None. This is the first time OB radio is asking GA for money.

POI: Radio WG has expenses others don't. We need an isolated but accessible space (had to rent space at E5). Done a lot of internal fund-raising. Raised over \$600 already.

CC: Going to provide receipts?

Would like to "Paul Carnes" the money, but will produce receipts. (Yes.)

Break

Marty: Check out Sacred Economics, a new short film about the work of Charles Eisenstein.

Ally: There are people who exist outside of male/female dichotomy. Be aware of pronouns.

POI: fundraiser some time in April

POI: FAWG didn't suspend payments, we did.

POI: EVERYBODY will be able to broadcast. Lots of hours in the week.

POI: Funding is urgent. They need the money soon.

CC: Is this going to be mobile?

Parts of it will be.

CC: How can outsiders get access to this?

Yes – obr.fm or occupyboston.org/radio

Back to proposal:

CC: This is bridge funding?

A: Yes.

Breakouts!

SOS: We're getting lots of attention from folks at other Occupies for our radio programming.

Please come in and do a show!

SOS: enhances efforts of OB.

SOS: Don't intend to come to GA for future funds.

SOS: Could be a really great tool for us to have. We get it going, they'll keep it going (financially).

SOS: People in Georgia gathering to listen to OB radio. It reaches people you would never expect.

SOS: If we want to make a revolution, we need a radio station.

SOS: We can't afford not to spend \$1600 to get voices out there. This is the largest/strongest tool we have.

SOS: View this as an opportunity to extend consensus building process – more room to discuss ideas!

POI: Can call 617 – 50 MYRAD to call in on radio shows.

SOS: This is a great tool to engage in Meme warfare.

SOS: It will be great to listen in Delaware!

SOC: Radio went ahead and built the studio without having funding secured in advance. This is for future costs, correct?
Yes.

SOC: Concerned that this is not enough money.

FA: \$2000

FA: That GA encourages WG's to help produce programming, get speakers, etc...

Announcement:

Training: "Occupy to Organize" hosted by City Life/Vida Urbana - Sat. 2-5 PM at Community Church of Boston

Noah: Preparation for election in November: Occupy the Polls by creating toilet-shaped boxes and toilet-paper shaped ballots that people can symbolically throw in the toilet. People have lost faith in the two-party system.

David: New Working Group! Fashion Action Working Group (new FAWG). We're fashionable. It's gonna be awesome. Going to build connections and have runway shows. \$500 a head galas. Point of Fashion. Don't know when the meetings are, we just came up with this.

Back to Proposal!

[reading amended proposal]

CC: how to work on program?
Come to a meeting to talk about program.

SOS?
No
SOC?
No.
FA?
No.
Blocks?
No.

Proposal Passes!

15 minutes left.

POI: supposed to have 5 minutes for evaluation of the meeting.

Individual Stack.

Angela: gathered some donations she's giving to GA. Also, reflection on Tuesday night GA. Strategic mistake about timing of question for Participatory Budget people. We're not so nice to people when we make mistakes. We make mistakes. We can be accountable for our mistakes.

Rich: Another forum at Salem State for outreach. Last one got 50 people. Aiming for Monday before Open House.

Alex: Challenging BPD to basketball game. Going to discuss it at the SAA tomorrow.

???: Discussions of what kind of actions we can do for outreach. April 4th might be a good option for us to do this (MBTA). Would like to see more excited faces here!

Feedback on the process:

POI: At Occupy Delaware, they only do breakouts where there is a perceived conflict on the proposal.

Great open discussion, time for SOS, SOC. But also might take up too much time, other GA's do it more quickly.

From OD: Like how proposers incorporate amendments. Also like individual announcements as filler. Taking a physical stack - need stack-keeper that is not also facilitating.

From Philly: Philly GA can be hostile. You're nice to each other here.

Possible to look for note-taker BEFORE the GA.

This is been an energizing GA, more than in a long time.

Occupy LA reads Points of Unity at the beginning of GA, also 15 minutes of open discussion on pressing topic.

Take a look at Occupy Portland (OR) model for meeting process structure.

End of GA 8:27 PM.