

OCCUPY BOSTON GA
Saturday, April 21, 2012

Facilitator: Lynne Sticklor
Note-taker: Julie Orlemanski
Location: Copley Square

WORKING GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS

Boston Occupier: Julie
Bumper stickers, subscription forms now available. Please help distribute Issue #7!

Sunday's SAA: Ariel
Bike repair in Noah's Yard; new address not listed on website

Safer Spaces: Anna
Weekly meetings at 2 pm in E5

May 1st: David
Good relationship with May 1st Coalition; get excited!

FSU: David
Monday's Community Gathering, teach-in on peace and economic justice

Queer DA: Allie
New weekly meeting time: 6 pm at Boston Common bandstand, weather permitting
(otherwise, City Place)

INDIVIDUAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Julie: Occupy Arlington "occupying" the Alewife T stop on Monday morning, rallying to preserve Silver Maple Forest and Alewife Creek; all invited.

David: New Bedford protest for better transit; more info when it becomes available.

Charlotte: Bug spray and sunscreen for anyone who needs it!

John: Report-back on City Life eviction blockade; video available. Very moving.

Anna: Student Rally on Wednesday, April 25th, in front of the State House, against Immigrant Oppression.

Jorge: Facilitation will be visiting working group meetings to solicit feedback on GA. Also, May 1st GA is cancelled.

Deb Butler: Report-back on Media WG Audit meeting, in the process of the group's dissolution. Also, announcement of Wednesday's meeting for whole OB community about the transition to life with Media WG: 7 pm in E5.

PROPOSALS

Two roll-over proposals

- I. John Murphy: seeking \$2000 for Occupy Cape Cod
- II. Allie & Justin (and others?): New facilitation process for decision making at GAs

Four new proposals (in order that GA decided to hear them)

- III. Joe, from Occupy JP, seeks \$312 to publicize Occupy JP's actions at Wake up the Earth Festival on May 7.
- IV. Matt Hacker, proposes to have just one GA per week (Tuesday evenings) and one SAA (Saturday nights)
- V. Michael proposes a new facilitation procedure - a "consent stack" for non-controversial proposals
- VI. Justin - a discussion proposal (pending passage of Allie's proposal) about "Why we occupy now," etc.

I. John Murphy: seeking \$2000 for Occupy Cape Cod (OCC); he misplaced the solidarity statement

Support:

Anthony from OWS: Support b/c money is evil; better to spend it in actions.

Concerns:

Allie: Seems like a gift out of nowhere.

Ariel: What about a skill share, a statement of solidarity?

Charlotte: OB has more than just \$ to share

Joseph and Jennifer echo Ariel's concerns.

John clarifies:

OCC did ask for money, but not \$2000 (unclear if they asked for \$1000 or a couple of hundred)

Will be used for anti-nuclear protests as well as educational programs, associated with Cape Cod Summit

Proposed amendments:

(forgot who suggested this) require receipts

(David) cut it back to \$1000

(Jeff) fundraise \$500

(Julie) less money, just for May actions; ask again for summer actions

(Charlotte) \$500, plus access to bail funds, plus OB human resources

(Will) \$500, plus access to bail fund, OB pays for our own transport down there

(Ariel) \$500 ear-marked for OCC bail fund, plus \$500 for as-needed expenses

Amended version #1:

\$1000 for OCC to use as they wish, for educational purposes and actions

Receipts required

Access to bail fund

Statements of support from Allie and Julie

Concerns:

Ariel: Should not have unlimited access to bail fund

Patti: No need for receipts; OCC is not accountable to us

David: No access to OB bail fund

Amended version #2:

\$1000 for May 13th and May 20th actions; a gift to OCC, not requiring receipts

no access to bail funds

PASSED!! ☺

II. Allie's (amended) proposal for new facilitation process for decision making at Gas

Need for more opportunities for discussion in order to find solutions, not just make decisions at GA

Up to the proposer to decide whether to use this procedure

Clarifying questions:

Jorge: Is there a procedure to avoid someone who says, "No!" at every turn.

Allie: Procedure is adaptable. Also, possible to switch into older decision-making process.

Support:

Patti: Gives an option, not a mandate. Allows more discussion

David: Block is not the end of the process.

Marty: Addresses a clear need and makes a space for collaborative creativity and problem solving.

Jordan: Encourages conversation

Jorge: We can build the process together.

Ariel: Lots of thought and conversation went into this.

Concern:

Joe: This could be a long and time-consuming process. We need ways to make decisions more quickly.

PASSED! ☺

III. Joseph's proposal, on behalf of Occupy JP, seeking \$312 to publicize Occupy JP's actions at Wake up the Earth Festival on May 7. Money will be used for a ¼ page newspaper advertisement. Occupy JP's activities will include a float, an info table, and a kid's activity on the theme, "Imagine the neighborhood you would like to live in."

Expedited process: PASSED ☺

IV. Matt Hacker, proposes to have just one GA per week (Tuesday evenings) and one SAA (Saturday nights)

Jorge calls for quorum check. Only Kevin thinks we have quorum. Lost quorum. So, we now move into a discussion period, knowing we won't be making a decision tonight.

Clarifying questions:

Julie asks about the need for such a proposal.

Matt describes need to open up calendar for more kinds of activities, more collaborative and creative organizing, more outreach. GAs are important, as the forum for community-wide decision making. This will allow more people to make GA a priority.

Start date? Matt answers that the start would probably be clarified during amendments.

Ariel POI: During Camp Charlie, more time was desired for encampment GAs.

POI: OWS has done away with GAs.

Concerns:

Favors the "crew" from one particular night.