**NYCGA Minutes 9/10/11**

Posted September 10th, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

**If there are images in this attachment, they will not be displayed.** Download the original attachment

NYC General Assembly- Pre-Occupation

09/10/11

Location?, 5:30p

Facilitators: unknown

Stack taker: N/A ?

Time keeper: N/A?

Minute taker: Richard.

Process Review.

AGENDA

1. Committee Report Backs

2. Individual Report Backs

3. Passed Proposals

1.1.1

National Lawyers Guild HOTLINE FOR ARRESTS September 17: 1(212)679-6018.

it was recommended to call them if you hear of an arrest or if you are arrested.

Send Legal Questions (What can I do legally and where?) to N.L.G. prior to September 17 same phone number.

starting Monday: 1(212)679-6018

Aim to protect protesters

Will attempt to coordinate representatives for those arrested

Legal to sleep on sidewalk with a few specific restrictions

If you are being arrested, try to tell people around you: Who you are; And that you are being arrested (which may be obvious)

Not obligated to speak to police. Within rights to wait for a lawyer (Miranda Rights & the Freedom of Speech [or not to speak])

N.L.G. Observers are being worked out, but spontaneity of September 17 is causing logistical problems 1.1.2 Misc. & stratified reports:

1.1.2.1 Something is going on:

Amarachi Lounge

Tuesday, 7-9pm

325 Franklin Ave.,

Brooklyn, NY 11238

map, directions: http://bit.ly/n6uIqp

For further direction to get here, call: 646-641-4510

Coordination Contact: ?

1.1.2.2 Successful Manu Chow concert

1.1.2.3 outreach Civil Disobedience Training Tuesdays 6:30-8pm 16 Beaver

Coordination Contact: ?

1.1.3 FOOD COMMITTEE

Achieved $800+ in donations, could use way more

Need people to help deliver food to Wall Street and the people on

Needs people to help shop and dumpster dive for good, wasted food

Could use more experienced dumpster divers SPREAD THIS INFO: The website to donate money is www.wepay.com/donate/99275 or bit.ly/sep17

Coordination Contact: CunderscoreG@gmail.com to see how you can help food committee

1.1.4 INTERNET COMMITTEE

Failed to produce a working website as of September 10th

Provided assurances website will be up by September 17th

1.1.5 MEDIA COMMITTEE

Live Streaming Workshop Monday 8:30pm

“No-Space”

84 Havemeyer St

Brooklyn, NY 11211

map: http://bit.ly/oHWbGB

Coordination Contact: marisaholmes@gmail.com

Indie media teams plan to be present

1.1.6 TACTICAL COMMITTEE

Legal fact sheet to be released within the week.

UPDATE: Legal Sheet Ready: http://bit.ly/qnSbfn

1.1.7 STUDENT COMMITTEE

NY Students Rising September 16, Friday 5:00pm

Hunter College (Get drunk?)

Coordination Contact: ???

1.2.1 Someone is gathering volunteers to help provide access to board & bathe logistical spaces for out-of-towners (click here to view the google doc)

1.2.2 Communications Committee Planning

If you want a part in keeping info flowing on September 17th contact richardwmach@gmail.com or the tactical committee,

now the Communications Committee Translations from English to other languages for outreach is important

1.2.2.1 Formation of thematic groups is important for developing bonds within NYCGA & for allowing more proposals to get passed in assemblies with less ideological or semantic debate.

Saying the phrase, “I formally propose” when proposing an item for consideration within the GA. Spain’s “Take the Square” movement wants a contact within the NYCGA to coordinate actions. NYCGA unsure which of having demands or no demands is more prudent.

Language introduced involving solutions instead of demands.

1.3.1

The New York City General Assembly (NYCGA) of September 17th be organized initially in one massive meeting with the purpose of:

providing essential points of information for simply conducting a general assembly providing help and information necessary for the NYCGA to split into smaller assemblies capable of facilitating their own fair, democratic process, if it were that a critical mass of people is reached within the initial assembly; with the knowledge that if these goals were to be impossible to achieve, a backup plan would be implemented.

The smaller GAs then formed would be offered the suggestion to frame the discussion of their proceedings under the following guidelines:

Begin with a discussion of problems that we as individuals, we as a community &/or we as a society are facing, will face, or have faced.

Then a discussion of vision for the future.

Finally, a discussion of what one may possibly feel are solutions to the problems that were discussed or otherwise.

Volunteer Facilitator teams begin by deciding on which process to use that allows a fair and diverse recognition of voices within the assembly they facilitate.

1.3.2 The next NYCGA meet at 3:00pm, making its next meeting:

September 17th, Saturday 3:00pm at Chase Manhattan Plaza.

Hold the initial, massive NYCGA for 30 minutes with the possibility to extend.

The NYCGA will have NO marshals, nor will any be recognized as such by the NYCGA, with any powers to make decisions on behalf of, or speak for, the NYCGA.

A statement was approved for distribution for NYCGA outreach. Read it here

If you have anything to add please post it in the comments section below.

**General Assembly Minutes 9/17/11**

Posted September 17th, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 1

Meeting Date/Time: 9/17/2011 / 7pm EST

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators (F):

Summary:

After meeting in Zuccotti park there were mini break out assembly leading up to the main General Assembly. There was a discusstion about the process of the General Assembly.

The following items were decided:

• We will stay in Liberty Plaza indefinitely

• We will rename Zuccotti park to Liberty Plaza

• We will maintain the space and will be responsible for its up keep

• We will select working and thematic groups

Some Groups that have been suggested (and are active):

Working Groups: Security, Food, Legal, Tactical, Sanitation, Media, Internet Thematic groups: nuclear power and the enviroment, Student education

Please contact Drew@nycga.net [edit: 9/29 1:14a] groups@nycga.net if you represent a thematic or working group.

**General Assembly Minutes 9/18/11**

Posted September 18th, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 2

Meeting Date/Time: 9/18/2011 / 3pm EST

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators (F):

Summary:

Working and thematic groups reported on their progress.

General announcements were made.

Discussion of assembly process.

Brief conversation on community code of conduct/respect.

Extended discussion of the possibility of having police liaisons. Consensus was that we will not have representatives of this body going to police, but we will deal with police as they come to us, and tactical and security and legal will work together to handle this problem.

Extended discussion of a contingency plan if forced out of the park. Consensus was that the tactical work group would be empowered to make the decision if necessary.

Extended discussion of the plan for 9/19. Consensus was reached that one group will do direct action on Wall Street, and another group will stay here and maintain the square.

At this point the assembly broke up for the evening, around 10:30 PM.

**General Assembly Minutes 9/19 10PM**

Posted September 19th, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 3

Meeting Date/Time: 9/19/2011 / 10pm EST

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators (F):

AGENDA

3.1. Report Backs from Working Groups

3.2. Announcements

3.3. Agenda Items

Process Review/Opening Comments

Facilitator (F): We begin with a review of general assembly hand signals. People with questions on the signals are recommended to consult their neighbors about their questions.

F: Open the floor to check-ins from working groups.

3.1. Reportbacks from Working Groups

3.1.1. Food—We all like to eat! We need a lot of people to help get food now. If people are interested in learning how to dumpster, please meet by the food station or get a primer with relevant information from the committee member. They are searching for things for vegetarians, vegans, people with Celiac’s, and everyone else. When they come back, they will need help sorting through those bags. Food will meet immediately.

3.1.2. Media—Earlier they started to work on synthesizing different parts of their web outreach. If anyone has been taking pictures or video, recording sound, or Twittering, please contact them, so they can get everything together. We need to start releasing more of our content to the media. They also have been discussing the point that the media team is challenged because this body has not yet decided upon our message, our points of unity, our demands, or whatever else you want to call them. A lot of press want to know why we’re occupying Wall Street. And if we had those things, the press would know. And more people would come!

3.1.2.1. F: Media puts forward a very good and complicated point. Media would like us to create a list of demands and principals. At this meeting, the process of creating principals will be addressed. We will talk more about this after we’re done introducing working groups.

3.1.3. Legal—they will be meeting at the first break which will be at 10AM.

3.1.4. Schedule-makers—The schedule for tomorrow is as follows:

8AM morning circle. 9AM march till 10ish. 10AM-1PM open time. 1-3:30PM afternoon general assembly. 3:30-4:30PM closing bell march. 4:30-7PM open time. 6PM skill share on securing your online presence and setting up Anonymous and encrypted email. 7-9PM evening general assembly.

F: Thank you schedule-makers!

3.1.5. Direct action—Two outcomes from their meeting.

3.1.5.1. Nonviolence amendment added to a previously mentioned march guideline. The original guideline was “do not instigate cops or pedestrians” but it was changed to “do not instigate cops or pedestrians with physical violence.” 3.1.5.2. Fixed schedule for tomorrow. It was mentioned that there will be an open-bell march at 9AM with a meeting around 8:50 around the front of the park. There will be a closing bell march, also meeting ten minutes earlier at the front of the park.

F: Emergency Announcement: The dumpster dive crew still needs more people. They are on the carpet by the food table.

3.1.6. Privilege working group—Asked for show of hands of how many people participated. It was not very many. She proposes to open the next evening general assembly with another activity about privilege. It would be short. Today they talked about the different forms of privilege including race, class, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. They would like to add a lot more because they feel that many people here have been silenced, and these issues need to be addressed immediately.

Thanks to this awesome new working group that will affect the evolution of this community in a positive way.

3.1.7. Comfort—They brought in some carpet. They have mylar emergency blankets. An organization working with the homeless is currently accepting donations, collecting money by the food. That is to bring the homeless here with us, primarily to pay for transportation so they can join us. If interested: 917-217-5715.

3.1.8. Vibes—Let’s all think of something we did today that made us proud!

3.1.9. Fun, Arts, and Culture—Piggy-backing on the vibe check, people are feeling good, but the energy seems a little low, which is understandable. It has been a long day, we’ve done a lot, we’re awesome, but we’re tired. But we still have the rest of the general assembly to get through, so everybody stand up! Wants to form a radical cheerleader group, so those interested should meet after the general assembly, figure out a time to meet, write cheers, and practice.

3.1.10. Outreach—They had a good outreach meeting. They want to get more people here, they want to get more people of color here, more under-represented people here, and they have a plan to do that. They are making two fliers. The general schedule of Occupy Wall Street and a protest on Thursday. We are reaching out to unions and getting good feedback! They are also going to flier in the burrows. So if anyone wants to help, talk to point person.

3.1.10.1. Working on being multi-lingual. They will have a proposal to have translation available for non-English speakers on fliers and for future general assemblies.

3.1.10.2. Printing out thousands of fliers, bringing them here at noon, so everyone can be outreach.

F: Emergency Announcement: Does anyone have flashlights or headlamps for the dumpster crew? If you have them, please bring them to the far corner.

3.1.11. Tactical—Has been trying to work with the direct action committee to say that if anyone wants to plan their own separate action, come talk to them and legal, and they will give all the tactically-concerned information about whatever they want to do on Wall Street. Gates, streets, routes, all of that.

3.1.12. Teaching—If anyone has skill shares they want to do, or longer classes because we are going to be here for a while, we can plan weekly or daily classes, so come talk to them. They are helping to organize time and space for different classes people want to hold. So if someone wanted to do a Spanish class, come to them and they can work with other people doing classes so there’s not overlap.

3.2 Announcements

3.2.1. Announcement: (Mood supervisor checks in to see how everybody is doing, make sure they are OK.) So how are people feeling? Heard from media group earlier that we need to have a list of demands, so if anybody’s having problems trying to think of any demands, there is a list that they can look at for reference.

3.2.2. Announcement: This evening after breaking into groups, we will be treated to two amazing musicians. Both Spirit Child and Evan Greer are here to entertain us!

3.2.3. Announcement: We have a problem with health. We are all going to get sick if we don’t take care of a couple of things. We need to get enough sleep. There are a couple of things we can do to help prevent sickness in general. Do not drink alcohol, drink a lot of water, and eat as much raw food as you can. If you are feeling sick, these things will help you get better.

3.2.4. Announcement: The Arts & Culture committee came up with a list of events. The first is there is a performance scheduled for when they break into groups—DJ Spirit Child. There will be a Thriller flash mob planned to happen on Wednesday. Choreography will take place tomorrow. If interested, talk to point person. They’d like to do an event tomorrow called the Silent Nonviolent 99%. President Obama and Sarcozi are going to Ellis Island tomorrow. We are trying to organize a group of people to place duct tape over their mouths with 99% written on them and go to the island. They will be talking about that during breakout.

3.3. Agenda Items

3.3.1. Starting with the activity of this evening. What is so extraordinary about what we’re doing here together is that we are pre-figuring the world we want to create in the here and now together. So tonight we are going to break up into groups and come up with, collectively, our principals of unity. Our principals about how we make decisions together, we make food together, we make media together, our principals that guide how we act now, and the world we want to create. Ready!? Principals of solidarity! Break up into groups of ten to fifteen people. We will break for thirty minutes.

Point of process (PoP): At the end of the last general assembly, we tabled the discussion and said we were going to broach the issue of demand, issue message, by beginning this general assembly on that topic. We also said we would open stack on that topic, recognizing that it’s a very big topic and that it will require a process that was part of a thematic group that will involve interested. We are going to have a general stack, but we are going to break up into small groups first. It is true that agreement was not decided on. However, the facilitators are proposing something to the general assembly, and that should be made clear so that we can agree to it.

F: How do people feel about first breaking up into small groups, and then coming back and having an open stack? No one seems to be in disagreement. This is a process, and we are hoping to come up with principals of solidarity because we think what we’re engaged in here together is so incredible. Demands are a separate issue, and we will have to get to that together as well. For tonight, we can focus on what is most powerful and is why people are coming here together. So we ask that in small groups, collectively come up with six points maximum that you want to bring back to the assembly.

Clarification (C) – a demand is “what we want.” A principal is “what we stand for.”

Request for volunteers to convene groups around you.

GROUPS MEET FOR 35 MINUTES, THEN THE ASSEMBLY RECONVENES.

F: Ketchup will notate all ideas. Afterwards, a working group will meet to compose a short list of principals of solidarity to re-present tomorrow at the 1PM assembly.

3.3.1.1. Group 1

Transparency for the community Honesty for the individual

Symbiotic not parasitic relationships Confronting our additions so we can overcome them and change into better people We should not beg for slave labor Knowing our audience so we can know who we’re speaking to.

3.3.1.2. Group 2

All people being truly equal and eliminating all negative “isms” from our culture People before profits Anti-capitalism Against government corruption Direct democracy based on consensus Debt is a form of bondage

3.3.1.3. Group 3

Taxing pollution Purifying psychological and spiritual society Love for money is the root of all evil Banks into public control Harmony with nature Nonviolence The Bolivian UN proposal Lazer’s manifesto Good manners Direct democracy We are all one Bridge the right and the left because the struggle is from top to bottom

3.3.1.4. Group 4

Much has been covered, but they will add: Pro-education, institutional and otherwise Personal responsibility, not apathy Pro-humanity (including family rights)

3.3.1.5. Group 5

Free schooling as well as education in other forms but for the greater good of the world’s needs Alternative to capitalism, starting with the de-privatization of everything

3.3.1.6. Group 6

Opposition to capitalism Mutual aid International solidarity Accountability and transparency Anti-oppression Active empowerment of the marginalized and dispossessed

Community-based collective Non-hierarchical organizing Building revolutionary culture

3.3.1.7. F: All interested in forming a working group to consolidate these points into succinct principals of solidarity, please step forward.

F: We did amazing work, give yourself a hand! Now let’s welcome Spirit Child and Evan Greer!

**NYCGA Minutes 9/21/2011**

Posted September 21st, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 5

Date / Time: 9/21/2011, 1pm

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators:

F: The general assembly is about to begin. You shouldn’t be shy, you shouldn’t be far away, because it’s hard to hear people with different ability to vocalize what they’re saying. Please come closer.

F: People need to be patient with the process and each other and please come closer. Second we need two people, we need two people to act as human mic’s, one over there and one over there so people can hear.

F: On this point if you hear there is an arrest, stay where you are. It’s not helpful. Certain people that have the responsibility to help will go. But this general assembly is important.

F: Hey everybody, if everyone could move forward it will be easier to hear. So please move forward and stay seated if possible. And please keep isles.

F: I’m Katchup, and I’m Emery, and we’re facilitating. I’m a little nervous cuz it’s my first time but this is going to be great.

AGENDA:

5.1. Agenda Items

5.2. Announcements

5.3. Principles Group Presentation

5.4. IWW Discussion

5.5. New Proposals and Agenda Items

5.1. Agenda Items

5.1.1. First agenda item, some people would like to have a moment of silence for Troy Davis who will probably be executed today at 7pm. (silence) We are all Troy Davis. Next, we will do a review of the process and of hand signals.

F: Someone was just arrested, where is the legal ledger. I’m going to take care of it.

F: If you have something to say just raise your hand and you will be added to the stack by our stack-takers. Make sure that what you have to say is relevant to whatever agenda item we’re on at that time.

Point of Process (POP): Can the stack taker please stand up so everyone can see her.

Stack: Hi everyone, I’m Ashley, I’ll be doing progressive stack for this GA. That means that the minorities or those who are traditional marginalized will be put to the front.

F: Next hand signal is this, if you agree with something this will indicate that. If you are tepid, more like this. If you don’t feel good about it, more like this. Next one, this is Point of Process, if you think that the process that this assembly follows is not being followed for any reason make this symbol we will call on you and you can point that out. Next symbol is Point of Information, that means if you have specific information pertaining to something someone says you may add that information. You will be called on directly. An example of specific information for instance if someone says “Mary has been arrested,” but you know that Kate has been arrested, you may point that out. It is not for questions or opinions. Next is BLock, if the group seems to be coming to consensus and you have a major ethical or safety concern about the consensus the group is coming to that is when you block. If you merely have a concern or question there are other times for that. If you cannot hear do this (point up).

5.1.2. Next agenda item, work group report backs. Will a rep from everyone work group please come up even if you don’t have anything major it is helpful for the GA to see who you are in case they are interested in working on your group.

F: Quick important announcement first, if you have any information on arrests that have happened today, today please take that information over there (Patrick). Names, birthdates, videos, pictures.

5.1.2.1. Direct Action – if you’re arrested shout your name as loud as you can a few times but don’t resist.

5.1.2.2. Legal – The exact same announcement as this guys is true for the legal working group. If you have any information about anybody who’s been arrested, especially documentary footage related to the arrest come talk to me. Other legal working group info will be coming.

5.1.2.3. Direct Action – Hi everybody I’m sandy from direct action. I just want to say we’ve gotten so much better from our marches, however just a reminder of our guidelines.

5.1.2.3.1. Don’t instigate conflict with cops or pedestrians with physical violence.

5.1.2.3.2. Stay together and keep moving.

5.1.2.3.3. Empower pacers in the front middle and rear of the march to direct the route, which is spontaneous. Final reminder, hand signals. (F,R,L,U-turn). Respect diversity of tactics but respect how your actions can affect the larger group. Take necessary steps to disassociate yourself from the larger group if you feel your actions will negatively reflect the group. There was a discussion for an evacuation plan if we are dispersed from the park. It was decided to group with legal to hash that out.

5.1.2.3.4. If you have some really cool new chants please see us or feel free to start them up.

5.1.2.3.5. It was discussed there should be new roles during marches as security people who would in the event of an arrest call out “all eyes, cameras forward, others backward” this means for cameras and legal team folks to go forward to document and others to fall back and continue the march. Our group discusses strategies for direct actions and POP if we have individual questions about what a working group is doing, see them individually.

5.1.2.3.6. Final point from direct action affinity groups, as in groups who want to do their own thing, please try to talk to the legal group and let them know what you’re doing in case of anything they are aware of actions you plan to do. If you feel comfortable.

F: Announcement – Mariel has been released.

5.1.2.4. Hi everybody, I’m Camile, I’m from the food working group. We have redesigned the kitchen area so be mindful of the three medians because we’re trying to keep a working space. If you’re not in food crew, do not enter the space. The median that’s parallel with the food needs to have all personal items removed from around it so that we can turn that area in to a donation drop of spot and a craft center. Another point, be mindful, try to keep the area clean, save your water bottles, label your bottles, soon we will have water to refill. On a happy point, we will have a special surprise for everyone tonight.

F: I may not have made it clear, can a rep from every working group please line up here.

5.1.2.5. I’m a rep from legal. We need things like folders and envelopes and notebooks, if you have any give them to me. Also really if you see an arrest, come and tell me because the people arrested might need witnesses in the future if they feel that the police used excessive force and they will need to contact you. So if you see anything related to an arrest talk to me. We will have a table set up right by media.

5.1.2.6. Media – most of what we’re doing here has to do with media. Some of the videos of the arrests have passed 50,000 views. Those videos are our biggest opportunity to spread the message. Please find me an we’ll make a sign that people can post their ideas on how to most effectively use the unfortunate circumstance of an arrest. Also we are going to make a sign that directs people who have videos of arrests that are getting thousands of views to link our donation pages to those videos. In closing find me if you have any media related ideas, thank you.

F: Quick update on my previous announcement, Mariel is coming here now. Please let her speak when she arrives.

5.1.2.7. Live Stream – I’m part of the live stream media group. My name is Luke, we’re having many issues. If anyone is capable of capturing and logging footage we need help, I’ll

be right over there. I’m fucked with the stream team, anyone with a phone that can download the quick app and can sign up or an account of livestream.com can help us stream this properly. We have editors in three cities that are mixing our live streams in to one channel, join us.

F: Quick announcement. Each working group now has 60 seconds. When your time is up, I’ll come tap your shoulder.

5.1.2.8. Medical – I’m from medical, your help is important. If you have any cuts, scrapes, or anything else wrong see the medical table. Also if you have any medical training please see us.

5.1.2.9. Town planning – Robert, town planning. Welcome to your town. Lorenzo in the red hat and I require a plan of this park if you find one on the internet that shows benches.

5.1.2.10. Hi everyone I’m Lizzy. I’m one of your comfort care coordinators. Will the rest stand up and make yourself known. These are your comfort care coordinators. How are you all doing? Do you have what you need to be comfortable? Not looking so good. If not please come see one of us. Your comfort center has moved and in doing so many have displaced peoples’ bedding that was left out. If your bedding is missing it may be located there, which is to the left of medical. And speaking of abandoned bedding I would like to request that as soon as you get up from sleeping, please bundle your sleeping gear and place it in a nearby pile with other peoples’ bedding unless you are okay with your bedding becoming someone else’s. Finally we have lots of donations for your comfort arriving daily and if you care about everyone’s comfort come see one of us.

F: Okay, we’re having some hearing problems. We’re going to have a pause for her to share.

(Mariel talked about what happened.) “They claim I was arrested for interfering with my brother’s arrest.”

F: Okay as I was saying before it is helpful for hearing if people move up an consolidate. Also can I have two volunteers to stand here and here and be especially loud peoples’ mic’s.

F: We were tasked by the GA to synthesize the things that you thought and wrote down as principles of solidarity. We’re the working group that’s synthesizing the thoughts that came out of you so that we can consolidate them for you to discuss further. We’ve made great progress, we will have print-outs for you at the next GA at 7pm to discuss. These points of solidarity are about us getting together to know how we think and for it to lay the foundation for demands by you.

F: The legal team will be meeting at 3:30 over there if you would like to join at 4:00 there will be a know your rights training.

F: We made a working group to come up with a mission statement for our group. This is what we came up with. “we are a collection of people with diverse beliefs using a direct democratic process in a GA open to the public to discuss, find solutions, and mobilize ourselves to create a better tomorrow. We invite people of all beliefs and backgrounds to join the struggle at Liberty Plaza.” It’s on the agenda to talk about further.

5.2. Announcements

F: People with announcements, like working groups you’d like to form, or other things related to the whole group please come up.

5.2.1. Hey guys, my name is Regan, I’m checking on the vibes. Feeling a lack of enthusiasm over here, wanted to check how we’re doing. Let me know if there is anything I can do for you I love you all.

F: We are doing progressive stack. We have a very long list of males already, just be aware.

5.2.2. Kristen – Hi I’m Kristen and I’m trying to set up child care. We have a space over there in front of the medical table so if anyone wants to help, come see me.

5.2.3. Andrew – It’s come to my attention that we need a sign committee. Some of these are slightly opinionated. We have a schedule for the GA so when agenda points are made they can be listed chronologically so if you have something you want to talk about, you know when to be here. We need a sign with the donation page links, a sign directing people with groups to their facilitators, requesting donations, creative action signs, especially when arrests are happening, finally for purchases. You can find the materials over here near the signs

5.2.4. Kat – hi I’m Kat. If anybody would like to be in the topless dancing committee I can choreograph a simple line dance so we can all look wicked-badass. Come find me.

5.2.5. Media working group quick announcement about people who are on the fringe, both literally and metaphorically in the group. They say things that supposedly represent our views but in reality do not. The media working group wants you to be aware of these people and stay far away from them.

5.2.6. Hey everybody how ya doin? I see hundreds of cameras taking thousands of pictures, I don’t have a camera but I would like beautiful, empowering pictures of this space. I suggest if you have a camera you find other people with cameras and talk to each other and take thousands of pictures and make them in to a smaller selection of amazing pictures. For example, when I lived in Cairo during the revolution a Facebook album of women participating in the Egyptian revolution, went viral. It is one of the most inspiring things I have ever seen. I encourage you to do something similar or completely the same.

F: Two announcements, thirteen minutes left for announcements. So I’m gonna cut people off with a tap after one minute. Second there is a Troy Davis march and vigil today in Harlem – 125th , Adam Clayton, Fowel Blvd at 6pm til 9. The march will leave the state building and go to Saint Mary’s church at W 126th st. Let’s be there and show solidarity. Second Patch Adams called me yesterday to say that the revolution needs to be fun and humanizing and he’s with us, congrats.

5.2.7. Hi I’m Ray, I just wanted to remind everyone that we have a schedule right there that you can add stuff to. I would recommend that you add meeting places for these meet-ups or announce when they are happening. Feel free to add your stuff

5.2.8. Nathan – You may know that this is not the only occupation being planned in the US for this fall. There’s a place in Washington, DC, called Freedom plaza, sound familiar? Starting on Oct 6, a group is planning a massive occupation there and they want to be in solidarity. They are having a fundraiser tonight at the bowery? Poetry club in NYC at 6pm. It will be comedy, if you want to come with me let me know. DR this is also happening in San Fran, CA along with us right now, look it up.

Point of Information – Paris too, people were just arrested at the stock exchange. (a few other mentions of similar actions)

5.2.9. Daniel – I just wanted to make sure everyone was aware that there was also a group or bike blocking to utilize bikes to further our cause.

F: We have only males from here. We want to check in with the ladies. Feel free to join the stack, we have room for a few more speakers.

5.2.10. Drew – Hello I’m from the internet committee. If you are live blogging or would like to add to the GA website see me or Kelly.

F: We’re going to close stack on announcements.

5.2.11. Beautiful people, happy international peace day. I’ve seen many people here who are aware of and who support our brother Bradley Manning. I have an announcement, there is a rally this Friday in Union Square at 6pm, SW side of the square by the stairs. The rally is organized by many peace groups including Code Pink, world can’t wait, Brooklyn for peace, vets for peace, NY committee to stop FBI repression. Please join us Fri 6pm Union Square, southwest side. Support Bradley Manning, the alleged WikiLeaks whistleblower.

F: Real quick, I would like to encourage the people in the back to move forward.

5.2.12. Justin – I’m starting a new committee for community relations. It is a committee to establish and nurture positive, empowering relations with local business, something, and wall st workers.

5.2.13. Holly – I am here to represent women. This country has put a war on our reproductive rights. There is a war on the people. There is a war on drugs. On civil rights. And we are gathered here today to show them that we have a voice. To show them that we can protest for our rights. For all the women in the city, stand up for yourself and support planned parenthood.

5.2.14. Alex – I have a new group that I’d like to propose if I doesn’t already exist. Is there a clean-up crew? We all should be responsible every day to make this space better, cleaner than it was when we found and occupied it. So please do your individual part and talk to sanitation if you’d like to help. Sweep, wipe off surfaces, thank you.

5.2.15. Rachel – I would like to start a group if there isn’t one already. Yesterday me and another protester sat in Starbucks for 4 or 5 hours with signs attached to our laptops for other works to see. If you’d like to do something similar see me.

Point of Information: See outreach.

F: Urgent message. I got an e-mail from Noam Chomsky. Comrade Chomsky is standing in solidarity with our movement. He is currently on tour in Europe but he said he will mention our cause and movement during his speeches.

F: And now we’re going to have a message from the coalition for public education.

5.2.16. My name is Radio Raheem. I’m one of the pioneers of the conscious hip-hop movement. We don’t need an amplifier, we are the amp. My ancestors bought and sold as stock right on Wall Street. I am here today to stand in solidarity with young students here. I have a message from some of the founding fathers of conscious hip-hop starting with the last poets. All the way from Paris they are getting your live stream and are totally in support of this movement. I brought here with me one of our giants in the community. He has stood with our people struggling to show our corruption and mis-education system. You can find him all over Google. I know we don’t have much time so he’ll be brief. His name is Jituweusi. Thank you.

5.2.16.1. Thank you brother Radio Raheem. Thank you young people. I feel grateful to be here this afternoon. In 1968 I stood in the halls of Columbia and address the students that had taken over the university. You remember 1968! You remember the world was in revolution in 1968. Young people were in the streets all over this country. Just as they were in the streets in 1968 I want them to be in the streets today. You are leading the way, sending a message. Continue to conduct this movement and move it forward. Thank you very much.

F: Okay we have one last time sensitive announcement

5.2.17. I’m Jack from Seattle to form a short-term group for Troy Davis. Tonight the state of Georgia will murder him and his main crime is being black.

F: How’s everybody feeling? Is there anybody that’s not feeling good?

5.3. Next agenda item is principles group, please come up.

5.3.1. I’m part of the principles of solidarity group. I’m working with a bunch of people on the principles that you guys gave us two days ago and I’m working with another group as well. I’m going to staples right now to get print outs of what we’ve done. So this evening we can talk about what we’ve done synthesizing the principles. Earlier we broke out in to a bunch of subgroups where people broke and a noted what they cared for. There was a lot of redundancy, what we’re trying to do is eliminate that and put it in to language that is accessible to everyone. I encourage everyone in order to be a part of this movement to participate in that discussion.

5.3.2. Mission statement group – due to a conversation with the principles I with to retract the idea that what I said was a mission statement our group will meet with their group to coordinate to come up with a better idea of what to call what we were coming up with. Anyone with ideas on that look for the principles group.

5.4. Next up we have the IWW. I would like to introduce. Joseph Sanchez of the IWW.

5.4.1. Hi everybody. I’ve been out here a few nights, I’m glad you all are here. I came out here today to talk about our advertising, workplace justice campaign. Maria Corona was a worker who worked there, it’s a sweatshop located in Brooklyn. She will speak about her experience and Diana will translate.

5.4.2. Good morning. I worked for 5 years. I used to work for 75-80 hours. They never paid me overtime or vacations or sick days. I didn’t have the right to celebrate July 4th cause my boss said I wasn’t American. I had to work or go home. And for wanting to join the union he fired me and 22 coworkers. And now we’re united with the union and we’re fighting really hard but there is no strength without the union. We have to remain united to accomplish justice. I think we’re going to win because there was a lot of injustice there to the coworkers. He used to pay us $4/hr or $3.75/hr and thanks to the union we have opened up and we’re going to fight together. And we need to open our eyes because sometimes they think they can do what they want. Because our brothers and sisters must fight united for our rights as people. We are mothers and fathers and we must fight for the future of our children. Thank you all for the invitation.

????? so tomorrow we’re calling on tenuva? To honor the rights of its distribution workers. We’re going to their headquarters in NJ and we’re asking you all to put on your agenda items to give tenuva? A phone call tomorrow. I’ll make leaflet with phone #’s and I’ll come by tonight to distribute. Thank you everyone.

5.5. Okay next up if you have a formulated proposal like with a working group now you may raise your hand to get on stack to propose new agenda items. Anyone?

F: Announcement stack is being taken by a new person.

5.5.1. ACLU has handouts about what to do if you’re stopped by the police. There’s another handout about knowing your rights when you’re demonstrating in NYC. You can also get that from them.

5.5.2. I spoke to you earlier about fringe elements, I want to add that I was warned about a specific individual who was doing what I said. That’s all.

5.5.3. If you’ve been here in the evening you might have seen a projector and a screen which projected thoughts that people here and across the world. So if you see it tonight come up and participate and also the app that runs it (vibe) is useful at other times.

5.5.4. One more thing, the chance of rain is 60%, be prepared.

F: That’s it. Love you guys, thank you for participating.

**NYCGA Minutes 9/23/11**

Posted September 23rd, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 7

Date / Time: 9/23/2011 / ?

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators:

F: Review of Process (Hand Signals and their Meaning)

AGENDA

7.1. Working Group Report Backs

7.2. Announcements

7.3. Agenda Items (Legal, Consolidation of Principles, Direct Action)

7.1. Working Group Report Backs

7.1.1. Medic – Needs more people with medical experience who are willing to help or at least more people to undergo training to be part of the Medic Working Group.

7.1.2. Internet – Announced that they are now working closely with occupywallst.org to ensure information is spread to the public.

7.1.3. Legal – Announced that there would be a proposal later in the GA regarding a retainer with a law firm and its implications on the occupation.

7.1.4. Arts – Announced that on Saturday (09/24/11) at 2:30PM there would be a small concert for those interested in hearing music. Also, on Sunday (09/25/11) at 1PM there would be a one man theater.

7.1.5. Direct Action – Announced that they would be giving a presentation later in the meeting on Solidarity and the Police.

7.1.6. Rain Committee – Called for volunteers that were willing to take people in for the evening so that they could rest and be dry. Also, there is a nearby shelter that could potentially take in around twenty individuals.

7.1.7. Principles of Consolidation – Announced that they would be presenting a second working draft of our Principles of Solidarity and would be submitting a proposal pertaining to it.

7.1.8. Town Planning – Called for a discussion on the issue of dogs in the plaza.

7.1.9. Facilitation Committee – Announced that there would be facilitation training at 12PM and 6PM for those who would like to take an active role in helping to run general assemblies.

7.2. Announcements

7.2.1. Kevin – Is putting together a magazine and has called for submissions of writing and art and has welcomed anyone to join him in helping to put it together.

7.2.2. Eric – Voiced his concern about the ‘message’ of the movement, explaining that he feels that it is important to have a more defined goal (referring to Wall St).

7.2.3. Louise – Suggested that the Occupy Wall Street movement setup an Open Forum to field questions and educate the general populace about what we are doing.

7.2.4. Lorenzo – Asked that everyone be proactive about educating themselves about the movement and all aspects of it to better understand its purpose.

7.2.5. Corelle – Announced that there would be a support group meeting for those with faith.

7.2.6. Robert – Announced he would be leading a teach-in about the corruption of the ‘Bank of America,’ in front of one of the branches after the GA.

7.2.7. Max – Made a requested for individuals who are interested in being interviewed about their experiences with the OWS movement and how it pertains to other global movements.

7.2.8. Jesse – Announced that there would be a Day of Action against Global Warming and Climate Change at the UN, Saturday (09/24/11) at 2PM.

7.2.9. Amanda – Announced that there will be a teach-in on Feminism and invited people to seek her out for more information.

7.2.10. Matt – Suggested that Outreach be present at concerts in NYC to spread the message of OWS.

7.2.11. Peter – Proposed that there be a designated smoking area.

7.2.12. Ted – Called for more tech support for the group.

7.2. 13. There was another announcement made out of order during the agenda that will be presented here: An arrestee support group has been established and encourages anyone who has been arrested or may be arrested to seek them out.

7.3. Agenda

7.3.1. Legal – Proposed that the group cancel its retainer with a specific law firm based on various reasons and moved to have consensus after explaining the situation in depth.

7.3.1.1. Consensus was reached and it was decided that the retainer would be canceled.

7.3.2. Principles of Consolidation – Proposed that the second draft of our Principals of Solidarity be posted online to show the online community and the world at large that steps are being take to better refine the message of the movement.

7.3.2.1. Many individuals voiced concerns including: no mention of the environment, issues with the language used and how it might be perceived and the concern that a ‘draft’ should not be the first submission presented to the world at large.

7.3.2.2. After some in depth and important information it was explained that the document would be a ‘living’ document, a draft for our unifying principals, that is being proposed to be posted online.

7.3.2.3. There was a move for consensus but there were four blocks:

7.3.2.3.1. The first block, regarding the use of the phrase ‘redistribution of wealth’ and how it sounded dangerously similar to theft, explained their position. After it was decided, via consensus, that that particular item would be removed before posting online, the block was removed.

7.3.2.3.2. A second block was made regarding the importance of ensuring this document was ‘open source’. After the sentiment was echoed by the group it was explained that the document would be ‘open source’ to as full an extent as possible. The block was then removed.

7.3.2.3.3. A third block was presented but then removed due to a misunderstanding.

7.3.2.3.4. A fourth block was presented pointing out that the media would misinterpret or not understand the document in its current form. The individual blocking proposed that the document not be put online until a finalized list of demands could be made. After much negotiation and discussion, the importance and urgency of getting something to the public was stressed and eventually the block was removed.

7.3.2.4. The GA then moved again for consensus and everyone was thrilled that consensus had been reached, the document would be posted online, in one of the most beautiful examples of a true democracy that I, personally, have ever seen.

7.3.3. Direct Action – Gave a presentation on the importance of recognizing privilege and how that pertains to an individual’s perception of the police. It was also stressed, in a very well worded essay, that not everyone views the police as being on our side and that that view point is completely valid and necessary.

At the closing of the General Assembly a donated of symbolic food from Japanese refugees was presented to the group in an act of solidarity to our purpose and struggle.

**NYCGA Minutes 9/26/2011**

Posted September 26th, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 10

Date / Time: 9/26/2011

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators:

AGENDA

10.1. Working Group Report Backs

10.2. Announcements

10.3. Open Forum

10.1. Working Group Report Backs

10.1.1. Comfort — Alan. Needs more people, needs a number of things like space blankets, blankets, pillows, etc.

10.1.2. Outreach — A number of events planned. There are four subcommittees—canvassing, guerrilla, organizational, and materials. Starting canvassing today and Wednesday they are going to have an official canvass training, possibly after GA. See Nalini.

10.1.3. Facilitation — Andy. They are having a meeting to allow for criticism of the facilitation process. People who want to facilitate should get training. It is open to everyone, we would especially encourage people who have experience with group dynamics.

10.1.4. Direct Action — Sandy. If you have a direct action you would like to propose, form a small group, form a thorough proposal, and present to the direct action group. We will write down upcoming marches, events, etc., that people can join. Direct action is planning a march for this weekend. Today at 4 a march to support professors who might lose their healthcare. This is in place of the usual 3:30 march. There will be an event where the elite of Manhatten will celebrate themselves at fancy restaurants, chocolate stores. Leave at 5:30 to disrupt their fun. Ask for questions. Also an agenda item for relocation plan.

10.1.5. Arts and Culture — Alex. Just had a very exciting arts and culture meeting. Over fifty people joined, and a dog! Discussed many stunts to create civil disobedience around the financial district and other areas. Come to him or information booth to know what’s up. They need more people to have fun and fight back.

10.1.6. Finance — They have about $3000 available. They will have more available tomorrow when they get a credit union account, and they can transfer money into it. They are working on financial transparency, and they will have charts showing where all the money has gone. They are also working to determine which accounts online, such as Paypal and other money services are directed to them and which ones are not. We should know that by the end of today or tomorrow. There is $25,000 altogether.

10.1.7. Recycling — The amount of recyclables being thrown in the trash is disgusting. Anyone who wants to help with recycling please meet by the first aid station after the general assembly meeting. Plastics that are recyclable include any blown plastic. This includes water bottles, Gatorade bottles, milk and water jugs.

10.1.8. Food — If people have specialized dietary needs, during meal time is not the time to let them know. Go talk to them in the kitchen anytime, they are always there. They close after hours, they need your help. They are having a meeting at 4 over in the kitchen. If you’re interested in helping, join them.

10.2. Announcements

10.2.1. United NY.org — They brought shirts, and they are in solidarity.

10.2.2. Ten people were interviewed for news coverage. Only one of them was a woman. The 99% are not 90% men. Today at 4PM there will be a media training for women or people who are not male identified. If that describes you, and you have ever felt that you had something to say to the press, but it’s not that important, it’s probably be said, it can wait, or someone else can probably say it better than me—please come to this training! Please meet them over there and learn together. Some veteran media people from her organization have offered to help.

10.2.3. Ray — Wants to get a group together to talk about things ruining the planet. This includes energy companies, the banks that finance them to do gross natural resource extraction, like deep-water drilling, hydro-fracking, etc. If interested, talk to Ray.

10.2.4. Gabe — Stay calm and totally peaceful and nonviolent no matter what! This whole event was featured on the front page of the New York Times! The mainstream media are opening their eyes to what’s happening.

10.2.5. Jeff Moss — Running for president for the second time. He witnessed our government arrange the 9/11 attack. He has the tapes. Not one newspaper or TV station will run his paid advertisements. Speak to him if interested. Keep up the great work.

10.2.6. Info — Want to make sure the name, location, of group meeting times are updated. They will be keeping all pertinent information in an accordion folder.

10.2.7. Ted — Wants everyone to take part in the work he’s been doing for a year to help popularize activism and community development. It’s a massively multi-player real-life game with a lot of venture capital interests. He’s been working hard to keep them away because it needs to be for the people. He spoke with a researcher in gaming at Carnegie Melon, and he thinks there’s a good chance it could take over the whole world. Meet him in an hour by the

library. If you’re interested in open source, sustainable development, play, and the outdoors, and movement, you’ll probably like this. You can look it up online at lghtsrc.org.

10.2.8. Anyone interested in rhythms and drumming meet at 5.

10.2.9. Arthur— Wants to propose a thematic group on the issue of nationalism and imperialism. Although this happens in the United States, this is not a national issue. So some things to consider would be branding with American flags and pro-national discussion.

10.2.10. Ray — Has a letter from a soldier in Iraq who participates in their own general assembly. They have their own working groups, but due to time constrictions, they should give their ideas in a more condensed form. They are going to come join us at the end of November in uniform! Conclusions their working groups have come to:

10.2.10.1. They think our one demand should be the complete reform and isolation of the stock exchange commission. They think we should demand that accountability of health and audited and that commission be completely isolated from any politician, lobbyist, or executive, to prevent biased rulings. 10.2.10.2. They feel like a marginalized group. They would like to propose we come up with some kind of forum to represent bodies that can’t physically be here, so that we don’t miss out on possibly indispensable information. 10.2.10.3. They would like us to know they are coming with a ton of military tactical information that is used by the NYPD. They can help us with biochemical warfare like tear gas, pepper spray, and other forces used against us.

10.2.11. Speak Easy Caucus — This caucus is for anyone not 100% male-identified. We are writing a letter to Colbert because we are upset at how non-males were portrayed on that show. We are sending a letter mentioning the fact that only males were interviewed, and that one of our sisters was portrayed as only a naked female body and was not allowed to speak.

10.2.12. There should be a separation between corporations and state just like church and state. No longer should it be that the more money you have = the more say you have in government.

10.2.13. Slutwalk this Saturday! This is a March that started in Toronto when the head of police there excused rape by the way the women dressed. This march is leaving at noon on Saturday at Union Square. If you are interested in creating a group to march from here to join them to express their solidarity, come talk to him.

10.2.14. Michael — Came from Philadelphia in response to the police repression of this demonstration, and he’s been greatly moved by the people here. Especially touched by the presence of organized labor. We need more workers and people of color. Racism is the greatest tool that capitalists use to divide us. Has noticed a presence of some fascist forces here. Has found repeated copies of The American Free Press at the literature table. It is a Nazi paper, calling John Brown a serial killer. He understands we carry a variety of perspectives, but racism is inexcusable. That being said, national chauvinistic attitudes, fascist and racist political movements, such as Tea Party and Ron Paul should be excluded.

10.2.15. I’m a night transit worker in the subway, and he’s a member of the Transport Workers Union. Proud to have been a striker against Wall Street and the banks in 2005.

When you pay your fare, about 25% will go to MTA bonds for tax free revenue to bankers and Wall Street crooks. He is also a member of the United National Anti-War coalition, which was established a year ago at a conference of 800 people. Their position is out now in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Somalia. Was reading an article about how Afghanistan has incredible mineral resources. According to Scientific American, it may become the most important mining country in the world. Invites everyone to a meeting tonight of the Anti-War Coalition. They will also speak about the actions that have taken place here and the police brutality over the weekend. They will mainly concentrate on October 15 demonstration. They will be protesting at the Afghan mission, the Libyan mission, Israeli mission, they say OUT NOW.

10.2.16. Do not deface any property!

10.3. Open Forum

People may feel free to leave.

**NYGA Minutes 9/27/11**

Posted September 27th, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 11

Date / Time: 9/27/2011

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators:

AGENDA

11.1. Report Backs

11.2. Announcements

11.3. Agenda Items (Demands)

11.1. Announcements/Report Backs

11.1.1. Direct Action: meeting tomorrow at 11AM at the library

11.1.2. Media: looking to video the democratic process and is looking for more donated gear Contact media if you have media of photo to submit. Email media: owsimages@yahoo.com

11.1.3. Legal: Arrestees with DATs or just court dates will meet on Thursday and Friday to discuss the case. Legal suggests that you come up with a strategy first together. This may not be a consensus decision – everyone has autonomy – but a collective strategy will be powerful. The National Lawyers Guide (green hats) do mass defense – they watch for police misconduct. Before talking about your criminal case – first talk to your lawyer.

11.1.4. October is the month of rage. October 5th students and community groups and workers will take part in a student walk out. Meeting after the GA. If anyone wants a flyer.

11.1.5. Community relations: Food, donations, support in general, gonna expand that. One thing we’re doing is a walking tour of neighborhood at 10am tomorrow. Come along and invite tourists and everyone. If you want to work with us meet us at 10 am. Man with brown hat. Come to community group!

11.1.6. Arts and Culture: I would like to invite artists and everyone who wants to share music, poetry and paintings to be here on the square — art and music belong with people. There are legal issues that the police are using to try and suppress our art. But that does not stop us. Ways to dance around the cracks in the system. We are developing a framework to develop … nyga.net for info. Lastly, we have some stunts planned, for example a zombie

march! Financial district, money hungry. a beautiful peoples’ stage that started today. If you want to know more, we hold meetings at noon?? And 6pm.

11.1.7. Open source solutions: We are the free library open source technology group. Our mission is to make sure everyone knows what free library open source means. It means you have the right to use, modify, improve and share information, tools, data, knowledge, that you need to create the world you want. You cannot have the world you want using proprietary solutions with corporations which don’t care about your rights. Come to library, we will give you Linux. Come to library if you know about Linux. And we’re going to space using open source technology. And we will all be free. Informational videos about this movement, so we can spread everywhere in the world. Other thing we’ll work on is inter-group support. With open source technology, the other thing we’d like to tdo is supply some support for our demands. So all of us can participate in that. How does that sound? Meeting over there (broadway) after the meeting, and in general.

11.1.8. Comfort: Kerry from comfort. If you gave your laundry to be done, it’s done. Please pick it up. It’s between medical and comfort. Second thing, if it rains we have plenty of ponchos and towels, but we need more. That’s all.

11.1.9. Non-English working group: Surgio. With non-English speaking committee. Need more languages, need more help. Hope to work in conjunction with other committees, especially outreach committees, to reach other non-English communities. We want to translate leaflets into as many languages as possible. Find me if you want to help translate for the revolution.

11.1.10. Food committee: No more food donations tonight. We have enough for this night. If you have a kitchen you can donate for the preparation of food, please do

11.1.11. Sanitation: Please clean up after yourself. Please clean your sleeping area in morning. It will likely rain, learn and take the best measures to stay dry. Also, make friends with the people who are sleeping in your vicinity.

11.2. Announcements

11.2.1. Announcement about Michael Moore’s proposal to shoot a show in the square. Significant crowd approval. He will be here tomorrow. Laurence O’Donald show for Moore – 8pm. 11.2.2. An idea – have a queer caucus in the same spirit. If you identify as LGBTQ or want to be involved with people that do, go over there to be part of Queer caucus. 11.2.3. I was contacted this morning by WUII Philadelphia, the only African-American-only owned and operated radio company in PA. They want to hear from you. Facilitators and especially the people on the ground. @albdamn or @990amwurd. They want to make sure that Occupy Philidelphia is just as successful as Occupy Wallstreet. 11.2.4. We talked about the circle, a circle group. We decided we’d meet for our first circle. Circle A generally stands for Anarchy or Anarchism. 11.2.5. In light of occupy Philadelphia – I’ve been worked with impromptu working group If you want to be part of this new working group, meet us after GA. WE want to talk about spreading movement to other occupied cities. Possible DC march or occupation.

11.2.6. Counter-recruitment 199 chambers street. BMCC. There are 3 recruiting stations within a block of the school. Join me tomorrow 5:30 pm, Marriot and Times Square – come protest the evil bastard. BMCC is closed till Saturday. Help bring students from counter-recruitment to here! I am going up in the following weeks to help set up occupy Boston. And want to start writing a manifesto if you will for how to set up GA s to plan for occupations. If interested, or any of the committes that are related, I want to speak to you. Open Souce Solutions group will help team up.

11.2.7. I have something I want to read to everyone. “I support safe spaces because America is already a safe space for white heterosexual males. I don’t fit under those categories. Because we have black president does not mean we’re post racisism. Because we have a gay friend does not mean we’re post homophobia. Created queal does not mean treated equal. Because privilege exists. Ignoring that fact makes you part of the problem not part of the solution.” I have to add to that that we’ve heard some complaints about sexual harassment. If you want to hug someone, ask. If you want to dance or talk with someone or take ak picture, ask permission. Meeting tomorrow night to discuss further. 11.2.8. I want to make it very clear that I know and I know a lot of others know, that people are having some psychosis problems. Might be feeling a little weak. See Lily. Is free. She guarantees 100% anonymous. See her. 11.2.9. Anyone who wants to sign up for Google group, preparations for Sept 17th and this, sign up at info desk. Internet committee needs IT tech. signup at info desk. Sign up soon. 11.2.10. If interested in learning more about direct democracy, specifically how to structure a democratic org, that meets your specific purposes, workshop tomorrow at 5:30 by the steps. 11.2.11. I would like to announce the 1460, AFT Brooklyn supports Occupy Wall Street. We’re gonna be here with you with our union brothers and sisters. Put down more info!!! 11.2.12. Two faculty from persons??? Will be holding classes from 3-6 on how to speak better???? This Saturday a conference in Brooklyn at St Frances college – organized by union of political radical economists. Might be mistake, google it. Forms of organization and logistics and direct action are crucial. That’s not all there is. They are out of ideas, we have ideas. WE could structure a new economy. Organizations I’m a part of have their panel before the march at 11:30. If you want to learn more about Marxist Humanist Initiative, see me. Google conference. Many panels. Then go to march. 11.2.13. I am a criminal defense attorney. Here to volunteer time and effort on your behalf. Look forward to working with the lawyers guild. I’d like to you know that if you are arrested, say nothing to the police. Give them your name and address, and ask them for a phonecall. It used to be a rule that if you asked for attorney, then all police questioning woiuld stop. Supreme struck that down recently in the Roberts court. So if they tell you after they’ve red your maranda, that you are protected and can say anything and it wont be used against you, that is a lie.

11.3. Next agenda points: Demands

F: Community Board voted to support GA! 11.3.1. Demands: We are going to go through a participatory process to develop these demands and visions together. It is very important that all voices are heard and we tried our best to make a process that includes all kinds of people equally. We should look at these demands as a way to include more ideas, not limit ideas, so that more people can find their

home in this movement – we acknowledge that some people really want no demands at all. It’s important for the sake of this movement to have some demands and visions voiced. But in the process we will continue to record that there are people who want no demands. So this process will include people who do not want demands. This process is important for outreach – so we can invite people from different communities, so we can amplify their demands – so that liberty plaza can become a place to discuss restructuring society. We can add demands as this movement progresses. A lot of people cannot be here – so we will have other ways for people to participate. 11.3.2. The process: On Friday at the GA, this square will be covered in enormous pieces of paper, each sheet of paper will have a different issue heading on it: gender, heath care, prisons, race. There will also be blank pieces of paper for new headings. During the GA we will give everyone a marker and 30+ minutes to walk around the square to write your demands on the papers. If you agree with a statement, you can add a check to it. Then people will consolidate the list and put them on line and we will continue to develop them as they come. 11.3.3. Friendly amendments

11.3.3.1. There are many people who cannot make demands because they are in a refugee camp or prison. We must make sure their voices are heard too. 11.3.3.2. Let’s do this on Saturday – for working people 11.3.3.3. Let’s start these lists tonight. (It is also going to rain.) 11.3.4. Accepted: Friday & Saturday we will have papers available. We take a lot of time to look this over as a group. 11.3.4.1. Accepted: Because this process is about getting all of our voices into this document, that it’ss about a plurality of visions and demands, because of this we don’t need to agree and squeeze all of this into a single voice. And that there is no need to bring this back to GA for consensus. That we allow all our voices and demands to exist together.

11.3.5. Amended proposal: On Friday we are going to spend 30 minutes to 45 minutes in the assembly writing our demands on paper, including indigenous concerns. The papers will stay up until Sunday. Then a group will write it all it up on one sheet so we all know we are a talking about it together. We will make sure people can participate online. Then it will be brought back to the assembly and read out. 11.3.6. Comments

11.3.6.1. Perhaps we can come up with one demand. Think about it. 11.3.6.2. What is the process if two demands are contradictory or if the demand is not accepted by everyone here

11.3.6.3. The group of volunteers can take the proposals on Sunday or Monday 11.3.6.4. Let’s have a group of wordsmiths write them up 11.3.6.5. It seems that the document will be broad – and the focus should be on wall street 11.3.6.6. This is a merely a mechanism to collect demands 11.3.6.7. Economic and social concerns do not exist in a vacuum 11.3.6.8. We need one solid demand to be taken seriously 11.3.6.9. Have a simple clear set of demands 11.3.6.10. If we have a really long list – people will put things on there to make us look bad

11.3.6.11. “A list of submitted demands” – lots of twinkles

11.3.6.12. Bring down Wall Street! Re-create society!

11.3.7. The demands discussion was tabled for further crafting.

**NYCGA Minutes 9/28/2011 2pm**

Posted September 28th, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 12.1

Date / Time: 9/28/2011, 2pm

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators:

AGENDA

12.1. Report Backs

12.2. Announcements

F: Process review

12.1. WORKING GROUP REPORT BACKS

12.1.1. Food—They are OK on food donations for the day, everyone will be well fed. They are looking for cars and kitchens for preparing food and bringing it back. As far as donations go, prefer re-useable cutlery, plates, and cups, but people be responsible for cleaning them themselves. Meetings at 4PM in the kitchen.

12.1.2. Information—Can all the working groups please schedule regular meeting times so they can keep people informed, and bring that time to info booth, so they can let people interested know.

12.1.3. Comfort team—they need for people. Adam will be leaving today. They are located at the back by a big sign that says comfort. They have a tape badge with a open-bottomed triangle.

Community building—As a community we had agreed to keep the central passageway free of sleeping people. 11AM-8AM are quiet hours. Quiet conversations are to take place where the general assembly is.

12.1.4. Media relations—Will be having a meeting at 3PM about how to talk to the press and not be led by them. They will also be having training session after the 3PM meeting. Please come if you wish to join.

12.1.5. Open Source Solutions—Ted and Devon explained about this work group at last assembly. They want everyone to know about Open Source. Their meeting yesterday got overrun by demand deliberation. If you want to help with deciding how we’re going to figure out our demands, come meet him at the library after this. They will also talk about Open Source solutions.

12.1.6. Community relations—Met with community board one, and found lots of support from local residents, who voted down a resolution against us. But a minority of residents on the board who are still concerned want to meet with us and negotiate around some issues like noise at night and open use of public space. Justin will be at that meeting, and if you’re interested in joining, it will be at a local bar tomorrow night. Come to the community relations board meeting after this. We’ve heard reports of local businesses being harassed by NYPD, Homeland security, and others for partnering with us. So we’re hitting them back with positivity!

12.1.7. Facilitation—Welcome newcomers! If you want to know how this process works, learn how to use it to empower yourself and act effectively as a part of this community, meet at 5:30 for Intro to Direct Democracy Process Meeting. At the bottom of the back steps. Then you can be a good facilitator, stack keeper, timekeeper, etc! It is an integral part of being in this community!

12.1.8. Finance—Victoria. Wants to clarify a few things about finance. Still in the process of opening an account with the credit union. They are close, but please still be patient because it is a process. If you are in a working group and need funds, please speak to Victoria or Casey. If you need funds under $100 they can dispense that to you. If it’s over $100 bring a proposal to the GA for consensus. If people have questions, visit the food table. Questions on online donations can be answered at www.OccupyWallSt.org. It links to our fiscal sponsor.

12.1.9. Sanitation—Thanks to everyone not in the sanitation group for picking up and sweeping! Some people who work on Wall Street and were eating their lunch here thanked us for cleaning up a mess we didn’t even make. The floor of this park is cleaner than they have seen it since before they got here! Everyone please pitch in! Thank you everyone, stay dry!

12.1.10. Independently formed sanitation group—Looking for volunteers for a couple specific tasks just for today and tonight. If you’re interested, talk to Max after the meeting by the end of this bench.

12.2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

F: An announcement is not a question or statement. It is about how to find you or something this audience should all know about.

12.2.1. She would like us to all join in song and sing “Heal the World” after general assembly.

12.2.2. Andy has two jobs that he has no time to do anymore. He needs help from us.

12.2.2.1. He needs happy people, diverse people, fun people, to stand at our welcome stations 1 & 2. And possibly Info Hub. It’s complicated, you’ll learn more about it if you volunteer. Welcome stations are very important, so we can take people off the streets, and get them to join this movement. Interest starts there, turns into actions here. If you are interested, they will meet below the orange sculpture after this meeting. Jez will be meeting you.

12.2.2.2. Also, he cleans up a lot in the morning. If cardboard is wet, it is trash. Sometimes there is a pretty sign, but it is still trash because it is dangerous, creates mildew and mold. Also, unused tarps need to be folded up and put at the comfort station down the hill.

F: Group is so large that the people in the back cannot here. If more people in the back circle face the other way to repeat what they here, so our circle doesn’t get cut off at the sides, that would be great. That is called a “designated human mic.” Let’s get more.

12.2.3. Tracy is a reporter. She’s been wandering around asking people to fill out a survey. It’s for New York Magazine. They are trying to better understand who you are, why you came, what issues are important to you. There are a few left, if you fill them out that would be great. There is a photographer, as well. Give your name or not. Thanks for talking to us.

12.2.4. Media working group emergency announcement—They need anyone who was pepper-sprayed or witnessed the pepper-spray that wasn’t the one on the video to come talk to Patrick as soon as possible.

12.2.5. Erica—An actor. If anyone is a member of SAG, Directors Writers Guild, Actors Equity, etc. Come to her after the meeting so they can reach out to those unions so they can reach out to their members and tell them to participate in this.

12.2.6. One of the amazing things about this event is that we can autonomously bring their own issues into this space. She is interested in Wealth Concentration Reform. If you’re interested in signing the petition she made with other awesome people here, please come see her in the corner. She sells things, so if you accidentally tear something, or if you want a new shirt, and you want her to redesign it and make it fabulous, she is in the corner with a needle and thread. She has not heard any gospel since she’s been here. If anyone wants to create an equal opportunity gospel choir she is in the corner.

12.2.7. Community outreach—They will be holding a meeting on community outreach right where he sits after the GA.

F: Announcements are closing stack.

12.2.8. Wants to acknowledge our bravery and compassion in action, and our openness and peacefulness. It is very important that we remain calm and that we operate from our hearts! We are already liberated! There is no need to struggle or fight. Now we can creatively, with joyful effort, explore the possibilities of how we can work together. He is here to help in any way that he can to support all of us to make this movement as effective as possible. At 3:30 a big group invite everyone to join them in group meditation. They will be by the library and will find a good spot. Meditation helps us to be able to focus our energies with clarity, which we need right now.

Charlie Goth—arrived last night from Cuernavaca, Mexico. It is where Emilio Zapata was leader of the Southern front of the Mexican revolution. A popular chant in central Mexico is for the person who starts the chant to say, “Zapata vive” which means “Zapata lives” and the crowd answers, “La lucha sigue” which means “the struggle continues.” He will teach the chant after the assembly. He has a gift to present.

12.2.9. Brian—One of his most prized possessions went missing! It’s a Ukulele! It has a Code Pink sticker on the back and a duct tape strap. If anyone’s seen it, please bring it to him!

F: Point of information–It’s in the media tent!

12.2.10. Julie—Wanted to suggest a book circle pertaining to this process. The first book that was suggested is called Rules for Radicals. The meeting will be around 4:30, so bring whatever books you’d like to suggest for this.

F: LAST CALL FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

12.2.11. Anthony—A lot of people are not feeling accepted and empowered. Please check your privilege. Check your internalized oppressive behaviors. Do your research, better yourself, better each other. We must check ourselves. Also—consent! If you want to touch somebody in any way or take a picture of somebody or walk around with your video camera, ASK! This is serious stuff, we must be respectful. Not asking is not respectful.

12.2.12. My son woke me up from twenty years of sleep! He was arrested in this part on Tuesday Sept 20. He respects each of us from the bottom of his heart. When he was here on Sunday, it was discussed whether to have demands or goals. He finds this to be very important, because as someone said: demands are met by others, whereas goals are achieved by us. If anyone cares to discuss this, he will be by the smoothie cart after this meeting. Again, Open Source will also be discussing this by the library. Maybe a team-up? Yes! Let’s all meet at the library after the meeting.

12.2.13. Drew—The Brooklyn Credit Union is considering setting up a table with their help, here. He needs to speak with legal to see if that is OK and find out if it is. How do people feel about having the Brooklyn Credit Union come here and help liberate Brooklyn-ites from big banks? He’ll put this on the agenda for tonight. It is only for people from Brooklyn.

12.2.14. Rob—In the McDonalds men’s room there is an electrical outlet under the sink.

12.2.15. In 2003 during the Republican National Convention the police captured a line of Quakers following the police’s directions in orange netting. Some of our people this weekend were caught in orange netting set out by the police. So he brought this here today so that we can make a statement around it if you choose to, if you want to express emotions about capturing, being caught in it, being trapped in it, what it feels like to capture someone else, and want to share this with the group. It’s important that we use satire and their tools against them, so that we speak clearly and speak the truth. We can make this an arts and culture event right after the GA and livestream it! You are welcome to join!

12.2.16. Weather—there is a chance for rain today. How many are planning to sleep here tonight? We have procedures for how to deal with the rain. Talk to comfort or sanitation or anyone who has slept here before during the rain. Tomorrow will also be rainy, and Friday

the temperature will drop. We will have to pick some useful strategies to deal with this weather that we know is coming. Please brainstorm before it gets discussed at tonight’s GA! Working groups should make lists of things they need for this weather, so we can broadcast it on all of our media. This way we can be better prepared for the rain and the cold.

12.2.17. Shipping address—if you have friends or family somewhere else that would like to send us things, please go to info to get that address. We got 50+ packages, and just got 50 more! This is a great way of donating, and we’d like to see it continue. Nycga.net/donate.

12.2.18. Meeting times and places:

– 3PM media relations on how to talk to the press meet Hero

– 4PM food committee in the kitchen

– 5:30PM introduction to direct democratic process with the facilitation working group, at the bottom stairs

**NYCGA Minutes 9/28/11, 7:30pm**

Posted September 28th, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

*(Note: There were two GAs on day 12, on at 2pm and this one, at 7:30pm. There are two separate sets of notes, one for each GA held.)*

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 12.2

Meeting Date/Time: 09/28/2011, 7:30pm EST

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators:

F: Introduction. For everyone who has never been to a general assembly, they will go through a brief process explanation.

F: There is an agenda that is brief and timed. They will take proposals for those agenda items, then we will take friendly amendments, then clarifying questions about those proposals, then they will take concerns, then they will move to blocks. Blocks are very serious. It means that you have an ethical or principal problem with what is being proposed, or you think it’s bad for the group.

F: There are hand signals for liking things, being in the middle, not liking it. You raise your hand to get on stack. There is a symbol for concerns or questions about the process. This is a point of process. One last point about process: we use progressive stack, which means that the stack-keeper does not necessarily call on people in the order in which they raise their hands. They take into account marginalized voices and individuals who have not yet spoken. So if stack is ten men in a row, a non-male bodied person will jump stack, so the discussion is not dominated by men, which is often the case here. Also, if you have a point of information, raise your pointer finger. Do not abuse this! It is only for relevant information about something someone is saying, such as a time clarification or an update. We are not doing direct response, we are doing point of information.

Point of Information (POI): Amy. Right here after the GA they are going to have a meeting about these issues. It is an anti-patriarchy meeting and an education group.

F: Points of information are not for announcements! There is a time for announcements!

F: If you cannot hear, point upwards. At last night’s meeting, they came up with a new hand signal for when a loud noise is coming up on the street, so the person speaking knows to pause until the noise has gone away.

F: Blocks—if you make a block, and consensus is reached after that, the person making the block should be prepared to leave the movement. It is very serious. After a block, there is a vote, in which we try to reach 9/10 agreement.

AGENDA

12.1. Working Group Report-backs 12.2. Announcements 12.3. Bail Proposal 12.4. Internet Discussion

12.5. Announcements

12.1. Working Group Report Backs

12.1.1. Legal—Marina. Legal team members please stand so people can know who you are! We keep hearing amazing stories of solidarity from people who were arrested the other day, including assemblies in jail. One thing that’s important: if you’re arrested, call the legal number: 212-679-6018. If you see someone being arrested, as happened this morning, try hard to get their name. This is important so our lawyers can find them before they even get a call. It’s the National Lawyers Guild. They also wear green hats, are around us to monitor police and take notes on police behavior only. Those people who are arrested, we have three meetings. You can pick one or more if you want. The first one is tomorrow at 5PM. The next one is Friday at 11AM. The third is Sunday at 2PM. All of these are at the National Lawyers Guild Office. The address is 133 Nassau St Ste. 922. It will be posted on the website. You can also call the legal number. Legal recommends that defendants meet first a half an hour early to discuss together and then talk to the lawyers. There will be a team of lawyers from the guild at these meetings. Marina will also be at these meetings, and later over there if you have questions about your case.

12.1.2. Speak Easy Caucus—Caucus for a broad spectrum of individuals from female-bodied people who identify as women to male-bodied people who do not identify 100% as men.

12.1.3. Info—Would like to ask all of the working groups, once they have reached a consensus on an event or an action or whatever they are doing, to please bring information to Info on a 3×5 card so they can update calendars and pass out information to people who come to Info. They also want the minutes of meetings and assemblies.

12.1.4. Call to Action Working Group—They have been working on a declaration. Hard copies will be available to anyone who wants them. There will be an email address you can contact with questions or concerns or friendly amendments, so as not to take up time at the GA, so they can propose it. They read the statement. It ends with: “To the people of the world, we the NYCGA occupying Wall Street in Liberty Square urge you to assert your power, exercise your right to peaceably assemble, occupy public space, create a process to address the problems we face and generate solutions accessible to everyone. To all communities that take action, form groups in the spirit of direct democracy, we offer support, documentation, and all of the resources at our disposal.” If you want a copy sent to your email, Eric will give it to you. The email address is c2anycga@gmail.com. They will be sending a copy of this declaration and also if you have any questions or concerns, please email the group or approach them. Solidarity!

12.1.5. Time-sensitive announcement—Last night the GA invited Michael Moore to come here and film live the Lawrence O’Donnell show. The GA will continue, because this is the heart of what we do. But it is filming for the next half hour down there.

12.1.6. Media relations—Hero. He’s with public relations, and he’d like to talk about what goes out to the media. If you have a document or something important about an event that happened that is private and has not been released, please consult with PR beforehand. Other than that, talk to the press about whatever you like, just try not to speak for everybody. Make sure you’ve stated that it is your opinion, and do not speak for your entire race or everybody at camp. Thank you and remember not to talk about events that are happening and have not been cleared.

12.1.7. Arts and Culture—Alex and Libor. They have experienced a huge surge of artists and work in the past week, and they are trying to build capacity to harness all of the creative power and creative ideas that are coming through in the square or on the web. They meet every day at 6PM at the northwest corner of the square. If you have an event, you are more than welcome to come and showcase at the square. Email Arts\_culture@nycga.net so they can put your work on the calendar, so your art and spirit is here and abroad.

12.1.8. Internet—Drew. The internet group is setting up email addresses that will be publicly available for other groups from the general assembly. If you would like to have your group email address online please connect with him, and he will give you the details. You can also email groups@nycga.net. Please provide email addresses that you would like your email to forward to. In other news, our friend Ketchup was gifted a laptop. It has come to his attention that there is some contention. He would like to clear that up. This laptop is an essential tool for this very general assembly. We are taking notes, minutes, on what happens here, so we can share it with all of you, with all of NY, with all the United States, with all the world, so they know what we are doing and what we are deciding.

12.1.9. Labor Working Group—Jackie. Labor is under attack! They want our support! The problem is… not that we can’t connect, but we’d be up all night every day if we made all the connections being offered! Some of you have heard that we had a very successful march yesterday from here to the postal workers’ rally at a congressman’s office. When people marched in even though the police had tried to stop them, they received an extremely enthusiastic response from the workers. As a result, the political director of one of the postal unions came and joined our labor committee with the goal of bringing the postal workers here. Events over the next few days which we would like you to participate in:

12.1.9.1. Thursday—meet at 11:30AM at the red sculpture if they are willing to go and join a picket line for Verizon workers at 1:40 West St. They had a militant strike, then got screwed again. Asking for support. Also will be supporting them on Friday.

12.1.9.2. Friday—meet at 11AM to join an action in support of Verizon workers. A creative action. Anyone interested in Thursday flyering, see Jake.

12.1.9.3. Friday—5:30PM. A lot of people, including from her Cuny Faculty Union have planned a rally at 1 Police Plaza to denounce the police for what they did last Saturday. They will then march from Police Plaza to Liberty Square.

12.1.9.4. Tuesday—Flyering DC 37, which has a rally at City Hall. They will meet there at 5PM and encourage them to relate to Occupy Wall Street. They are supporting them particularly because one of their locals of school age is going to face thousands of layoffs. They have a very good relationship with that local.

12.1.9.5. October 5—A student walk-out and a major labor protest being organized by the people who did the big march on May 12, which included many community groups and unions. They will meet there at 4:30. It’s very important that we be there. People may consider marching there. She directs this question to the direct action committee.

12.1.9.6. The next meeting of the Labor Support and Outreach working group will be Monday, 6PM, red sculpture, then proceed someplace quieter. Give Jackie your email if interested.

12.1.10. Open Source Solutions—Ted. Today they started a process to start addressing what their demands might be. It was very successful. They are adopting a tried and true process of visioning, strategizing, exciting actions. We will be sharing this with the group tomorrow. They have a statement that they are drafting currently to give to the outside world, that we will ask for consensus on with everybody. The other thing they are working on is an independent cell phone infrastructure. If anybody has a ham radio license, let him know so they can use that.

12.1.11. Facilitation—Really important meeting: Intro to Direct Democracy Process. Who is new? Many hands! Welcome! This meeting teaches you what’s going on here. It teaches you how to use this process to empower yourselves to be a part of this community, to bring your skills and your ideas and share them with all of us, so we can make this a more beautiful place. This meeting is at 5:30PM every day at the bottom of the stairs. It’s really important, try to remember. Come back from work, go to the meeting, come back to assembly, and you’ll know what to do! See you tomorrow!

12.1.12. Community outreach—Jay. Almost done with our version of a canvassing rap for the Outer Boroughs. This is integral to outreach in general, specifically for diversifying. Meet under the red sculpture after assembly if you’d like to be a canvasser. They need at least 15, will probably canvass every day around 3 and 11AM.

F: CLOSING STACK.

12.1.13. Outreach—Eva and Danny. See a show of hands—who here is outreach? We’re all outreach! Everyone raise your hands! On that note, we have a meeting—very important—every single day after the GA on the southwest corner of the park. They would like to encourage everyone to come. Also, the group that announced about canvassing is encouraged to join the general outreach committee, which also has a canvassing aspect. Also: there was a very fruitful outreach engagement. Yesterday they went on the R train and performed a skit, a song, and received an extremely enthusiastic reception. We estimate in one hour we reached 2,000 people. Keep this in mind—you can do your own outreach, but it’s probably better to be creative. It gets people’s attention!

12.1.14. Community relations—Justin. Spent the day talking with local vendors who have had their business curtailed by over-policing and barricading out on Wall Street, in particular there is an awesome artist who was very supportive of us back when OWS was ten people

doing yoga on Wall Street and Broadway. But now she’s struggling to pay rent for her space there, and to host a fundraiser to pay that rent. He wants to invite us all to come to her fundraiser and to see it. See him if you want to join tomorrow or want to help their committee.

12.1.15. Comfort—Abe. First of all, they need a lot of sweatshirts, sweatpants, and socks [editor: how to donate]. The way we’re going to get that is please donate them and drop them off at comfort! This is mainly addressed to people who are not here. So everyone reading this, please donate sweatshirts, sweatpants, and socks! He would like to request $300 from the money they have raised to buy sweatshirts and sweatpants. Feel from the group? Seems fine. He has noticed some people have been sleeping underneath plastic tarps. Never cover your face with plastic! You might not wake up!

12.1.16. Food—Amy. Food is doing really well, but we are growing quickly as a group, and food is struggling to keep up. Anyone who wants to, get your ass in the kitchen! Meetings are 11AM and 4PM every day. A lot of our food today was made by them, which is awesome! More will be made by them tomorrow! If you have kitchens you want to let them use, DO IT! Come to the kitchen, we have a contact book. Put your info in, we’ll party at your house. Thanks, we love you!

12.1.17. Direct Action—Seeing a lot of new faces! Perhaps a lot of you really want to learn more about activism and direct action! She wants to help teach about that. There are four or five of them who want to help teach about that. They will be facilitating Direct Action 101 Friday at 3PM for anyone interested. They will cover basics like role plays on what to do if you’re arrested, how to have solidarity with other people who are protesting alongside you. Very important and fun stuff! So find her 3PM Friday, and down at the end, and they’ll go to the park and have fun.

12.1.18. Last issue—A gentleman named Sergio who is translating our publicity material made a call for translators. Up front we have a very capable translator. If Sergio or anyone from his group is here, please come up and talk to the translator. They found each other!

12.2. Announcements

F: Keep at one minute or less each! The timekeeper will enforce this! Raise hand for stack! Discussion capped at 20 minutes.

12.2.1. Jackie—anyone who wants to join the Labor working group, sign up at the welcome table on Broadway.

12.2.2. Tomorrow, Thursday September 29 at 6:30 there is a First Precinct community council for Anthony Bologna (Tony Balonie) at 16 Erickson Place NY NY. He was the officer that maced us. Please make a presence. 212-333-0611 is the phone number. Please remember that we are non-violent protestors! Even though he maced us, we will be calm and non-violent!

12.2.3. Mel—Yesterday when many of the occupiers were rallying in solidarity with the NYC postal workers, she received a letter from the Canadian Union of Postal Workers: 50,000 member union thanks the 99% who are currently occupying Wall Street. Our actions in demanding justice, fairness, equality, and peace inspire them. We are smart, strategic, creative, non-violent, and inclusive. They are also fighting against a neo-liberal government

in Canada. The government is working to increase the amount of people in jails and decrease healthcare and education spending. In June 2011, the neo-liberal government of Canada ordered members of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers back to work after their employer imposed a nationwide walk-out. This legislation is draconian. They know that our struggles are intertwined. Please keep up the struggle! It gives them hope. Solidarity!

12.2.4. Michael—Organizes with the group called Organizing for Occupation. The goal of this group is to actualize the human right to housing through direct action. Tomorrow at 6PM this group will have a discussion on how the struggle for a home fits into larger struggles against systems based in greed and scarcity. The hopeful goal will be to organize joint actions to disrupt foreclosure options next week. If you would like to join them, meet at the red sculpture tomorrow at 6PM.

12.2.5. Yosan—Represents the Coalition of People’s Justice for Community Control and Police Accountability. Here with Bion USA, Bail Out the People Movement. They are coordinating an action on Friday at 4PM here. The demands of the action are to stop NYPD crackdown on all of us, to stop NYPD crackdown on low income immigrant and communities of color, to stop police targeting of Muslim communities, and stop racist detentions and deportations. They will do a program here, then march to 1 Police Plaza to join the other actions by labor. At the program here, People’s Justice, a coalition of grassroots organizations led by immigrants and people of color will be holding a Know Your Rights training. You may ask, why should we know our rights when the cops do whatever they want anyway? We all know that the police serve to protect the interests of the state and the corporate elite. Knowing our rights is just one of many tools we need to fight them and keep ourselves safe, and keep each other safe, and stand in solidarity with immigrant and communities of color. So we hope you will join us on Friday.

12.2.6. James—From the Committee to Stop FBI repression. They are working with the United National Anti-War Committee. They are planning a march on Saturday the 15th to mark ten years of resistance to the bloody immoral wars that initiated with the attack on Afghanistan, and they want to work with us, because they are in solidarity! It’s the same struggle, and we’re inspiring them! He wants to talk with the outreach committee and work with them going forward to plan the march. They will also have a forum with activists already under attack by the FBI for their political activities. That forum will be Saturday night, October 15.

12.2.7. Please keep in mind when you’re marching that the people behind you may have severe asthma and can’t breathe when you’re smoking. Please either refrain until we get back, or move to the back of the march.

12.2.8. Matt—If you are interested in assisting with childcare or need childcare, come talk to Matt after the assembly. He is a school teacher and has materials to bring here, such as games, radical children’s books, water coloring, sing-a-longs, tutoring, etc.

12.2.9. Kelly—A group is trying to plan a march from here to DC, later in the week, after the weekend, when our numbers will probably double again! They are hoping to coincide with the march! That is planned for later in the month in DC. The occupation is starting October 6, so they’ve been thinking of leaving from here then and joining them later. If interested in discussing this crazy amazing idea, meet over on the stairs after GA.

12.2.10. Medic—A few days ago we had some medic people who are clearly marked with a cross try to buy supplies at Duane Read. They refused us! We have come to find out that Duane Read is possibly telling their employees not to sell to us! So medical could really use some help in when we need to go get supplies. Obviously the red crosses are known in the city now. So when we need some help, we would love some volunteers.

12.2.11. Ted—Brookfield, the owners of the plaza, are at their wits’ end. We need to make a fast group to organize us to be in solidarity with them. The point of the meeting is for us to begin communicating with Brookfield, so we don’t ever have to worry about them wanting us out of here, because we will always be here, and they’re not ever going to kick us out.

12.2.12. Tyson—He has access to 200lbs of various types of meat! Unfortunately, it is all frozen and we have sixteen minutes to find freezers for it before it all gets thrown out. We need one person with access to a large enough facility to contain all the meat in one space. If you have access to that facility, meet him by the giant red sculpture! Hurry! [editor: please tweet @NYC\_GA if this was resolved]

12.2.14. Would like to add to tomorrow’s agenda a discussion of proposals for amending the process we use in this GA.

12.2.15. Arts and Culture—Please put on your calendars Monday October 3 is a Zombie March! Everyone come dressed as a corporate zombie! This means jacket and tie if possible, white face, fake blood, eating monopoly money, and doing a slow march, so when people come to work on Monday in this neighborhood they see us reflecting the metaphor of their actions. Tell your friends, Facebook it, Twitter it, and it can be MJ Thriller-style too! Create a different image than police brutality!

12.2.16. MONDAY OCTOBER 3rd ZOMBIE FLESH MOB ALL DAY. 8AM ONWARD!

12.2.17. Purple Star—Idea for people who want to stand in solidarity with us but cannot be at the square. We create a symbol they can wear. Her idea is a purple star because when you take the American flag and you put all the colors together, you get purple. And each star represents each state, and we’re occupying the states. Do we feel good about that? Yeah!

12.2.18. Experienced or witnessed patriarchal violence, racism, sexism, homophobia, and many other extremely negative attitudes. We would like to do something about it. If you are white or a sis-gendered guy, please be conscious of your privilege. In the coming days, we will be organizing workshops in order to address these issues. He would like to make clear that it is not the responsibility of marginalized people to teach you how to not be oppressive. CHECK YOURSELF!

12.2.19. Idea for a slogan we could use if we like the ideas coming out of the square and can be used by people who aren’t in the square, who are in solidarity with our ideas. The slogan is, “I am a citizen of Liberty Square.” People like it! Point of process—proposals like this are proposals, which should be submitted to get on the agenda, not really an announcement.

12.2.20. Would like to take what’s here back to Philadelphia. If there’s anyone from there or has interest in taking this there, please meet him after this GA somewhere around this tree. Thank you!

12.2.21. We should get a consensus of what exactly we want—the corporations, the lobbyists, we are underserved. Just a thought. We can have hundreds of thousands of people on any set date we choose. We should choose a date and bring hell—sorry, HEAVEN!

12.2.22. Michael—drove down from Woodstock NY to join us in solidarity! He hosts a poetry open mic in Woodstock on Mondays. The writers and poets collected money, he came down to give it to us! Occupy Wall Street is the only Wall Street the poets at the Hudson Valley will invest in! He was proud to march with us today. Stay strong, he loves us!

12.2.23. Never lock a bike to a temporary scaffold—the building owner can cut your lock at any time. There are notices on some bikes across the street. Please move your bike, or you will lose it. If you lock to a tree, you get a large fine.

12.2.24. Dawn—she crochets. It’s going to get cold soon. She proposes we start a new group called the Living Craft, where you will learn how to make hats, gloves, scarves, socks, long underwear, maybe blankets, maybe more! This group should also include weavers, woodworkers, carpenters, knitters. There is no reason why we can’t all learn to make our own clothes! This is one way to be sustainable and self-sufficient and have a future, and not use sweatshop labor! If you like this and want to learn or share your skills, come find her. She will be at the outreach meeting after GA. Thank you!

12.2.25. Danny—Tomorrow at 6PM Reverend Billy and the Stop Shopping Gospel Quiet, a radical activist performance group will be performing here for all of us! They will do a half-hour set of original gospel music that involves many of the themes we talk about on a daily basis here. Tomorrow at 6PM. Look for white suit, blonde pompadour. Celebrities should also check their privilege!

12.2.26. John Henley—Lower-east side anti-police brutality activist. Also coordinator for anonymous PayPal legal defense team in California. Has booked the steps of city hall, Mayor Bloomburg’s steps, for an anti-police brutality protest. 4-5PM Monday afternoon. People should show up early between 3-4 because you have to go through security check to get onto the steps. He would like everyone here who was arrested or brutalized by the NYPD to show up there on Monday. We can only get 300 people on the steps, but if you can’t get on the steps, we will continue at City Hall Park after leaving the steps. Any citizen of NYC can reserve the steps of City Hall for a press conference. Norman Segull won this during the Guiliani years when they wanted to close the steps to all speakers.

12.3. Bail Proposal

12.3.1. Super exciting proposal! Frame it when we march on Wall Street, we have a really cool chant: They got bailed out, we got sold out! It’s true! In the spirit of that chant, let’s not sell each other out. Let’s bail each other out of jail. They propose that the legal group, in the chants time, when someone needs bail, they will have access to the thousands of dollars that people have generously donated to the cause on Wall Street. Bail in NYC never generally exceeds $1000, and that amount would be rare. One concern they’re trying to cover now. Another suggestion brought to them was that they have their own funds that they ask for from

the public for bail money. But we’re a group that shows solidarity for each other. We’re trying to create a new paradigm where we care for each other! So it’s symbolically important that we have access to the funds that represent all of us. People seem cool with this. In the chance that once of us is arrested at a protest and needs bail, let’s have this money.

12.3.2. Should we limit bail to disorderly conduct? The concern is that people might resist arrest, raise bail, and stretch our funds. You may want to beat the shit out of a cop if he arrests you, but it could stretch our funds.

12.3.2.1. Response: You could get charged for assault for doing absolutely nothing. To limit access to bail based on really dumb charges seems unjust. They do think if there are extenuating circumstances that would make the bail really really high, like beyond $1000, of course bring it back to the GA and talk about it. But to limit it to a certain charge might be unfair.

12.3.3. It’s a great idea we’re in solidarity. Wants to point out that this occupation has a certain amount of funds. We don’t want to cripple those funds. Maybe a consideration if this passes, we hold a few reserves, so the movement can continue and be financed appropriately.

12.3.3.1. Response: Generally bail money is returned after your trial, so basically the money would be refunded. It would be a temporary thing. Second, they started out as a fundraiser. They’re really good at it! They would be willing to do fundraising in the event that legal would be asking for bail money. They also go on Wall Street when they are marching to put people before profit. People should be put before money in general! We can all understand and say from personal experience that being in jail, knowing you have bail money waiting for you makes you feel a whole lot better about being in jail alone, away from your friends and the movement.

12.3.4. The proposal as it stands could make us go into debt, if everyone got arrested and needed to post bail, so we might be committing to something we can’t commit to. So if funds start to drop and it’s looking like we don’t have the money to get by if this passes, we should be able to re-look at it.

12.3.4.1. Response: They agree! But solidarity goes beyond the obvious of what we can do right then to help each other out as a quick fix. If a hundred people get arrested, then we probably all won’t need bail. This is very rare. Also media attention when we get a hundred arrests is pretty high. Funds go up when people have an interest in supporting what we’re doing. It’s a great idea to bring it back to the GA, and this goes beyond just one or two people who might need bail. So that can be part of the proposal.

12.3.5. We need a bail fund! Any group participating in direct action is organized and generally has a bail fund. But it’s often practically set as a percentage of the funds you have, so it can’t take over all of the funds.

12.3.5.1. Response: Agreed on having a percentage, since it’s common knowledge how many funds have been donated. We could become a target for potential arrests, because they might make more arrests to donate our funds.

12.3.6. Why even co-mingle our funds? Why not have a separate fund? If you can fundraise, start fundraising for that fund. We could start with a percentage. Would like to propose a

friendly amendment that brings these ideas together: Let’s give the funds, with the percentage, and have a separate fund be developed later, so funds are available to a percentage and the fundraising can develop in time. Thinks the vast majority of people arrested and brought before a judge in NY County are relieved on their own recognizance.

12.3.6.1. Response: Basically, what this gentleman was saying was that this will be not a very high demand or drain on the funds that we have. We had a hundred people arrested, and none of them needed bail. As far as the percentage goes, what percentage would we propose for this? Our funds are going to grow, our group is going to grow, and our number of arrests will probably grow as well. The percent might change, and also do we have a percent for any other of the working groups? So maybe that’s something to think about. Bail seems really daunting, but it won’t happen very often. If it exceeds $1000 we’ll bring it back to the GA to discuss it.

Concern about a separate fund—likes that idea, but what is better is the whole group supporting the people who put their bodies and reputations on the line to be with us in solidarity. So they think symbolically that having access to the general fund is really important for us.

12.3.7. Understands money is a tough issue. But he saw a plate by the signs: if you have money, give some. If you need money, take some. That plate was still full, which means we are not stealing from ourselves. We are great at supporting ourselves! Furthermore, the OWS movement at large is also great at supporting us! How many thousands of meals over the past twelve days have we not paid for? We will have support! Would like to suggest that we think about this fund as a strike fund. In the same way, which is that you don’t always go on strike, but you always have the fund. And you have the fund to show solidarity and to know that when you get in trouble, you have the money to back yourselves up. Wants to second the original proposal, and add that in the spirit of solidarity, everyone who is here and who has money should contribute something, anything to this fund in that spirit. We shouldn’t bail out anybody arrested who is an outside provocateur.

12.3.7.1. Response: That is not the proposal.

12.3.8. Proposal: In the rare event that someone needs bail because they were protesting or arrested in this square and its occupation, then we would provide bail money from the general funds. If it exceeds $1000, they will bring that to the GA.

F: Any blocks? NO! 12.3.9. CONSENSUS

12.4. Internet Discussion

12.4.1. Drew with Internet! Wants to clear up some questions he’s been hearing around the park. Our website is NYCGA.net (New York City General Assembly). You may be much more familiar with OccupyWallSt.org. They are an affinity group working closely in solidarity with all of us. However, the NYCGA is responsible to you. The NYCGA keeps records of these assemblies, group minutes, the groups that are active and provides pertinent

information to us. He would like to open up a BRIEF—no more than twenty minutes—question and suggestion stack, so please get on stack.

12.4.2. What is our official hashtag on twitter?

12.4.2.1. The one widely used is #occupywallstreet. We have no official one. If you would like to make one concerning the GA, use #nycga.

12.4.2.2. Also, the website’s twitter is @nyc\_ga. This account is open to receive pertinent information, calendar events, media, and anything else directly related to the GA.

12.4.3. Have we—if not—can we make some flyers with that information regarding the websites?

12.4.3.1. Yes! He will work diligently to outline this information, both online and in flyer form, which he can distribute.

12.5. Announcements

12.5.1. Food committee—Dmitri needs 3-4 people to help close the kitchen tonight around people. Also needs 3-4 volunteers to help serve breakfast tomorrow at 7. If you’re interested in helping, come see him now at the food table. Thank you!

12.5.2. For anyone interested in attending or performing, there will be a talent show right over there when the GA breaks!

12.5.3. Last weekend an informal tally of states represented in the plaza. A majority of states are represented in the plaza, at least 26. As far away as Anchorage, Alaska!

12.5.4. Lost and found is by the central flowers.

12.5.5. Group will meet right here right now about step up, step back, boundaries, gender pronouns, invites us all to come.

12.5.6. There will be a Slut Walk Saturday at noon before our march that’s against gender-based violence and sexual assault! They would like us to be there, and they will merge their march with our march.

**General Assembly Minutes 9/29 7PM**

Posted September 29th, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 13

Meeting Date/Time: 9/29/2011 / 7pm EST

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators: Kobi and Nalini

F: Start today with acknowledgement and celebration of this great movement in 66 cities in the United States, who will join us in the coming weeks! All of us here are making history, writing history together! How many people are here for the first time? Many! Welcome to the General Assembly of New York City!

Kobi—My heart is full with joy to see so many people here tonight trying to make our future better for all of humanity!

Nalini—I have learned so much from everyone here! We have all learned true solidarity! We should all be proud of this movement. So now we’re going to go over process. [PROCESS REVIEW.]

Facilitation is a process of shared power. They are not leaders. Everybody has the right to be a facilitator. Every day at 5:30 there is training by the bottom stairs. Please come to the training and participate!

AGENDA:

13.1. Working Group Report Backs

13.2. Announcements

13.3. Declaration of the Occupation of New York City

13.1. Working Group Report Backs

13.1.1. Press Relations—Patrick. Today we had a disturbing incident. Someone decided to mess with the press. We can’t be doing that. These people help us out, they reach millions of people every day. They spread our message. They spread our general assembly. It’s good if they like us. Try not to piss them off.

13.1.2. Food—Amy. Last night she made a call for your kitchens. You answered! We are serving food that comes from your kitchens. Thank you, it’s awesome! Secondly, a lady named Alia let us use her kitchen, and she wrote us a wonderful poem!

13.1.3. Media—Media has made a contact list with names, year, and skills so we basically have a full film group times ten! If you want to sign up, there will be a list at the info booth. We’ll get started tomorrow and have people editing with a continuing stream of content. The YouTube channel is OccupyTVNY.

13.1.4. Information—Today the info stream is online! There’s now a phone at Welcome 1, Welcome 2, and the InfoHub! That means people can walk down the street, walk to the booth, talk to the booth, tell them what they’re good at, and join a working group! A couple rules: Three phones! These are not personal phones! They stay at the desk. Don’t take the phone. Someone already took the phone. But it’s back! Don’t take it again!

13.1.5. We printed a skeleton schedule listing the meeting times for working groups to the best of their knowledge, plus GA and direct action times. Those schedules are at the tables. If you’re in a working group, please look at the schedule, and if you have anything to add, please let them know, so everybody can go to all of the meetings. Also, they will be having a meeting after the GA to get people to staff the info tables over the next few days, so we’re not missing phones and people have information, and everything goes smoothly. There is a lot of information.

13.1.6. If you’re a working group without a set meeting time, get a set meeting time, go to info, write it down!

13.1.7. Environment—Jesse from newly-formed environmental health committee. They will be having discussions about corporate environmental criminals whose activity directly affects people living in NYC, in particular hydro-fracking. They will also be discussing some on-site environmental activism, including a composting initiative and possibly earthworm bins. Please come join them at 4PM tomorrow at the library, and bring ideas!

13.1.8. Facilitation—Bea from Facilitation. Facilitation is open to everyone, just join us! They will be meeting every day at 4PM at the tree at the very end of the plaza, then moving to somewhere quiet, so come on time. In the past it has been difficult to find them. They apologize. If you want facilitation training, this is separate. That will be at 5:30 at the end of the plaza. Please come and learn. They also want to clarify how you get items on the agenda. They do not want to have to make unilateral decisions, so they ask that you please bring your great ideas first to a working group, and talk to them, and work on your ideas in a small group. Draft it into something worthy of 400 people, then bring it to facilitation. You can either bring it to them any time before 4PM, so they have time to thoughtfully craft how they will bring it forth to the assembly, or they will have a box at the information table to write down your ideas after, hopefully, you have had a small group work it out with you. They will check that box before 4PM. Thank you! Again, come join facilitation!

13.1.9. Principals of Solidarity—Amin. They are working, they anticipate to have a second draft for the GA’s consideration on further comment by Friday at the latest. Tomorrow.

13.1.10. Labor—Jackie. Speaking for Labor Support and Outreach Working Group. More good news! Today they found out that the most militant labor union in NYC, the one with the guts to break the anti-strike law and strike…….. Transit Workers Union! Local 100 TWU endorsed Occupy Wall Street! She will just tell us about the things that are coming up in the next day or so because the labor unions are all banging down our door, looking for support. So tomorrow you are invited to go to a picket line for the phone workers, the Communication

Workers of America at 1 West Street at noon. And at 11AM people will gather at the red sculpture to plan and get ready to carry out a very creative direct action in support of the phone workers. Tomorrow we need a bunch of people for that one, she hopes people will come. Tomorrow 5:30 at 1 Police Plaza there is a rally in support of Occupy Wall Street, by a lot of different rank-and-file trade unionists, especially from her union, the Faculty and Staff at City University. After a rally, they will march to Liberty Plaza.

13.1.11. Arts and Culture—Finisa and Libor. They meet at 6PM every day at a tree at the end and circled by a bench. Tomorrow at 9PM by the library there will be an open poetry forum. Please tell all your spoken word friends and poets to come and share some poetry. On Monday there will be a zombie march at noon! If there are changes, they will let us know. What they are doing is dressing as zombies, bringing play money, fake blood, fake teeth, and march around like zombies eating money! Please meet at the library Monday at noon. Next thing planned is a helium balloon bonanza, slightly covert. If you’re interested, email them at arts\_culture@nycga.net. We need administration help, so if you’re interested in helping please email them at that same email. The last thing is a big musical surprise! It’s such a big surprise, that everyone will shit in their pants! They can’t tell us until tomorrow. They are going to announce who is coming to play for us at noon tomorrow. They will not announce it online, so you have to be here, and bring your friends. The surprise will start at 4PM and probably last till 6. It is really really big, so you might want to cancel some plans you have. Sorry! Please be here a little before 3PM.

13.1.12. Safer Spaces—Amy and Pam. We all want this to be an amazing experience and opportunity for everyone involved, and we recognize we all come from really different places and have very different backgrounds and language for talking about experiences. Everyone entering these spaces is asked to be aware of your language and behavior and to think about whether it might be marginalizing or harmful to others. This is not a space for language or behavior that perpetuates oppression including but not limited to: racist, age-ist, sexist, trans-phobic, bi-phobic, heterosexist, homophobic, size-ist, able-body-ist, or classist behavior or remarks. This is a space for learning, sharing, exploring and celebrating, not a space for violence on any level. Please be open to everyone’s beliefs and try to be actively aware and accountable for any privileges you may have. Examples of privilege include but are not limited to: white privilege, gender privilege, economic privilege, class privilege, sis-gendered privilege. Make your best effort to check assumptions about others such as economic background, survivor/perpetrator status, disability status, etc. Be aware of everyone’s comfort levels, emotions, and body language. Keep in mind that the way someone dances or dresses may be sexy, but that does not necessarily reflect boundaries or desires of any one individual. The person who you may want to touch does not necessarily want to be touched. Paying attention to body language and getting explicit verbal consent to touch, dance, or sleep next to someone is very important. All community members are empowered to ask someone to leave who is making others feel unsafe. Please speak out if you feel unsafe. Help keep each other safe, and be responsive and validated. People with pink arm bands are the Safer Space Committee. Please talk to them if you feel weird or triggered. If you are in an accountability process, please check in with your accountability team before coming to the park. In short: Don’t be a jerk! Be respectful! Take care of each other! Have fun an make new friends! On the note of preferred gender pronouns, if this is expected to be a space that encourages equality an inclusive process, then those who do not identify within the gender binary must be given consideration and respect as equal members of this political body. Do not assume anyone’s gender identity or preferred pronoun. Ask! Respect the gender pronouns and names of everyone. If you are in an interactive and there have not been a pronoun-name-sharing

activity, please be empowered to speak up and suggest one. We encourage expressing yourself with your PGP.

13.1.13. Legal—Three announcements:

13.1.13.1. Defendants… people who were arrested in the past twelve or so days and are going to trial, they are going to have a meeting with all the lawyers to discuss your cases. These two meeting options are Friday 11AM and Sunday 2PM. The address 132 Nassau St Ste. 922. 13.1.13.2. Some people have been considering filing complaints with the civilian complaint review board. Just a reminder, that body works of the NYPD. They will ask you questions that you have to answer. Not only are there legal implications, safety implications in this process. Not saying you shouldn’t file complaints, just talk to legal to talk about it and consider your options. 13.1.13.3. A couple days ago we decided by consensus not to have a police liaison. If you’re confused about that, come talk to her. But as a reminder, if you’re feeling like taking on responsibility to talk to cops about what you’re doing, it’s not only unsafe, but it goes against what we decided as a group would be best for everyone.

13.1.14. Outreach—We are all outreach! Folks are riding the subway, going to schools flyering, and going to local neighborhoods. Continue to do so! We were at a meeting after the GA in the corner, hope to see you there. Also, it will be a great week of solidarity across the nation! October 5 student walk-out here and all over the state! Also, labor march! Also meeting us here! Everybody get ready, save your voices, cause we got a big week ahead!

13.1.15. Comfort—May is in the group, it’s way behind medical at the far left end of the park. Showers are important. We know everyone needs one! We had some people volunteer, and we’re organizing a list to accommodate you all so that you can be clean and comfortable and smell good. We have a volunteer who will allow two women per day after 7PM to come and use her shower. There are a lot of people, and it will be time-consuming. Creating a first-come first-serve list. Still compiling a list of other volunteers, so we can accommodate everyone. Will have the list by the comfort station. If you’re in need of a shower, write your name down.

13.1.15.1. Laundry, towels, sleeping bags are disorganized right now. Have agreed to work with sanitation so that all items, including donated items can be nice and clean. We need some things to be donated, so if you can spread the word, that would be great. Need towels, clothing for larger-bodied people… sweatpants, hoodies. It’s going to get really cold! Nobody likes freezing their ass off, please help out! Looking for large to XXL sizes.

13.1.15.2. Been very difficult in the past few days with one person on comfort and all of us. Five volunteers have been doing a great job. We don’t want anyone with pneumonia. Need volunteers for clothing, tarp, towels, etc. When you guys bring in tarp from the rainy night before it’s a process of waiting all day for those tarps to be dry, and a lot of times they are not available the next night. So there’s a subgroup of people to come dry off the tarps. If you’d like to come help out, it would be greatly appreciated it. It’s not hours of drying tarp, but if you can contribute an hour, that would be great.

13.1.16. Medical—Kevin. We have Francis Fox Piven here, amazing! If people are having trouble sleeping because of noise, there are earplugs in great supply because you guys need

your sleep. There are plenty of vitamin supplements, so feel free to come by to keep up your immune system in case of rain. On board with Comfort and keeping away pneumonia. If you had a dressing change done for any blisters, cuts, burns, etc. please come over to get it changed. You can try to do that at least twice a day. Keep it clean, keep it dry. If you have blisters, please don’t be a martyr! There is plenty of stuff, and they want to make sure it doesn’t get infected. Come on by. Hydration is important! If people have sweatshirts, please try to bring them down. Get out of wet clothes into something dry if possible. If you feel out of sorts physically or out of sorts mentally, come to them… they have trained people with psychology degrees and social work degrees. Come to them, they can talk to you.

13.1.17. Planned Global Action on October 15—Statement has been circulated, has been endorsed by a lot of GAs, in the Middle East and Spain. In its original form it was endorsed by Noam Chomsky and others. This document that was sent to Liberty Square for our consideration is in English, Spanish, Arabic, Italian.

13.1.17.1 Global democracy statement: On the 15th of October 2011, united in our diversity, united for global change, we demand global democracy, global governance by the people, for the people inspired by our sisters and brothers in Tunis, Cairo… Palestine, Israel, Spain, Greece. We too call for a regime change, a global regime change! We will not come to global institutions hand in hand begging for policy change. Today we demand replacing the G8 with the whole of humanity. The G7billion… The rest of the statement will be posted. True global democracy now!

13.1.17.2. The statement is circulating globally. We are part of this global movement. We would like to get a vibe check about how we feel about this statement. REAL GOOD VIBES! With your permission, we will put this, not today, but tomorrow, as an agenda item to be endorsed by this body.

13.1.18. Open Solutions—They are the Free Libre and Open Source Solutions Group. The revolution will not be copywritten! If you know what Free Libre Open Source means, raise your hand! Their mission is to make sure everyone’s hand will be raised around the world. FLO means you have the right to use, modify, improve, and share the solutions that you need to make the world you want. If we all collaborated on solutions we could not be victims to anyone with “the answer.” Apple and Google are not Open Source! Linux and Wikipedia are open source! We have a listserv now! You can find it at NYCGA.cc. We also meet every day at 3PM at the library. Ted is going to tell you about a few amazing solutions. There are many more that will make you poo your pants.

13.1.18.1 Right now we are working on independent internet infrastructure, RGA. So we can make our own cell phone calls on our network, not their network! YES! Right now we are beginning to figure out how we can coordinate all of our groups with open source solutions. One of the first takes they have taken on is to figure out a list of demands, using effective open source solutions. We would like to consult with the Anarchist group, with all the other groups about how these demands and visions will actually reflect us all. These will be non-conditional demands and actions. We will always BE HERE! One other small thing is an open source map of Liberty Square so we can organize like a grid system everything we’re doing!

13.1.18.2. We are also looking to the future and the power of open source, and we want to start discussions about how we create an information age of open source economy. Ask “them” how they want to participate with us!

13.1.19. Finance—Victoria. She needs some help. If you’ve been looking for her and couldn’t find her, it’s because there’s one of her and many of us. Wants to extend an offer to any of us to help with finance. It’s not as scary as it seems. Most of the tough parts are worked out. Few steps away from an account at a credit union. We’re close! In the meantime, she requests that all the working groups be patient when asking for finances or proposing budgets. Much still needs to be discussed in front of the GA. Also, many of you made purchases for the occupation before we had money. If you are holding onto receipts and are waiting for reimbursements, we are ready to reimburse you! Please find her so we can figure this out. Also, if people are unclear about how to donate or how to tell people how to donate, all their info is now online at OccupyWallSt.org. This includes our physical address and the UPS store. If you have any questions, look for her. There will be more members soon, of course!

13.1.20. Direct action—Ari. Tomorrow we will be marching in solidarity with the CUNY professors who will be marching in solidarity with us! 5:30 marching to 1 Police Plaza! 13.1.20.1. Direct action will now be meeting at 2PM every day underneath the red sculpture before moving off-site. Please be on time! 13.1.20.2. A friendly reminder that we will be holding pacer trainings before each march. They will be occurring twice a day at 11:30AM and 5PM by the red statue.

13.2. Announcements

13.2.1. Francis Fox Piven—Glad to be here! So glad that we are here! We are amazing! A lot of us are young, have energy, imagination, guts. We could start a movement in the United States, maybe across the globe! We have come to the right place to kick off that movement—WALL STREET! Wall Street is the center of the neo-liberal cancer that has spread across the world! You’re heard people say, “they’re greedy.” And they are greedy. You’ve heard people say they are thieves. And they are thieves. But they’re also CANNIBALS! Because they are eating their OWN! US! They have managed, over the last fifty years, to push all the taxes on our backs and to virtually eliminate their own tax. And then what do they do? They say, “oh the deficits, they are the big problem.” They are a problem. Because big business and finance has stopped paying taxes. And then what do they do? They insist on attacking public education! They insist on firing teahers! They roll back pensions! Does that make sense? They don’t even care if they live in this country. They’re going to suck it dry and move, I guess, to Dubai. Can we reverse that? Well—the people have reversed corporate greed and madness before! So maybe this is the beginning. There are movements and occupations like this in LA, Chicago, Boston… we’re going to re-occupy our country! And to do that, we have to link arms with poor people, with black people, with working people, with unions, we have to all be together because this is going to be the fight of our LIVES!

13.2.2. I had a long speech, but she said everything! How courageous and inspirational we are, the seeds of a revolution. It touched his heart. She talked about Wall Street, unions, social programs, education, and the class warfare being waged on the poor and the middle class. The fact is, our problem, at least our number one problem is the corporations and the

special interest groups that are more important to our politicians than the people. The lobbyists, the money, gotta get out of Washington! I should pay more taxes. If I can’t I’ll give it away. We must rebuild democracy! Many news outlets say we don’t know what we want. We have to tell them one thing: we want freedom from the politicians, the corporate ownership, their lies. Get the money out of Washington!

F: Anyone else who wants to speak up and soapbox, please come get on stack after the GA. F: One minute each. Fifteen minutes.

13.2.3. Tomorrow at 3PM will be running with a few other people a nonviolent direct action 101. Maybe some people have never participated in anything like that. She proposes we join her at the assembly spot at 3PM and do role-plays on what to do if confronted by police, how to take care of each other. If you’re touched or arrested by police officers. Will talk about non-violence and what that looks like tactically. We will be really active tomorrow and have fun in the park.

13.2.4. Green Party—Green party people have contributed materials to this square. Green party has never taken corporate money. The greens want to do more! Greens have invited Outreach to table with us at Atlantic Avenue Street Fair this Sunday. Will be able to talk to thousands of NYers who do not know about this movement. They are organizing to provide kitchen space, clothes, gear, and organizing contingents for the actions globalized by and with this assembly. The Greens still want to do more! So when you see a Green banner, please come up and share your ideas for how our local Green chapters and green candidates all around the country can express solidarity with this movement in the streets, into the banks and in the media! Thanks for your time and energy!

13.2.5. Matt—A group is organizing Slut Walk. Marching Saturday at Union Square. It might be good to invite them down here. 13.2.6. Wants to start a group dedicated to civil disobedience. How is that different from direct action? This group will only focus on forms of civil disobedience and how to effectively plan, organize, and carry out non-violent civil disobedience. If you’re interested in such things, they will meet at the library right after GA.

13.2.7. Mustafa from Egypt—He’s seen winners before. He sees winners again! He’s very glad he’s here. It brings back the wonderful feeling he had before. Some advice: Please make a list that contains a few demands, a few solid demands, unbreakable demands, and be sure that the beginning that the first step… It’s time for our generation to lead the world all over the world! We will do it! I will pray for you, thank you!

13.2.8. Dmitri—Require three volunteers to close the kitchen at midnight. If interested, show up at midnight!

13.2.9. Rich—Been working on goals and plans with his wife and friends who think he’s crazy. Spent several hours putting together a simple straw-man platform for the group. It does list what he considers some of our beliefs, goals for the movement, means to attain those goals, and the end point. They are just suggestions to start people thinking, just as one of the speakers mentioned, it is very important that we bring this down to something concrete, and it would be nice to do that sooner rather than later. Would like to pass out some copies to generate copies after the meeting.

13.2.10. Kelley—Planning a march to DC. A woman has been organizing a march about bringing awareness to GMOs, so if this is an issue of particular interest to you and you want to join them on the march, they are leaving this Saturday, walking to DC. They will get there the 15th. The Route is on their website for more info. She’ll leave it on the table at the front.

F: Can we move the rest of the announcements to after the meeting and move onto the Call to Action agenda item?

13.3. Declaration of the Occupation of New York City

[Note-takers note: The document is a page-and-a-half. They read it out and offered people to email them to get a hard copy to pose amendments and concerns. They didn’t want to take up time in assembly.]

[edit: link to document online]

13.3.1. It was done with transparency with the working group. To avoid taking up too much time, let’s read the document together. But first there’s pretty exciting news about how this process was formed!

13.3.2. Eric—First of all, if you want a copy, you can send an email to c2anycga@gmail.com. We had about ninety emails from last night to now. We sent about eighty-five already. We had good responses from everybody, with responses from across the nation from Tucson, Illinois, Colorado, Tampa. They have emails with support and wish to share this document and start a new revolution! Mexico, Frankfurt, United Kingdom, New Zealand, and Sydney! The world is watching! This document reveals what we are pissed about! Not what we know. But with this we can say with clarity what we really want. He proposes that in order to save time, everybody with a copy read it together. We all read the statement out loud in unison.

13.3.3. Our movement has now a reason, now we work in the action! Solidarity! It is our proposal to release this document to every other Occupy Movement, to put it on the internet as a beacon to those who are incredibly angry and want to do something about it, even if they can’t be here. 13.3.4. QUESTIONS

13.3.4.1. Open source has been vigilantly working on a document, and they request that the Open Source document be reviewed in parallel and as a companion to this document.

Response: There’s nothing stopping Open Source from going through a similar process.

13.3.4.2. Could there be a statement clarifying that the list of grievances is not all-inclusive?

Response: Yes!

13.3.4.3. This is brilliant! Clarification: “It is up to the individuals to protect their own rights and those of their brethren.” Isn’t that what created a problem in the first place? Of people looking after only their own interests. Maybe wrong interpretation?

Response: That statement is in support of what we’re doing here. The system has stripped our rights, and we’re here in support of ourselves and each other.

13.3.4.4. Could she suggest adding onto that to clarify that this is a collection of individuals to make that statement more clear about what’s happening here?

Response: Let’s speak and work it out to make it more clear. Not their intention to do anything that does not represent this movement.

13.3.4.5. Can we add “and relieve suffering” at the end so it reads “They continue to block generic forms of medicines that could save people’s lives and relieve suffering.”

Response: He invites anyone to approach them with small edits. They will be here to for people to approach them. That sounds like a great idea.This has been an ever-evolving process. They have edited because of concerns and questions and are open to more. They want to propose that they can publish this to other GAs and people.

13.3.4.6. Would like them to clarify the proposal and add the official method for people to contribute what they have already begun to say. Perhaps to avoid confusion of adding further amendments we could possibly add something that states that this is a living document. Believes this is a very strong document and, furthermore, brevity is the soul of wit. It is important that the thing we produce is understandable and important to the people who read it. He proposes we make sure this thing does not get out of control.

F: Please, questions only!

13.3.4.7. What is the process for adding grievances to the document?

Response: email them or come to their working group. They meet at 6PM most days, or email them, and they will let you know if that time has changed.

13.3.4.8. What’s the email address?

Response: c2anycga@gmail.com Also available at Info Hub.

13.3.4.9. Would like to know if this will remain a living document that can still be modified after it is send to the other groups.

Response: We have done a lot of revision on this. Ketchup has proposed what he thinks is the best solution—that the list of grievances is not all-inclusive.

13.3.4.10. Where do you meet at 6PM?

Response: Been jumping around, but the final meeting place seems to be the library. If that changes, they’ll let you know in an announcement or email.

13.3.4.11. How do you foresee or intend for this to work with the existing list of principals moving into the future?

Response: We have had a lot of conversations with the facilitators, specifically those that propose our principals of solidarity. It is their intention for this document to co-exist with those.

One will not be more important than the other. It is important for us to get messages to everyone. We want people to know what we’re thinking. 13.3.5. CONCERNS

13.3.5.1. I’m concerned that there’s no mention of the destruction of workers’ organizations. Will you raise workers’ grievances? Will they address those grievances through their unions? She thinks we should condemn union busting. There will be no trade union movement if they continue as they have been in the last few years.

Response: We have addressed corporations stripping people of the right to negotiate, etc. It’s a matter of semantics.

13.3.5.2. There seems to be a lack of concern for animal cruelty and the sustainability problems that it currently represents. This is very important to a large number of us.

Response: Brother could draft agreements specifically relating to animal cruelty.

13.3.5.3. Age, color, gender, sexual orientation are mentioned only as problems as how people are treated in the workplace and negative environmental issues.

Response: Wanted to keep this document specifically related to issues in the corporate sphere. It is a huge issue, we agree, that extends way beyond the workplace. For the sake of the document and making it coherent for the workplace. They have tried to address environmental issues, through talking about energy, food supply, donating to politicians that should be regulating corporations. If you have a semantical amendment you’d like to see, email them.

F: Closing stack.

13.3.5.4. Trangendered people are the most discriminated group in the workplace. They would like to propose that we add gender identity to the statement about workplace discrimination.

Response: We accept.

13.3.5.5. One concern is there is no mention of corporations that are part of the prison-industrial complex that are profiting on the mass incarceration of our black and brown brothers and sisters. This is destroying communities of New York and across the country.

Response: We accept.

13.3.5.6. Unions—consult semantics on Jackie.

Response: OK.

13.3.5.7. Oceans, forests, etc. should get mentioned.

Response: If you have such concerns, please approach them or send them an email.

13.3.5.8. My concern is relating to the prison-industrial complex. There is nothing here about the war on drugs perpetuating the existence of drug cartels and imprisoning people wrongfully.

Response: Before our facilitator speaks, there are a lot of things our government is doing that we really don’t agree with. The war on drugs is one of them, however it’s a really thin line separating government issues from corporate issues influencing how the government is run. This is an ongoing document! He would like to pass a friendly amendment and move to temperature check on this proposal as an ever-living document, and people can submit their edits to the email.

F: Any blocks? Two blocks.

13.3.6. Blocks

13.3.6.1. If we’re going to say we’re the 99% we have to stick with issues the 99% of this country agree with. He is an anarchist, bisexual environmentalist, against the war on drugs. This is not 99% of the United States. We are at an impasse where this can be symbolic or substantial. If we embrace all the causes the majority of us believe in, this will be a symbolic movement. If we focus on Wall Street and corporations, we have a chance of changing things and getting the 99% behind us.

Response: This document we wrote specifically refers to corporations and things they are doing, and the way they use money to influence our lives and control us. Your concern seems more suited for the demands group, rather than a list of grievances and corporations.

13.3.6.2. Doesn’t want to block, really, but could we consider changing brethren to “all peoples” because it’s patriarchal. And could we make the statement about individual rights clearer?

Response: Yes.

F: Any other blocks? Anyone can see them about editing! Blocks should only be for serious ethical or safety concerns! Take the time to write an email to these lovely people if you want to edit this document.

F: Both blocks retracted.

13.3.6.3. Block 3—There’s been a coordination problem. Open Source has been working in parallel doing focus groups, taken input from over 70 people, working on the process in parallel. Before we go much further we have to meet and resolve how our two documents can be presented together.

Response: Concern already addressed. Ethical and safety issues only.

F: May I suggest these two groups work together moving forward?

F: Third block retracted.

13.3.6.4. On the fence about blocking. Why not go through another round of edits before publishing? There are a lot of people here making suggestions and having issues. One more round at least would be extremely beneficial to the process.

Response: Just to explain why we would like to get this done tonight—we’ve had responses from around the world asking to disseminate this. People on Twitter have been disseminating the last draft. This needs to get out there because there’s always going to be people not here. We want those people involved. There’s no reason any proposal ever proposed in this GA can’t go through one more edit. It’s a powerful document that affects a lot of people, and there will never be a perfect group of words to satisfy everyone. We want contributions. It’s a living document. Everything is not included, this will be noted. It shouldn’t be a major ethical concern to release this around the world as a template, a rallying point, for people who want to get out there and make a difference.

13.3.6.5. Block 4—Grievance in supporting a document that claims that my oppression on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, religion, and things not mentioned on this document are something that happened formerly and not in the present day.

Response: This can be addressed. The document says that these divisions have formerly happened. We know they happen now, that’s why we’re writing it this way. This document is saying “we want to leave this shit in the past where it belongs to create a new America, world, new society, where everyone is equal.” We do not mean to ignore present-day issues. It was drafted so we can leave that behind.

13.3.6.6. Block 5—That phrase erases so much history of oppression, it is idealistic, not realistic. We still think it should be changed, and we think it’s an ethical issue.

Response: Rephrase, “formerly divided” so we can have what you would like to see written. Then the working group can decide whether we want to move to consensus without it.

F: Let’s all relax!

13.3.6.7. We appreciate the process, we appreciate everything you’ve done, we want a small verb change, we feel it is an ethical matter. “As one people, despite divisions of color of our skin…”

Response: We’re fine with that. Let’s meet after and decide which phrasing to use.

Block withdrawn.

F: We’re going to take this to a straw poll. Given that it is a living document that can be edited and we all can contribute on the website.

Short break.

F: Big conversation just happened with friends at Open Source. Their concern is that they have a big document with protestors in Washington, and they want it to come out as the same time as ours. They understand that, but they’ve been working on this for a long time. We can still pass this and coordinate with Open Source. We don’t need to waste time. “Brethren” being changed to “all people” is accepted as a friendly amendment.

F: THIS IS WHAT DEMOCRACY LOOKS LIKE!

F: We will vote on that now. Straw poll. Looks good!

13.3.7. CONSENSUS! WOOT WOOT!

F: Please email them with concerns or edits or come find them.

F: If people still have announcements, come over and announce them.

[ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED]

**NYCGA Minutes 9/30/2011, 7PM**

Posted September 30th, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 14

Meeting Date/Time: 9/30/2011 / 7pm EST

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators:

F: Discussion of General Assembly Process and Facilitation Training F: Discussion of Human Microphone F: Discussion of Stack. Progressive stack explanation. Gives marginalized speakers more access to process. Gives those who speak less often a chance to access the process.

F: Discussion of hand symbols. Point of process (diamand shape hand sign). Speak up (finger upwards). Point of information. Approve (spirit fingers upwards). So-so (spirit fingers straight up). Disapprove (spirit fingers down). Block (arms make “X”). This is very serious and must entail an issue that is so serous to you that you would be willing to walk away from the movement over serious ethical concerns or serious safety concerns. EMERGENCY ANNOUNCEMENT We cannot have this many people surrounding one person, we need a team of individuals to

AGENDA

14.1. Working Group Report Backs

14.2. Announcements

14.3. Agenda Items (Request for Funds: Outreach, Direct Action)

14.1. Working Group Report Backs

14.1.1. Public Relations: Thank you everybody for coming out today and supporting our cause and I also know that it is your cause too, Most of you know me already. My name is Zero. I’m here with PR to let you know that anything you want to directly give to media or report to media that’s essential to the community, Should go to PR first, Any direct action that you want to take through media must also go thru PR. We also apologize for the misccomunication of the special guest that we were supposed to have today. Anyway thank you again and come see me if you have any questions or would like to join PR.

14.1.1.1. The support from the labor movement has become overwhelming, Since yesterday when the transit union endorsed #occuptwallstreet. The people working in the subways, they have been recievin many phone calls from other union leaders who want to support us. Let

me just give you two names to remember you have already heard perhaps that the labor and community groups are mobilizing at city hallon Wednessday then they will march to liberty plaza. Next week we will see a lot of other unions coming out to endorse us. Can anyone who wants to join the labor support and outreach committee we will meet at 6pm in the southwest corner of the park.. If anyone wants to get notices of our activities give me…

14.1.2. Open Source 14.1.3. Legal Team: No arrests all day! Our primary responsibility is taking care of each other,

ii. We have lots of radical and progressive lawyers working with us, If you are arrested please call the National Lawyers Guild at 212-679-6018. Solidarity!

14.1.4. Consolidation of Principles: I’m on the working group consolidating all of our principles of solidarity,. We will be presenting another draft of the principles of solidarity that we all crafted together later tonight at the assembly, You are all beautiful.

14.1.5. Translation: We are translating our materials into as many languages as possible, If you would like to help us do this, we meet at the red thing after the general assembly.

F: There’s a new working group…. 14.1.6. Speakeasy caucus: The speakeasy caucus is a safe haven for a wide spectrum of persons ranging from female bodied persons who identify as GA women to male bodied persons who do not identify 100% as men, We will be meeting after the GA in front of the halal cart. Look for me, Thank you.

14.1.7. Internet: Hello everyone, I’m crew with internet , This is an announcement for groups ,,, your minutes and email to minutes@nycga.net. Website has problems. If you have skills with fixing these types of things please meet us at the media center.

14.1.8. Direct Action: Tomorrow has a bunch of awesome stuff, As well as non-violent direct action training, at 2:30 there is a pacers training before the 3 o’clock march. We need pacers, A lot of pacers. So if you haven’t been or would like to be a pacer come tomorrow

14.1.8.1. Also, today’s march … a pacer is a person who keeps the march together and keeps appropriate speed. Pacer training will be tomorrow under the red structure at 2:30

14.1.9. Facilitation: If you would like to know how to better participate in this assembly come to .the bottom of the park at 5:30 shows you how to empower yourselves within this beautiful community.

14.1.9.1. Also the facilitation is meeting in the same place and would like more people who would like to learn how to participate in the facilitation process,

F: Discussion of incoming rain

General assembly pauses to protect food and electronics from rain.

F: We want everyone to know that if you see violence,,,, make sure that the person is identified

14.1.10. Safe Spaces: Pay attention and be aware of physical boundaries and respond to social cues, such as if you touch someone and they pull away, back off and don’t take it personally, Be respectful, We will meet by the library after the GA. We wear ping equal signs or bows… We would like to participate with all different groups to insure best practices…… we’d also like to get input from you about things that can go better, aren’t working at the far end of the square

14.1.11. Security: Security meeting at the red structure now thank you

14.1.12. Finance: As you can see I am no longer alone up here, This is…? We have an account at a credit union. We can now begin to address the financial processes, It’s hard gotta keep it transparent, tomorrow well talk about budgets and what we can do to work with them 14.1.12.1. It has been difficult to keep track of all the working group and I ask that all the working groups meet with us and at time TBD tomorrow to set up an account changes in finance. All groups provide a list of your members, what your description is and bring that to the group 14.1.13. Call to Action: Last night we approved the declaration of the occupation of new york city, its online c2a@nycga.net? There are 26 cities in active occupation. We are a source of inspiration, this is a glorious moment. The open document We’re taking a short break Monday 6pm.

14.1.14. Sanitation: This weekend we have a lot of people and could use a lot of help, I’ll be sweeping and cleaning all night, Come see us and see how you can help out,

14.1.15. Outreach: There’s a lot of autonomous outreach going on, This is great but we’d love it if you could coordinate with us so we can present a more united front. There is a table for outreach but don’t wait for us. Connect with people.

14.1.15.1. Tomorrow, 9am we are receiving 100k copies of the newspaper of this occupation, #occupywallstreet journal This means we need your help more than ever. 100k copies need to be distributed, the will be at the outreach tables tomorrow. Help us distribute them all over the place. We need your help with the outreach to canvas to all of NYC, via the subways, your neighborhoods… all the communities of NYC come together.. Friday 7pm. If you want to flier…. All the fliers so far and the website nycga.net…. write them distribute them…. Creative fliers online help us….

14.2. Announcement 14.2.1. We need help with accommodating the disabled 14.2.2. We would like to clarify that the first edition of the OWS Journal 50-70k copies. We will need a media distribution team and people who will distribute the OWS Journal.

14.2.2.1. We raised twenty thousand dollars belonging to the general assembly. We need editors designers photographers and anyone else that would like to help with OWS Journal. 14.2.3. Talk about groups for immigrant artists? 14.2.4. I would like to propose the formation of the applied history working group. I don’t want to recreate the problems that got us here today, This group will focus on facts…. So we ‘re a musician or anyone who wants to be on it come see me. Or I might just find you don’t recreate broken wheels.

14.2.5. Anthony – I just gave a speech to 5k people it was totally unplanned. I made one mistake. I apologize for it. I said we are OWS, I did not acknowledge that I am an autonomous being and do not speak for the group. I apologize and will do better if it comes up again I would like to announce that tomorrow at 2:30 for queer and trans people on color contigent for the march tomorrow. Is not meant to be reactionary of confrontational, but rather to insure the safety of your community both physical and emotional as we attempt to build part of this march. If you want to participate show up at trininity church 1 block away south at 2:30. 14.2.6. Brie, I presented an idea about a purple star the color represents the American flag colors blended together [sic] one star represents one unified state of humanity out of paper ciips. The idea is that you can get stars from me. But to embrace diversity we can each make our own purple star. This is for people who stay here and those who have jobs and can’t stay here. 14.2.7. Goldy – We’re gonna do an album. This can be used for fundraising or just open source. So if you a musician come find me or I might just find you. 14.2.8. I feel it is important that some of us stayed in camp do have jobs. I have a job. I’ve stayed in camp. 14.2.9. Everyone thank you… everyone should know we have a walk GMO labeling starts united nations walk to washing dc oct 16 int’l right to know GMO labeling ,,,, label GMO…. Thank you everyone. Solidarity. 14.2.10. Rachel – I’ve been working with arts and culture committee, we have a jot of people doing a lot of things . we have people working on banners that don’t violate the line of sight legality issues. If you have ideas come talk to me under red thing after GA. 14.2.11. Dimitri- I came here this morning from Albany.. this is beautiful. We’re coming together and we’re doing something. People across the nation are coming together because they’re fed up with corporate greed. We must change the fabric of this nation away from greed. …. If we take this group make it bigger and smarter…. Learn from each other and respect each other nothing can stop us. 14.2.12. Matthew – I’m gonna be here tomorrow morning at 9am to do 99 sun salutations everyone is welcome all you need is your body. 14.2.13. Nole. It doesn’t matter who I am just remember that you are more powerful than you think you are. Thank you F: STACK CLOSED FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

14.3. Agenda Items: Requests for funds

14.3.1. Outreach- This is a request for funds proposal. We at OWS that we must come to you for anything more than $100 dollars. This proposal is for 2k$ for fliers to be handed out during the march to ….. I know you’ve heard a lot about the wonderful union support. We’d like to make Wed march biggest so far. Wed is also student walk out. So both labor students and us here at OWS will be uniting to take the streets again. Let’s get these fliers out so Wed we got power and numbers. One piece of paper costs about 10 cents. Each paper makes 4 fliers.

14.3.1.1. Concerns 14.3.1.1.1. My concern is more of a question is the labor union contributing money.

Response: No these are us announcing the day of the march

14.3.1.1.2. My concern refers to the person of the media of which there is already 20grand but for all printed material. Not necessarily concerned, just need clarification.

Response: The kickstarter fund is in process I’m understanding that you must raise a certain amount of money before taking it out. The flier is already paid for…. We’re hoping to reimburse.

14.3.1.1.3. Where is the fiers being made ?

Response: Anyone know about Kinko’s. LOL. A company in Queens. The OWS journals are in coordination with this flyer committee. I think they’re being printed in the same place.

14.3.1.1.4. Can we save on printing expense by having all working groups with printed material coordinate?

Response: Media working tirelessly tweeting…. Etc…. this is for fliers to put in hand to get them back on Wednesday.

14.3.1.1.5. Not everyone has access to a computer. 14.3.1.1.6. Have we shopped around? 10 cents a page sounds like a lot of money for bulk printing have we shopped around? F: Temp check on proposal for allocating 2k dollars to print fliers, at this point the estimate is for 80k fliers for 2k dollars allocated for printing fliers. How do people feel? F: Temp check mostly agrees F: Addressing concerns. 14.3.1.2. NO BLOCKS F: Consensus reached. Proposal passes!

14.3.2. Funds allocation for Direct Action

F: Quick announcement from security: anyone smoking herb or drinking is not security. Security is about protecting equipment not policing the community. Keep an eye on community. Any problems come see me or big Mark.

14.3.2.1. Proposal – We are also requesting some money for printing. Different kind of printing. The artist who made the sweet shirt is offering to make us a bunch of flags for marches. We are asking for 300 dollars as the estimated cost of printing the assembly a bunch of flags. 14.3.2.2. Concerns

14.3.2.2.1. My concern is actually an question for clarification. How many flags will this money make? What is on the flags?

Response: The picture of a raised fist with red white colors that says we are the 99%. It’s fucking awesome.

14.3.2.2.2. Are we gonna be able keep these flags here without having them disappear with enthusiastic marchers?

Response: Unfortunately. I wasn’t the point person so I don’t know how many flags.

**NYCGA Minutes 10/1/2011**

Posted October 1st, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 15

Meeting Date/Time: 10/1/2011 / 7pm EST

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators (F):

F: Because hundreds of us got arrested, GA will be a little bit different. First, a review of procedures. Then we will have working group report backs. After that, announcements!

F: For working group report backs, we’re going to give priority to Legal and Direct Action to report back on what happened today.

Review of Process:

Two generations of people’s mic will be required! This means that the crowd repeats what the speaker says, and the crowd further back repeats that.

AGENDA

15.1. Working Group Report Backs

15.2. Announcements

15.3. Soapbox

15.1. Working Group Report Backs

15.1.1. Legal—Marina. Part of the legal team. As people know, we have had many people arrested. Confirmed names of 100 people. But we think it’s more than double that number. We have lawyers at the precincts right now. We have heard from people held on the buses and they’re taking care of each other. Legal’s coordinating groups of people to greet people when they are released, which we think will happen tonight. It’s important we show lots of love to those who were arrested. This person will be coordinating those teams. We’ve heard so far there are buses at 1 Police Plaza and the 79th precinct. We’ll be sending people there. When people are released, they need to contact the National Lawyers Guild so that they know that they got out. They will be collecting names right up front.

The Brooklyn Bridge has been shut down due to protestors.

15.1.2. Direct Action, Sandy—Direct Action planned for a peaceful march over the Brooklyn Bridge pedestrian walkway. During the march a small group of individuals took it upon themselves to take the vehicle roadway that was not blocked off. Immediately people from Direct Action started communicating to protestors that there were two options. The planned route on the public pedestrian walkway, or if they wanted, to autonomously take the vehicle roadway, which we warned them was illegal and highly unsafe. Many people were unfortunately corralled into the vehicle roadway.

15.1.2.1. Michael—I was a scout for today’s march. I found it bizarre that there was very little security or police presence on the Manhattan side of the Brooklyn Bridge. There was a lot of police activity on the Brooklyn side.

15.1.2.2. Chris—I arrived in the middle of the march. When I got there, folks from my working group were directing people from taking the pedestrian walkway as was planned. Despite this, when I got there hundreds of people were marching on the vehicular roadway. I saw almost nobody following our working group’s recommendation to follow the pedestrian walkway. In fact, the crowd marching on the highway was so big that I myself followed them for about 200 feet before realizing what I was doing.

15.1.2.3. Sandy—On a positive note to wrap things up, there were hundreds of people who made it to Brooklyn in solidarity with the communities in Brooklyn!

15.1.3. Community relations—Justin. Wants to talk briefly about the positive relationships that we’re building with local residents and business owners. We continue to outreach to local restaurants and street cart owners on Wall Street who have been displaced by over-policing, and this week we’re going to begin to exhibit some Occupy Art Work at a local art exhibit. If you want to join the committee, find me or come to our meeting tomorrow at 12PM next to the media center.

15.1.4. Comfort—Mike. Good news: We’ve had amazing support from all over the country! We have plenty of clothing, but we are in desperate need of sleeping bags, ponchos, and clothing for larger folks, large-XXL! It’s very hectic when it’s raining, and we appreciate your cooperation and patience. We ask you to please share with your neighbors, whatever you can, to keep warm and dry, so everyone stays healthy, and there are enough supplies to last us the next few days. It’s up to all of us to get whatever help we can to keep us alive. That being said, you guys have been great! And any extra volunteers would be greatly appreciated. So come see us next to Medical if you or your friends need to stay dry and warm. Thank you!

15.1.5. Info—Info has a lot of things we need to know so we can tell everyone who comes here how to get involved. We are asking all of the working groups to please get an email address for your working group, through Internet at the NYCGA website. Then bring Info a list with the group’s name, contact, general function/description, meeting times, meeting location, to info. Currently the only way we have to get people involved with you is a volunteer sheet. Without contacts for the working groups, it’s hard to give you volunteers. They want to volunteer! Let them! Also, Info needs staff. If you have some time during the day, please see if you can relieve people at the desks. It’s fun and easy, thank you!

F: Please, working groups make your report backs concise, and try to put more words into what you’re projecting to the group!

15.1.6. Labor—Kelly. Has good news! Not only have we been endorsed by the Transit Workers Union, and as of this morning, we have been officially endorsed by SEIU1199 Hospital Workers. They have said they will support us in the following ways: One week’s worth of food and registered nurses to train our team! I invite all of you to join us to march with fellow Union brothers and sisters on Tuesday at 4PM at City Hall and Wednesday at 5PM at City Hall. Thank you!

15.1.7. Organizational outreach—Joe. What organizational outreach means is I reach out to specific organizations, trying to garner support from the NYC community. I personally deal with NYC universities. But we do a lot more than that! And we need all the help we can get! If you or anyone you know have friends, family, or ties in the community and want to help, we now have a table right next to where I’m standing where you can help you make that a reality. Right now the easiest thing would be taking some of the Occupy Wall Street Journal newspapers, which are right here by the table and distributing them in your community. Thank you!

15.1.8. Outreach media—Andrew with media. If you want to make media or learn how, write down this Gmail account: OccupyTVNY@gmail.com. We have many technical needs, namely hard drives. See Info for the US Postal Service drop box. Also, email OccupyTVNY for donation information.

15.1.9. Media—Flux with the people’s media. If you have footage of brutality or anything else that you would like to share with the world, bring it over here quickly.

F: Legal with time-sensitive information about people in the jails—We have confirmed five different jails. There are people leaving now. We want you to come! Meet back here at the sign. There’s three in Manhattan and two in Brooklyn. We will tell you how to get there! Thank you!

For those of you who haven’t been here, there are always cops around here! No reason to panic!

15.1.10. Open Source—We are the Free Libre Open Source group, reminding you that the people are the source of Open Source. We are looking for people to each one teach one, or what they know, skill sharing. We are developing an online tool—people can post offers and wants. We’re going to demo it to working groups and hopefully launch it mid-week! We are moving out of a casino debt-based economy into an Open Source economy!

15.1.11. Education—If you want to learn or teach about a society of no leaders, but everyone being a leader, there’s an education group. Please email OWSeducation@gmail.com.

Internet—Drew. All day tomorrow, I will be training working groups on using inter-group communication tools near the media center!

15.2. Announcements

F: Pertaining to the entire group. Limiting announcements to fifteen minutes, one minute each.

15.2.1. Open Source—They will be meeting at the WikiLeaks truck after General Assembly.

15.2.2. Maxine—I want you to know that the real cause is in Washington. We have a few great representatives, most are hacks.

15.2.3. Ism—All over the US, in over 60 cities other occupations are being planned or are happening right now. Every day our movement grows. We will not be silent, and we will win!

F: To reiterate, this is a time for information announcements that pertain to the entire group.

15.2.4. Azrea–I am a drag queen! I have a group of drag queens, nightlife entertainers and political activists, who want to join forces with OWS! They are coming with supplies. We will come with medical supplies, clothing, and food. We will also, if you would like, perform for you! We will be here tomorrow around 2PM. If you have any questions, you can find me by the media table.

15.2.5. Legal—They would like more people to come with them to the jails! Meet behind media! Thank you!

15.2.6. Tomorrow it’s October 2. This is not his birthday, it is the national day of non-violence, declared by the UN. We will be doing a celebration at Union Square in front of the Ghandi statue at 1PM.

15.2.7. Sharon—I would like to announce the launch of People of Color Working Group. It is time to bring more diversity to Occupy Wall Street. We will meet right now briefly under the red statue at Cedar and Broadway. Remember, the people united can never be defeated! Thank you!

15.2.8. Jay—I am a member of the People’s Organization for Progress, based in Newark, NJ. We support 100% Occupy Wall Street! Second, we ask for support for the daily protest held in Newark to demand a mass public works program, open for all, financed by taking the wealth from Wall Street and ending the wars, and we ask that OWS take up the same demand.

15.2.9. National Lawyers Guild—Going to give information about what’s happening with those who got arrested. There are three precincts here in Manhattan: 1 Police Plaza, Midtown North, Midtown South. There are four in Brooklyn: the 75th, the 77th, the 79th, and the 80. What we need is for you to email the names of those arrested to the NLG. The address is nycnlg@igc.org. You need to include phone number, name, date of birth. Also, if you have video or photos, the email is nycnlg@igc.org. Thanks!

15.2.10. Kobi—Our brothers and sisters in jail need our urgent help and solidarity. We need, right now, seven volunteers to come right here and go to support them. It’s being organized right now! So if you are willing, please meet us right up here!

15.2.11. Facilitation—We’re sorry that not everyone can hear. Today we had a great day! It was an amazing showing, and a lot of brothers and sisters were arrested. We were there, and their spirits we high! They said go to Liberty Square, regroup, learn, recruit, build solidarity, and do it again! Facilitation spoke with Direct Action, and they’re studying what happened today, because we’re learning. I’m mentioning this, just so you know, we’re building a

movement. Let’s remember that we have Soapbox, and we should focus about today, and hear from people that were there, so we can learn.

15.2.12. Joe—The New York Times is reporting that over 400 people were arrested! It is now trending worldwide on Twitter. THE WHOLE WORLD IS WATCHING.

15.2.13. Ned—Yesterday Bank of America announced that they’d be charging $5/month to use debit cards. They know that we’re here. The timing is not accidental. They are laughing, they are pouring salt.

15.2.14. Peter—If they arrest 400 of us, we can come back with 4,000! If they arrest 4,000 of us, we can come back with 40,000 of us. If we mobilize tomorrow, the city will be with us while we celebrate non-violence. Let’s protest police brutality.

F: Again, INFORMATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS ONLY. Soapboxing and personal experiences will be for after. Thank you, though.

15.2.15. Arts and Culture—Alex. Sorry I’m late! We believe that we are at the brink of a new aesthetic movement, like Impressionism, Modernism. Wrapping it up: We are creating collectives of artists of all performance arts: musicians, painters, and so forth. If you want to join one of those to create a new aesthetic, let us know! Thank you!

15.2.16. Elisa—I came from New Orleans today, post-Katrina represent! I bring with me today the hope of direct democracy. By 2012, six years ago our world suffered a devastation that today you can do something about. A website has been donated for the purpose of direct democracy. She will be working on improving coordination of this. The website for this is www.Govby.us

15.2.17. Alfonso—I worked with Arts and Culture. We have created a tri-fold pamphlet that explains what the Generally Assembly is. If you would like a digital copy, please email todoflui@gmail.com.

F: Everybody repeat loud enough for the police to hear! Tonight we have fifteen Marines coming to protect us! Apart from them, if they want to get to some protestors, so they can mace them, they will have to get through THE FUCKING MARINE CORPS FORCE!

F: Important announcement—We have decided as a group that there will be no drugs and alcohol in this park! Also, there will be quiet hours from 11PM-8AM. If you want to keep talking, do it quietly by the front so people in the back can sleep.

15.3. Soapbox

Priority will be given to people’s experiences from today.

**NYCGA Minutes 10/2/2011, 7:30PM**

Posted October 2nd, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 16

Meeting Date/Time: 10/2/2011 / 7pm EST

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators: John, Nalini?

Facilitator (F): We have a welcome table and an info table. If you want to help out go see either table. They got information; they can point you in the right way. We also have working groups. Join a working group. Working groups are autonomous. They do great things. Come and help out. You can get that info at either of those tables. We also have some thematic groups. Those groups are around issues. So if you want to talk about issues, join a thematic working group. My name is Nalini.

F: My name is Jason. We are your facilitators for this GA. If you want to be a facilitator we have a working group. Everyone is welcome. Everyone can join. We meet at 5:30. Sorry, 4pm. So we’re gonna explain how the process works.

F: This means, “I like.” This means, “I’m on the fence.” This means, “I don’t really like.” This means, “speak louder.” One more, this means “point of process.” That means if you think there is an issue with following the process of the general assembly, you make the point. Please do not use this for comments and please be respectful. We may not call on you for this, but we will see there is an issue of process. Also, hold it up after the person is speaking. It’s really rude when a lot of people are holding this up, shaking their hands, when someone is speaking. So please wait til after the person is speaking. This is Hero.

Stack (S): My name is Hero and I’m taking stack. If there is something you would like to announce for your working groups, give me your name and your working group and I will put you on stack.

S: We use a progressive stack system. Progressive stack means that we put people in order, or we might jump them ahead if they are from a marginalized background. So everyone can speak and different people can speak.

F: After working group announcements we have regular announcements. That’s when anybody can give an announcement about what they need to give.

S: My name is Ketchup, I’ll be the stack greeter. Hero will let you know who’s on deck for stack. If you’re on deck for stack, please come up here where there’s a pack and I’ll check in with you about your announcement.

F: There is a difference between individual announcements and soap boxing. Announcements mean, events, meetings, trainings, teach-ins, that are happening. The time for soap boxing will happen after announcements. After the GA. So it will happen after the GA.

AGENDA

16.1. Working Group Report Backs

16.2. Announcements

16.3. Agenda Items (Direct Action Discussion, Global Democracy Proposal)

16.1. Working Group Report Backs

F: First on deck. Right now we have working group report backs. First working group, Medical. I’m sorry, Media is first. And each working group is designated two minutes. Media.

16.1.1. We are intending to publish the second issue of The Occupy Wall Street Journal on Thursday after the union march and the student walkout. We want contributions, we also want copy editors, we also want illustrators, and graphic designers. So if you’re experienced in print production of any kind and want to submit some of your work and tell your stories about this occupation, meet over here at the library after the GA. Thank you.

S: Up next, Education Empowerment. And next on deck, Outreach, Finance, and Comfort.

16.1.2. We have started the Education Empowerment committee. We are coordinating a 6pm daily open forum. The open forum is a daily presentation on Economy and Politics followed by an open discussion. We are inviting immigrant and minority groups especially. Check the website for updates. Next meeting is Tuesday, 8:30pm by the red thing. We are also trying to get free education in the park. We are getting teachers to hold free classes. Please check the website for updates. The meeting is Tuesday, 8:30pm.

S: Up next, Outreach. On deck, Finance, Comfort, and Legal. If you’re next on deck please make your way forward.

16.1.3. Hi everybody. This is Rebecca. In the last few weeks various people who wanted to take on outreach convened autonomously. Tonight we all came together. We agreed upon outreach sub-groups. There are three of them, 1. Canvassing, 2. Publications 3. Organizational Outreach. If you want to be involved in any of these groups we now have an outreach table. See that sign? That’s where you go. IF you want to help in womening or manning that station please sign up there as well. Now I’d like to have one of our publications people present one of our main tasks.

16.1.3.1. Hi I’m Elaina. Based on feedback we’ve gotten from you and people we’ve been reaching out to we’ve decided to come up with a list of brief talking points which you may or may not choose to use when you’re doing your own outreach. These will not be a list of

demands and we will be presenting a draft to you at tomorrow night’s GA. We hope to have it done by Wednesday. And that’s it.

16.1.3.2. If you are a leader of a working group please come to the outreach table so we can get your contact info. Not the leader, sorry.

S: Next up Finance. On deck Comfort, Legal, Facilitation.

F: We should only be doing two Mics, not three.

16.1.4. Hi my name’s Pete. I’m from Finance. We had a very long meeting today about Finance. We are trying to put in place the proper protocols. We are going to meet over by the red thing at 10pm after the GA to discuss these protocols with the working groups.

16.1.4.1. It’s very important that representatives of all the working groups and thematic groups attend so they can receive the proper procedures for receiving money from finance. Thank you. 10pm after the GA.

S: Up next Comfort. On deck Legal, Facilitation, and Open Source.

16.1.5. Hi my name is Rachel. I’m here with comfort. I want to make an announcement about some things that we need. Important things we need are boots for males and females, sleeping bags, sleeping pads, and folding chairs. Also, we have lots of bags of laundry from when it’s been raining. Since there is no Laundromat nearby, we are asking for volunteers who would like to take one bag of laundry to their home to get it clean and bring it back. Please, come see us at Comfort to do that. Thank you. Comfort, if you don’t know already, it’s right next to Medical on this side of the park.

S: Up next Legal. On deck Facilitation, Open Source (tree climbing incident)

Sometime shit happens but we’ve got to keep on rolling. This is about revolution.

F: If people in the front could please sit back down.

S: As a reminder, the people being called on deck, need to be the people lining up in this path to keep things moving.

16.1.6. I am not with Legal. Legal is very busy with the National Lawyer’s Guild working on making sure all 650 or more people arrested are out of the system. All but a dozen have desk appearance tickets or summons. The others are being arraigned with lawyers tonight. If you were arrested please call NLG at 212-679-6018. There will be a meeting with free lawyers to discuss your case and legal strategy later this week. Thank you.

S: Next up Facilitation. On deck Open Source, Medical, and Safe Spaces.

16.1.7. I’m with Facilitation. Our introduction meetings for Intro to Direct Democratic Process are at 5:30 daily at the end of the park by the stairs. A reminder to working group members that the working group coordination meetings are where I’m standing daily at 9am. So everyone knows how to get on the agenda, if you have a proposal for the entire group, work on that proposal with a working group and then bring that proposal either to someone

on facilitation or to the box or clipboard at the info desk. Preferably 3 hours prior to General Assembly. We’re also looking for performance artists to do vibes. Thank you. Any performance artist in the vibes position please meet Andy now by the red sculpture.

S: Up next Open Source. On deck Medical, Safe Spaces, Arts and Culture.

16.1.8. Hello everyone. My name is Evan. This is the first time that I’m speaking in front of the GA. I am from the Free Libre Open Source Group. Today we had a very productive meeting. We are developing a common digital platform for all the working groups, thematic groups, and everyone else. In order to keep us all on the same page so as not to duplicate efforts in the development of methods and templates for data collection, organization, and management. In order to keep the information flowing freely think of us as the neuro-network the webofindra (sp???)

S: We have a continuation from Outreach.

16.1.3.2. Hi again. Each of the different sub-groups I told you about before really want to be in better communication with some of the thematic committees. So for example organizational outreach really should be in good communication with the efforts to reach marginalized communities. Publications sub-group is going to need to coordinate with everybody but especially design. Finally, Also, organizational outreach really needs to be in good communication with the Labor Outreach Committee. Finally, Canvassing needs to be in good communication with the Training Outreach people. We have someone over here who is has agreed to be a liaison between these different groups. But, we want that process of liaising to be fully transparent and democratic. So please get involved over there in helping with the process of liaising if you are interested.

S: Next up Medical. On deck Safe Spaces, Arts and Culture.

16.1.9. Hi everybody, my name is Steve and I’m a medic. Just want to give you a quick reminder that medical is here for you. If you have questions or concerns about anything medically related, especially hypothermia, or if you just want to talk, come see us at Medical. Do you want to go over quickly what the symptoms of hypothermia are. Will do something during the day tomorrow about hypothermia. Also, one more thing, on September 29th, 20 nurses and doctors from Bahrain, Saudi Arabia were arrested for five to fifteen years in prison for treating peaceful protestors just like your dear medics are. Tomorrow, the medics are going to write a letter of solidarity to send to our government and theirs. Please come down and show your support for the medical system. Thank you.

F: Remember that this is and also means applause. So if you want to clap, just do this so it’s not noisy. And also, please keep to time. Time for working groups is 2 minutes.

S: We are about to close stack. If anyone else wants to be on stack, say so now. Stack for working groups. Next up Safe Spaces. On deck Arts and Culture, and Accountability and Transparency.

16.1.10. Hi, Sorry, I’m tired. I’m from Safer Spaces. I’d like to address just a few things. First of all a big safety issue to remember, don’t talk to cops. Secondly, the safer spaces committee now has an email for anyone who doesn’t know, safer spaces works to get the well deserved respect for women, for LGBTQ whatever, people of color. The email is

SaferSpaceOWS@gmail.com. Also, there is someone here that has been deemed as specially unsafe by many of us.

16.1.11. Arts and Culture. Occupy everywhere. Tonight, quick announcement, Eva made a youtube video called “no one can predict the moment of revolution.” We think it’s awesome. Please talk to media. They want to use the footage. Second announcement, we believe that what’s going on in this square may be a new art movement. We have created working groups, expression art groups, where artists can experiment a new radical aesthetic. One of the groups is Music, for example, and Graphic Design. Emily here has an announcement from that group.

16.1.12. I’m a graphic designer. I’m looking for more designers to come work with me to produce all the flyers and all of the other great things that we need to communicate our message. If you have skills using computer programs like photoshop, illustrator, and indesign or open source versions, come see me right now by the information booth. Arts\_Culture@???.net

F: A lot of people can’t hear. Move forward to the front, that helps a lot. Also can I get two volunteer human mics. Two volunteers? Can you guys all be headed towards the back? Thank you.

S: Up next. Accountability and Transparency. On deck, the Progressive Black Movement.

16.1.13. Hi, my name’s Casey, I’m part of Accountability and Transparency. If you have issues with the process or specific groups and don’t feel comfortable addressing the GA or those groups you can come to me or another member of the group and talk to us and we will mediate. Also, we need people to help make digests of the minutes of the GA and of the groups that’s submit minutes. We will be meeting by the tree with the circle of benches at 6pm everyday. Thank you.

S: Up next, Progressive Black Thinkers.

16.1.14. Hi my name is Rena. I am the founder and organizer of Progressive Black Thinkers. We have a group on facebook that has18,000 members internationally. If you would like to join our group please post on the facebook wall. We want to help with outreach to the black community. The black community is most affected by the issues you want to address. The unemployment rate in the black community is over 30%. So when America gets a cold the black community gets the flu. So it is vitally important that we work in coalition and that you make it clear that the people of Harlem, Detroit, Chicago, and the South Bronx are welcome to join this movement. We can not move forward unless and until the issues that face the black community are front and center. Therefore we welcome you to join us on the Progressive Black Thinkers page. You can find us on facebook. Thank you.

F: We are done with –we are all the people’s mic. We can all contribute, so please contribute. I still see people not contributing to the people’s mic.

Hey everybody, we’d like to do something fun. This time one level of repetition when we start singing. You might recognize the song. We’re gonna sing together and then you’re gonna repeat. IS everybody ready?

We shall, we shall not be moved…

We shall not, we shall not be moved.

Just like a tree standing by the water

We shall not be moved

16.2. Announcements

F: Ok, we’re back to—so now we’re gonna start announcements. We are keeping announcements very short today so we can go on with our agenda. You have one minute to speak and remember this is not a soap box. This is for factual and events and important information. Also, if you can, please keep it even less. IF you want to speak please get Hero’s attention. Also, remember that we should only be getting on stack now, not before, it gives a disadvantage.

16.2.1. PATRICK: Bank of America announced Friday they’re charging 5 a month for debit cards. 99 percent members union members and union retirees. Take money of bank of America and put it in any other bank. A lot of people are talking about it. Somebody else is going to start it and make us look slow. King Bloomberg is appearing in criminal court tomorrow. Right across town. Go over and say hello. Thank you!

16.2.2. TARA: I’m proposing a standing committee to address ballot box security. The objective will be to organize, to monitor, collect, and distribute information in regard to corporation. Our society negating the power of the people through the electorial process. Meet me in front of the open sign after the meeting. The ballot box collective.

16.2.3. CHERI HONKALA: My name is Cheri Honkala. I bring you greetings from poor and homeless families across the United States, families occupying foreclosed homes and standing up to the banks. In Philadelphia I am the first woman to run for sheriff and to refuse to throw families out of their homes. I am running against the banks and I need you to help me occupy Philadelphia November 8 to make sure that we keep families in their homes to make history and stop home foreclosures. My website is: Cherihonkala.com We can stand up to the banks soon as we occupy financial districts across the country. Let us also support families occupying their homes.

F: Mic check, how’s everyone feeling. Everyone should shake themselves. Also: we are closing stack. Stack is now closed.

16.2.4. WASIM KHAN: Hello my name is Wasim Khan. I’m running for State Senate. I’m a candidate for State Senate in New Jersey. I’m one of the three candidates who’s supported by American progressive democrats. I’m fully two hundred percent in support of you, and I bring the greetings of our progressive colleagues across the United States to you. And I assure you that you’re making history! Two announcements. Very quickly, today’s Gandhi’s birthday, and he used Satyagraha (spelling?) which means “insistence on truth”. By way of fasting in support of your movement I announce that on 9th of October next Sunday I’ll hold a day-long fast in solidarity with you and all of my Facebook colleagues across the USA and I’m also forming a group of physicians here in NYC to take care of your medical needs. I’ve already given my information to your organizers to coordinate this effort. See me after over

by the red thing or whatever that is, Liberty Tower. Thanks very much, much appreciated your patience.

16.2.5. Hi I’m Ariel and I’m keeping time. We’re running overtime. Please keep it short, we all want to be heard. Thank you!

S: Next on stack, Jamie! And on deck, Clark Moriano and McCarthy.

16.2.6. JAMIE: Hi I’m Jamie and I’d like to propose formation of the People’s Library Working Group for the organization, maintenance, and promotion of the People’s Library. If you’re interested in helping, you can see me right after I’m done or talk to Betsy tomorrow. Thank you!

S: Next on stack, Clark.

16.2.7. CLARK: Hi I’m Clark. I will be moving the WikiLeaks truck at 7 AM. If you have something in it, pick it up before then. Thank you!

S: Next on stack, McCarthy.

16.2.8. MCCARTHY: Hi guys I’m John. I’m speaking on behalf of the gallery show Loft in the Red Zone, which is down at Wall Street. I want to thank all of you who have been down there to show your support. I myself have a performance art piece relating the working class assembly line to the silk screening process. This is happening on Tuesday at 6 o’clock. For more information, come see me! I hand out t-shirts with the fist with the leaves on it. So I’m going to be doing that a lot. I’m here every day, look for me. Thank you!

S: Next on stack, Mariano.

16.2.9. MARIANO: Hola! Buenas noches. This is Ale, that’s Charlie. They should have made this announcement. We are a group of Latino musicians in New York. We’ve been raising awareness and sharing the immigrant Latino experience. (mic check, mic check). Our lyrics are all about social justice. The people that come to listen to us are mostly Latino. Unfortunately some are also undocumented workers. We have about ten bands, one of them has been voted by El Diario La Prenza as the “most well known Latino alternative music in NY”. We are going to put on a music show next Sunday at 9 pm. We expect many of our fans to come out. Many of them are undocumented and they’re very afraid of coming out here. Sunday they will not be afraid.

F: Mic check 4x

F: There’s a lot of space down here now for all you guys and ladies, sorry people. So people, mic check, come on down (4x).

F: Mic check 3x

F: We only need one repetition. If everyone gets closer you all hear. There’s a lot of space now! Let’s get cozy. Next up, Travis!

16.2.10. TRAVIS: My name is Travis Morales. I am a co-manager of Revolution Books, Libros Revolucion, a book store at the center of building a movement for revolution. I want to invite everyone to come to our book store Wednesday 7 pm to hear a report back about Occupy Wall Street. I talk to Pria Warcry on the Media working group. She and someone else will be coming to the store. But I want to invite everyone here to come share your story with the audience of Revolution Books. So Wednesday 7 pm, 146 W 26th street Revolution Books. Join us!

S: Up next is Andrew from Media. … Up next is Mike.

16.2.11. MIKE: Hey. I’m a part of Occupy Boston. We occupied on Friday and I showed up here on Thursday. I haven’t seen Occupy Boston so when I go home, I want to bring everything home that I can. If you are performing a task here go to organization, give them your information of who you are and what you’re doing and also give it to me. I will take it to Boston, I will find your peer in Boston and y’all can talk. So what’s going to happen: whoever has the better idea is going to give it to the other and we all win. Thank you!

F: Mic check I forgot to put myself on stack, I have an announcement. (Sorry stack is closed, you can’t do it. Go ahead)

16.2.12. I just want to say this is one of my last GAs and I love you all. I’m going to Washington DC tomorrow, I’m coming back and I’m going to stay at Occupy DC for two days. I’ll try to do the same as our friend from Boston said and lead the people. (and so will I)

16.3. Agenda Items

F: Alright, next up, agenda! One more announcement:

16.2.13. GARRETT: My name is Garrett I’ve been empowered to speak on behalf of some people who took the bridge yesterday. They wanted you to know that they are very proud of what they did. They were not tricked, the only reason they’re not here speaking to you is because they have charges pending and they don’t want to talk on camera. But they feel that they’re actions were exemplary of the diversity of tactics that are part of the principles of unity of this occupation. As I’m sure you know,

F: (Mic check if you don’t have a camera and you’re not part of media please stay with us it’s okay, thank you)

16.2.13.1. GARRETT: The principles say the diversity of tactics should be judged by how they affect the movement as a whole. The actions yesterday were called by the Occupy Wall Street facebook page the largest and most dramatic actions of this occupation! They have won the movement amazing press and won terrible press for the NYPD and Mayor Bloomberg and others who attack us. So I believe these comrades deserve our complete solidarity in the streets and in the courts. Long live solidarity and long live autonomy.

F: Alright, let me just say that that was not exactly an announcement but a message from those who took the bridge. Mic check, now we’re going to move on to our agenda.

F: Also, can we please not have side conversations unless they’re actually on the side. So the first on our agenda and let’s focus, it’s okay.

16.3.1. Direct Action Bridge Discussion

F: First on the agenda is direct action speaking about the events that happened yesterday.

Mic check, so up there a woman was riding a bike on the sidewalk and has been detained by 4 police officers. It’s under control, ish, don’t worry about it. So let’s have a GA.

Mic check I believe someone else is arrested too. Mic check remember our focus should be on continuing the movement. There are people taking care of that. We are here to continue this movement. We’ll watch it later.

Direct Action: With regard to honoring personal autonomy, diversity of tactics, you do what you want. But also note, provocateurs and distraction tactics are intentional sometimes and some people need to keep this going.

F: Mic check

DA: Okay so let’s talk about yesterday. We’re interested in having a discussion and feedback on the march. Yesterday’s march was designed to be a turning point. A display of how far our global movement has come. And boy did it work!

DA: We’re on the front cover of just about every single newspaper, which is fucking awesome. Yesterday’s march while not quite how we expected was a huge success. I think, I don’t know where Ari is, he was supposed to talk about the meeting of this discussion. But I think maybe he got taken. As the last announcement said, diversity of tactics is absolutely one of our guidelines and one of our principles. However, as direct action we’ve realized that perhaps we should be more clear before marches with folks that any time you step off the curb and get off the sidewalk during an unpermitted march you’re subject to a much higher risk of arrest. So we’ll be much more clear about that in the future, although we’re hearing from the precint that the vast majority of folks who took the highway understood exactly the implications of what they’re doing. We’d like to take this moment to talk about what we had originally intended to do yesterday, which was to get over the Brooklyn Bridge and have a huge rally to talk about the future of the NY sector of what has now become a huge movement. We need to expand into the boroughs into the Bronx into Queens into Staten Island into Brooklyn, and we’re going to do it.

Since the focus of our march to get across the bridge and host that GA the intention of direct action according to the planned route was to take the pedestrian bridge. Just so every body’s clear that was the planned route. I got arrested, it was okay, not super scary, kind of annoying and boring, but not super scary. If anybody asked, I had no idea I’d get arrested, I was just following the crowd. We want to open up stack for a couple of folks to give feedback of their experiences regarding yesterday’s action. Before that I just want to note the beauty of yesterday’s events. The planned route over the walking bridge still happened. Folks were able to make that choice. Thanks to those who led that march onto the traffic area folks were able to make that choice too. As a collective march on two separate routes we marched together in solidarity respecting and upholding personal autonomy. That’s fucking great.

Also we held that bridge for 5 hours. If they had let us march, if it had been about traffic issues, it would’ve been less than 2 hours and the bridge would’ve opened. But it was about a power demonstration and not letting us get what we want and we got that bridge for 5 hours. And we got the front page of a ton of fucking press.

We have 10 more minutes to talk about this, I’d like to invite folks who want to share to get on stack, we’ll take the next 10 minutes and discuss it.

F: Mic check 2x

F: As the facilitator I would like to mention one thing. This was not initially on the agenda. We were told that direct action would like to take only 10 minutes to explain what happened yesterday from their point of view. And I want to say as far as the democratic process is concerned a very small amount of people chose that route. But we all seem to be happy with that result. So are we looking for democratic horizontal processes or what? Now, let’s take some stack for 10 minutes.

CHRISTOPHER: Hello everybody, my name is Christopher. I was at the front as we entered the traffic lane yesterday and I have to say it was an incredible feeling to be joined with so many people having an idea of what we may be getting into and after the arrests at least in Central Booking the amazing jailhouse solidarity that we shared and the incredible feeling after getting out of booking with only a violation, for getting a hug and a sandwich from those who opted not to take the traffic lane. We had amazing solidarity yesterday and it was incredibly effective. That was my experience and that’s what I have to say.

S: Next on stack, Suzann.

SUZANN: Hi so yesterday was fucking amazing. It was amazing because their support for autonomy for ownership and there was solidarity from every person who participated whether they were at the GA later that night and talking about or at the jail giving us granola bars as we got out or whether they took the pedestrian path and went to fucking Brooklyn! So thank you I took the street I felt ownership and I’m happy that my decision to take ownership over my actions has finally found a place in society and community.

GENAI: My name’s Genai. I took the pedestrian bridge and I just wanted to give that perspective. It was great. There were so many cars honking, people giving us peace signs, whistling, shouting in support of our movement. And when we got to the other side for those of you who weren’t there the police blocked us off and wouldn’t let us go to the park and we all shouted “let us through let us through” and they let us through. It was awesome!

My name’s Joshua. I was arrested yesterday I took the street and I’d do it again.

S: We are now closing stack.

I’m Natasha and I got arrested yesterday and I just wanted to say how many police officers were really really nice and expressed to me that they’re just another spoke on the wagon wheel and really feel like they don’t have a say in anything they do. I suggested to them that they should have General Assemblies.

My name is Nolini. I’m from Brooklyn and I wanted to do that shit since I was 2 years old. I got word that TWU is going to release a statement saying that the fact that their buses commandeered by the police was fucked up and that the transportation workers don’t work for the police! So they’re showing their solidarity and took the bridge.

I don’t know the gentleman’s name but he was up on the walkway relaying messages to all of us. It kept us all calm. Truth be told the words we once used to describe what we’re now doing don’t even make sense. There’s so much love and unity here. Usually when you walk down the street you don’t even make eye contact. That’s all we do here, and giving hugs, and hugging random trees and having good time. Let’s not forget, the actions of some are not always the actions are best for you, meaning us. Meaning if someone wants to walk on the bridge, like your mom said when you were young, if everybody jumps off the bridge are you going to too? I was arrested and I knew when I left the house that if I did something like that I was going to get arrested. All the friends I made in the paddy wagon I’ll never forget you guys.

KAYE: I’m from Queens and I want you to know what’s going on that you’re not aware of. People are calling each other’s homes and saying take something to the people that are demonstrating at Wall st. They give each other lists of what you guys need and in no time you will see them. They are working behind the scenes to support you.

S: One more.

JORDAN: My name is Jordan and I’m here from Virginia. I was on the foot bridge and we weren’t quite sure how the people on the road got there so quickly. We were confused about whether or not they left before and I was wondering if someone could explain it to me.

A quick in part in response to that those people broke off from the same march so they left at the same time as the rest of the march.

My name is Hero, I was at the march yesterday, I got arrested for the second time, and we spent a lot of time with some semi good officers. So on our way to the precint, and driven around for a couple hours, I talked to one of these semi good officers and brought him over to our dark side, and I’ve asked him when his next day would be off, and he said it would be on Friday. So I said, will you be out here? He told me, yes!

DA: That’s the end of that, we just wanted to give an opportunity to folks that were in jail yesterday while this was discussed to discuss it in front of everybody.

16.3.2. Global Democracy Discussion

F: Mic check next up on the agenda we have Global Democracy.

GD: Mic check, mic check, my name is Ameen and this is Caesar we have a global democracy statement. This includes a call to action on October 16, a global call to action that has been adopted by some general assembly and has been endorsed by Noam Chomsky Ben Danishiva Michael Hart and others. We have it in multiple languages. It was provided to Wall St occupation to be endorsed by the general assembly. This was read a few days earlier and people felt good about it. We’re reading it again for this body to endorse it. It has been

endorsed by many GAs around the world. It has been endorsed as is, so it’s being presented as is.

It reads:

“On 15th October, 2011, united in our diversity united for global change we demand global democracy, global governance by the people for the people inspired by our sisters and brothers in Tunis Cairo Benghazi Dara Palestine Israel Spain and Greece. We too call for a regime change. A global regime change. We will not come to global institutions hat in hand begging for policy change. In the words of Ben Yeshiva, the Indian activist, today we demand replacing the G8 with the whole of humanity. The G 7 billion. These are our global Mubarak, our global Assad our global Gaddahfi they are the IMF the WTO global markets multi-national banks the G8 the ECB the UN security council the world bank the basil committee on bank regulation and other undemocratic international institutions. Like Mubarak and Assad these institutions must not be allowed to run people’s lives without their consent. We are all born equal rich or poor woman or man every African and Asian is equal to every European and American. Our global institutions must reflect this or be overturned.”

So this is the statement. It’s before this body. It’s provided to you as it has been received and it has been endorsed as is.

F: So, are there any clarifying questions?

16.3.2.1. Does the proposal say anything about stopping nuclear power?

Response: The proposal that I read includes what I read. That’s it.

16.3.2.2. Can we add a phrase demanding the end to nuclear power and the beginning of a planet powered by solar energy?

Response: The answer to that is no, because this is how I propose this statement. It is what it is. What is before you is an opportunity to be part of something happening on the world stage. Our occupation was not born from a vacuum.

F: Any other clarifying questions?

S: I’m taking stack, I’m looking at you, don’t shout, I’ll get you.

16.3.2.3. Can you repeat or clarify who exactly wrote that statement originally?

Response: The answer is that this was forwarded to me by a person, his name’s Rene he’s part of a collective of 16 beaver This statement was forwarded to me by an artist who’s a member of a collective 16 beaver that was forwarded by another organization that has a URL that I cannot recall I have the original email with me but I lost it. So all I have right now is a print out that doesn’t include that information.

16.3.2.4. Can you tell us what other groups that have endorsed this?

Response: The question was a request for clarification of what other general assemblies around the world have endorsed this statement.

The general assembly in Spain we are told has endorsed this statement in addition, we are told the general assembly in Tahrir Sq has endorsed this statement. What is occurring right now is a circulation of this statement. I do not know or have not been told if any other general assemblies have adopted or endorsed this statement.

S: Anyone else want to be put on stack regarding this proposal?

Anna: so all you’re saying is we don’t know who wrote this statement?

No, what I said was I don’t have that information because of some circumstances.

16.3.2.5. Nate: Hi. I’m Nate. I have a concern about the language in the statement. There was a passage about global governance. My concern involves our evangelical brothers and sisters. One reason they do not like “big government” is because they fear that it will bring a one ruled anti Christ government. But this is not what we want. We want autonomy for the various communities within this world even though we are united as human beings because what we do over here is connected to everyone else. So I would like to know how we can address this concern without alienating our evangelical brothers and sisters who might misconstrue what we are working for.

F: One more thing, I would please like to remind to keep the comments to clarifying questions as we cannot make amendments to this proposal. Thank you.

16.3.2.6. Could we have a circle tomorrow to discuss the implications of all and any words and names in this statement for those of us who are not so politically savvy.

Response: That’s a great proposal. It means we’re having political discourse. That’s why we’re here. It isn’t to endorse. I love that idea. So in the spirit of what was just said, let us have a teach in or a conversation about this statement. I think it brings up a lot of issues about why we’re here I hope.. I withdraw my proposal.

16.3.2.7. When can we do this teach in? How about 3 pm tomorrow? Temperature check. That’s great, thank you.

F: Ladies and gentlemen and others, we have an announcement about what happened during the GA.

Hello, I was not an eye-witness but I have several reports and I’ve watched the video of which there are multiple. There was an arrest made this evening during GA. There were a reporter and a young girl on a bike I should say lady.

F: Could people move closer? Our announcer has lost her voice. Let’s all work together so we can know what happened.

There was discourse between the two. The press person was asked by the police to move to a separate location. Meanwhile the young lady was asked for her ID. She reached into her purse, pulled out her bike lock, and locked herself to her bicycle. The press gentleman was released. The cops surrounded the young lady, she hid her keys in her private upper region and the police tried to get them. The bicycle fell down and it was a mess, we hope that she was not injured but there was violence from the police, aggressive pushing etc. They cut off

the lock and they took her to jail. That’s the details, the video will be on Youtube. Hopefully within the hour. Please show solidarity. And be careful.

Question: was she with us or was just passing by?

I am not completely sure. She was on the sidewalk in front of the square.

How do you lock yourself to your bike? Around your leg to the frame.

Mic check, thank you for that announcement. We’re now going into the soapbox section of our general assembly.

**NYCGA Minutes 10/3/2011, 7:30pm**

Posted October 3rd, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 17

Meeting Date/Time: 10/3/2011 / 7pm EST

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators: Bri, ?

F: Wanted to make sure that we the people are okay with the people up front running it.

F: The people up front are facilitators. Anyone can facilitate if they get in touch with the working group.

F: Bri: Is a co-facilitator. She wants consent on weather of not we agree for them to be facilitators.

Everyone wants the one complaining to sit down.

F: Bri. Are there any outstanding concerns with them being facilitators.

NO!

Someone would want some clarifications about the objections that just happened.

He wants people to be aware that the people who are facilitating are in power and lead the conversation in directions. And they need this power with our consent.

F: We have a guest. Depoch Chopra. Would we be okay with him speaking before we start. And would we be okay with switching up the order.

There is one concern with the celebrities speak. They want to make sure they respect the process.

F: Chopra has a previous engagement and that’s why he needs to go first.

LET HIM GO!

F: Does anyone have any other concerns?

Someone is concerned that our general agenda usually takes quite some time. The working groups have a lot to get across and he is afraid that by the time it gets to that point people’s interest might not be as solid as in the beginning of the meeting.

Can we address the order of the GA after this man speaks for the sake of time?

F: No more concerns. The people want to get started.

Depoch Chopra wants to do a 2 minute meditation. Put your hand on your heart and ask yourself internally what kind of world do I want to live in? And listen. Now ask yourself, How can I make that happen? How can I make that happen from a place of love, compassion, joy and equanimity. Simple anger can only perpetuate what is already out there. It was created by greed and fear. We have to go beyond that and come from a place of compassion. Centered equanimity and creativity. Once again ask yourself, How can I be the change that I want to see in the world. THANK YOU.

F: One the topic, of the order of the GA, Let me just clarify what we were saying and then if you guys want you guys can change the order. If it looks like we don’t want that, we will stick to the normal process. We were hoping we could do the agenda first. We have 3 items on the agenda. We would like, there to be time, for concerns to be raised and discussed. Since the GAs tend to be long, when that happens at the end we are already tired. That’s why we were wondering if that would be okay to do that first. Let’s take a temp check. (most people are okay with it) Does anyone have concerns they want to voice?

Someone wants to know if it’s okay if he makes a speech about the movement.

F: That will be announced in time for the announcements.

F: Just to clarify there are a lot of important things that we deal with at the GA.

F: They are for factual statements or proposals. If you’d like to make political speeches, we do that at the end. There is a soapbox.

I just have a simple concern. The reports from the working groups. May affect the agenda. (someone agrees).

Could we hear the agenda items on the agenda before deciding on this…?

F: The 3 items on the agenda are: a proposal from Comfort, requesting funds to better arrange this base (stuff like sleeping bags). A lot of building are residential and we’ve gotten complaints. It’s about keeping quiet. Related to the first but is about creating things like a set sleeping space so people aren’t just scattered. How do we feel about moving the agenda first?

PASSED with no blocks.

AGENDA

17.1. Agenda Items (Comfort Proposal, Community Relations Proposal)

17.2. Working Group Report Backs

17.3. Announcements

17.1. Agenda Items

17.1.1. The first point: Comfort budget….

17.1.1.1. Jeff: I work with comfort. We have some major concerned about people sleeping here. Mainly we need sleeping bags. Sleeping bags cost money and no one is donating sleeping bags. With that in mind we have a proposal to use some of the donated money to buy sleeping bags. We would like to request about 2000 dollars from the fund for sleeping bags. We think if we buy 100 $20 sleeping bags, that would be enough for the time being.

17.1.1.2. HOW THIS WILL WORK, we will ask for questions then concerns then blocks, then we will vote. Stack (S): Opening Stack.

CHRIS is stack taker.

17.1.1.2. Clarifying Questions

17.1.1.2.1. So I just want to know how many people are sleeping here already and if it’s projected that number will increase.

Response: Someone on medical counted around 400 the other night and it HAS been increasing.

17.1.1.2.2. Roney: My question is does the budget requested account for taxes on the sleeping bags?

Response: They are looking into alternate ways to purchase sleeping bags. Working with store owners who can give them discounts, Craig’s List and other ways. The amount is low and rough that was requested but he thinks sleeping bags are very important because people are getting very cold and people will leave and they don’t want anyone leaving.

F: We have a lot of people but we need to layers of people’s mic. How that works, we will say things, surrounding people will repeat and then far out people will repeat…

F: We try to make that work J

17.1.1.2.3. Sam: In order to maybe call some concerns ball park figure, how much money is in the account? Where is finance???

Response: That will be a question for the finance group, find them.

This morning Victoria from finance said the ammount was 35 grand!

APPLAUSE

17.1.1.2.4. David: How long will 20 dollar sleeping bags last with winter coming up? Not very.

Response: Great concern, we have none currently they are the most asked for item. We’d rather buy cheap ones now. We also have more blankets than sleeping bags so you can use blankets in conjunction with sleeping bags.

17.1.1.2.5. LUKE: How many requests for sleeping bags do we get every day?

Response: He doesn’t know off the top of his head an accurate number. But he would guess about 100.

17.1.1.2.6. Should we not just buy fabric? And construct sleeping bags?

F: These questions need to be information only. We will be closing stack now and take concerns after.

S: Would anyone else like to be on stack?

17.1.1.2.7. He would like to know are there any other things that 2000 dollars would go to better for comfort first?

Response: At the moment NO! Perhaps blankets but we have blankets and we have 0 sleeping bags.

17.1.1.2.8. My question is this: Maybe more difficult, but more effective if we figure out how to create our own sleeping bags, cots, etc… And pass on the information to the occupations in the rest of the country.

F: That was a great concern, it is now time for information questions.

Response: He is going to address that last concern… They are discussing many different options. This proposal is an emergency need right now! We will continue to discuss alternate bedding options.

17.1.1.2.9. Alberto: This is the place to be, and he Is very proud of everyone here. Regarding the sleeping bags and so forth there is an easy way to do this. I’m gonna tell you how I feel. We all have a lot of things in our apartments that are not being used. Simply grab them and bring them on down.

Response: Let me address that: We have gotten 3 or 4 sleeping bags donations. We are trying to get the word to the people that we need sleeping bags. Let me repeat this is an emergency proposal. Because it’s COLD and it will get COLDER!

S: Stack for concerns- Is now open.

17.1.1.3. Concerns

17.1.1.3.1. Roney: How will we maintain the hygiene of these sleeping bags?

Response: The hygiene of the bags is up to the people using them, but we are trying to organize laundry runs.

17.1.1.3.2. My concern is distributing these sleeping bags and then having people take them, so maybe there could be a system where these bags need to be returned every day..

Response: We are discussing a similar system for distributing and keeping track of the sleeping bags.

POI: Coming medical a lot of them are sick. I don’t want any of you using the sleeping bag that I was sneezing in. I don’t think that’s a good idea.

Response: We are also discussing assigning sleeping bags but we need to figure out a way to do that.

POI: This is a time for concerns. To address concerns, not to discuss them.

F: Concerns are held by the group and addressed by the group.

Concerning the point that our friend from medical brought up… Just kidding. He will speak to them later.

S: Any more concerns???

17.1.1.3.3. Justin: I’m concerned that buying new sleeping bags is against the principles that people came here for.

Response: WHY?

Justin: I was under the understanding that there is an anti-Capitalist part of this movement and consumptions when we feel emergency need is how we deal with issues in Capitalism. Should we address issues the same way.

Response: ON that point, it has been brought up before. On the point of consumption, it will be next to impossible for us to operate without buying some of the things we need. We try to balance our principles with our need without making it too difficult.

I’ve been visiting Salvation Army’s stores and buying as many sleeping bags as I can. So I believe it is possible for us to get our supplies from charity stores and the like.

Response: He believes people here now might get sick or more sick if they are subjected to the cold. He would like to see them move on.

S: Are we okay with closing stack? Which means we hear the four concerns that are left and then see if we can reach consensus if we don’t have blocks.

S: STACK IS CLOSED

17.1.1.3.4. I think it’s really important that we get the sleeping bags. As far as how to distribute them I think that can be figured out after we get them. As far as buying material and making them ourselves making a sleeping bag a warm one for under 20 bucks is gonna be real difficult.

Response: If pneumonia sets in, the movement is dead.

17.1.1.3.5. Retailer: I buy things whole sale. We’ve got to buy these whole sale. Maybe not the first wave, but we have 80 cities to think about. And there are ways we can get them very cheaply. So I would like to start working on that.

S: STACK IS FINISHED.

F: Do we have any blocks?

F: There is a block.

17.1.1.4. Blocks

17.1.1.4.1. Chris: Blankets are cheaper than sleeping bags.

F: I want to clarify what a block is. A block is if you have a serious ethical concern with the proposal (or a factual check) remember, if we reach consensus despite your block you are choosing to walk away.

Consensus does not exist if there is a block.

F: I’m sorry, we use a system of modified consensus. So it is a 9/10 majority.

POP: However there needs to be an attempt to address the block before we go to 9/10. Cause we are trying in good faith to reach consensus.

POP: It is very hard for us to hear all the way back here! Therefore would some people up front in the first round if the repeating mic be willing to turn around and repeat?

Did we address the block?

?

F: Any other blocks?

F: The proposal has PASSED

F: We have one more agenda item left.

F: 3rd item will addressed tomorrow.

17.1.2. Community Relations Proposal

17.1.2.1. Justin: Community relations committee: I want to make a proposal to modify quiet hour based on conversations this week and last week with local residents and campers here. They have expressed concern about loud noise in the evenings and are our current time if 11pm for quiet hours. I’d like to propose 2 things: We move quiet hours up to 10pm but allow mic checks until 11pm as well as acoustic music and other quieter activities. We ask

the community board to show us support by endorsing our request for an amplified sound permit. That is my proposal.

S: Stack for questions is now open:

17.1.2.2. Clarifying Questions

POI: City law sets 10pm as quiet time.

17.1.2.2.1. Ethan: I just wanted to ask about quiet time. Maybe also spread through the day, so that during the day conversations can coninute to accure in the square.

Response: How we’ve been handling that is that when a group is distracted by sound during the day they usually meet and then move somewhere quiet. S: NEXT ON STACK

17.1.2.2.2. Echo: My questions are to can Friday and Saturday be an exception so that 10pm is Sunday through Thursday, also, can we or have we directly address nearby home owners and home owner associations to reach out to the residents effected.

Response: We’ve now met twice with the local community board which represents residents of this area. This is a very residential neighborhood of mixed income.

17.1.2.2.3. I’m wondering why we are talking about applying for any type of government permit.

Response: Decisions like that effect the whole group. Unless everyone agrees to break that rule, that’s not something we would do. Normally we encourage individuals to act autonomously but not on matters that would impact the entire group. If we decided to make sound without a permit that could get us kicked out pretty fast.

17.1.2.2.4. I would like to ask a question is it possible seeing that appreciate the drummers role here, especially during the marches, if we could include them in this conversation.

POI: Issues that address the group are addressed at the GA. If you choose not to participate in the GA we can’t help you.

Response: If to be allowed to do anything we decide to ask the authorities for permission.

17.1.2.2.5. As someone who was arrested and given a ticket for using a megaphone I never asked permission from anyone but I also understand the importance of partnering with local residence in order to be able to stay here, which is why I propose that we ask them to support us in our request to the police.

17.1.2.2.6. Would it be possible in light of everyone hearing each other to address the drummers and request that they join us or play more softly during the GA.

Response: They were playing right there I told them that we were starting a GA and they responded: By moving as far away as possible.

S: CLOSING STACK for questions S: STACK IS OPEN

17.1.2.3. Concerns

17.1.2.3.1. Being that this agenda point relates to the drum circles, while they are always invited to GA have they been told that this agenda item would be brought tonight?

Response: I’ve just been over before addressing you and told them about the proposal. (so yes)

17.1.2.3.2. It seems that this proposal is two separate proposals. Many may accept one and reject the other.

Response: JUST TO CLARIFY as they are two proposals they will be voted on separately.

17.1.2.3.3. I have two concerns. Normative times are when people are supposed to sleeping and working. If we want to wait for the state to legitimize this illegal occupation let’s go home now.

Response: Just a brief response: Many of the local residence have spoken in solidarity about what we are doing but they don’t need and we won’t give them any authority over us and they understand that.

I’d like to address concerns about asking for permission. We should pick our battles.

If we have the option of keeping friends we should.

S: STACK IS NOW CLOSED

F: WE HAVE CONSENSUS on the first.

F: WE HAVE CONSENSUS on the second.

I just want to thank the GA for helping me and my committee build positive relationships with the local resident.

F: Now we will move on to working group report backs and then announcements.

17.2 Working Group Report Backs

17.2.1. I’m with sanitation: I wreally need to find JAY. Jay where are you???

17.2.2. OUTREACH: Alaina: We’ve been working on some FAQs. And also Answers. We are posting a draft in the working groups, Google groups, Google docs folder. We ask for you to look at this draft and offer any comments suggestions or questions by tomorrow afternoon. Ideally we would have hardcopies of this back for Wednesdays march. So please take a look at the draft. We also have hardcopies, for your perusal. And this is a working draft! It is not

final. We need your input! Outreach is also wanting to meet with all of you dis discuss setting up outposts in the Outer Burroughs. If you are interested meet after GA at the RED THING.

F: I’d like to announce that working group reports will be kept to 2 minutes. I will be cutting you off at 2 minutes! SO keep it brief.

17.2.3. Prita: I’m with the people of color working group. We will be meeting on Thursday at 6:30 under the RED THING. We also set up an email address. UNIFIED.OWS@GMAIL.COM We also have a website POCOCCUPYWALLSTREET.TUMBLR.COM We invite all interested persons to come and join our group. We plan on working with the other working groups, like outreach, media and education. So email us if you are part of a working group and want to contact us. 17.2.4. MEDICAL: STEVE: And medical has a couple minor concerns to share with you. 1. Unless you need medical attention please avoid walking through medical. It gets very congested. 2. When a march is going to leave PLEASE make sure you have medics if we aren’t there and someone gets hurt we can’t help. 3. Please don’t smoke while in medical. We are making all the medics smoke elsewhere. So join them! If you have things in the medical station and you aren’t a medic we’d ask you to move them. So our staff has a place to put our own things so we can get to them quickly if someone needs attention. Last thing! If the people at the smoking table, would not mind, the medical team would really appreciate it if it could be relocated to this area at least at night. For consideration of all people over there.

17.2.5. FINAL CALL for any working groups that still want to get on stack. Also, to clarify, medical Is over there. 17.2.6. Political Intellectual Reform: Hi, I’m with PIR. It’s what it sounds like. We are just getting started we meet every day at 6pm by the library. We just had a great meeting. Come and join us! We are also requesting that we have more diversity cause we don’t want it to be a white dudes like me. Thank you! 17.2.7. SANITATION: Hi! Jordan: Sanitation has a few basic concerns. People are not picking up there trash. Please everyone pick up your own trash. If there is trash around you PICK IT UP! Pigeons are unsanitary. Do not feed them, do not leave food out for them and discourage them from being here. (damn birds). A lot of people are concerned with recycling. We are working on it! That’s about it.

17.2.8. OUTREACH: Josh: We forgot to announce that after the meeting we hope to have a lot of flyers here at the outreach table for everyone to come take some to distribute back home or anywhere else to get people to the march on Wednesday!

CHEERS! 17.2.9. Informal Working Group: Bike Block: Joe: Just wanted to announce that if you’re interested in riding a bike in support of OWS every Friday we will ride, first we will gather at 7pm the meeting locations I would recommend and have started to publicize are follows: This coming Friday the first Friday of the month at 7pm bikes will gather at union square north. This is first Friday critical mass. And I’m sure the mass will be happy to come down to Liberty Square. Especially if you’re there. Second Friday Williams Berg Bridge. Third Friday 7pm Liberty Square Cirtical Mass under the RED CUBE (THING). If anyone wants to be involved in Bike walk FIND ME (JOE) tonight and give me your contact info. He’ll try to hang out under the RED THING (CUBE). 17.2.10. FACILITATION: John: We need more facilitators to help with this beautiful process. So if you’re interested or know anyone that is. We have two meetings the first leaves

at 4 oclock at the bottom of the park at the circular marble benches and then find the quietest spot. SO BE ON TIME. The second meeting is called introductions to direct democratic process. That is a basic explanation of what goes on here. In this assembly. We want your support. So beautiful people please come and join us. THANK YOU 17.2.11. SAFER SPACES: Matt: Don’t film me. I want to clarify that is SAFER SPACES! We are working a process to deal with certain individuals that are participating in the Occupation that make people feel unsafe. This could be for histories of snitching, sexual assault, spousle abuse and any number of other things. We have these pink armbands (or tape) if you want to find us. We hope the general assembly will respect the processes that we come up with to deal with individuals that are a threat. Thank you

17.2.11.1. When do you meet?

Response: We will meet after the GA by the open Philofal truck.

17.2.12. Quick clarification with FACILITATORS: Direct democratic process meets at 5:30 at the bottom of the park. And stays there. 17.2.13. LABOR OURTREACH GROUP: Two quick announcements: Tomorrow Tuesday at 4pm at City Hall. DC 37, which is a public employees union is having a rally to protest any possible and imminent lay offs that are happening to mostly teachers. We are asking people to show up. The labor group will also be handing out flyers inviting people at that protest to come back down here. On Wednesday there is community labor march that starts at city hall at 4:30. They are then going to march back down this park. We are also handing out flyers to tell them to come to this park. We are handing out a flyer that lists all the unions that have endorsed us and telling rank and file to ask there unions to endorse as well.

S: STACK IS NOW OPEN FOR REGULAR ANOUNCEMENTS

17.3. Announcements

F: THESE SHOULD BE FACTUAL STATEMENTS

17.3.1. Michael: I’m with a coalition of professional coaches who have come together to support and empower all of you. Staring tomorrow we will have an area set up near the comfort station. You can talk to us about issues related to the movement. Developing the vision, how to keep this community peaceful and running smoothly or what your personal role in this movement should be. We’ll be starting tomorrow.

17.3.1.1. WHAT TIME?

Response: Around 11AM and will continue for days after.

17.3.2. LUPE: Good evening everyone! I’m a member of the people of color working group. Right now we are working on bringing more people of color participation for people who don’t relate to occupying because this base has been occupying sense 1492 and people of color labor have been exploited sense the beginning of time. So we don’t want to recolonize that occupy. Please find me or Ingrid to part of the working group. GRACIAS.

POI: KEEP IT FACTUAL!

17.3.3. ECHO: I hereby declare that each I is WE the we is the whole earth and that this is a sacred event. I was joyous to find an altar in the middle of the drum circle. I would like to see and anyone who would like to join my working group for I and you and you are we to build an alter here as ongoing as more accumulate. Possibly where flowers have been trampled. For those in ear shot and would like to discuss this possibility and make it a reality come join me by the flowers over here. After the GA.

17.3.4. NAMESTE: JJ: Most people know that two days ago JP Morgan Chase gave the NYPD 4.6 Million Dollars and I feel like we should do something about that.

17.3.5. STEVE: 1. Consent: Unlike me who only turned down one interview, it was fox news. Not everyone here wants to photographed or video taped, so always ask. Same goes for touching. Not everyone here wants to be touched. So always ask. 2. Pertaining to the mic, wait to repeat until the person is done speaking.

17.3.6. BEN: Forming a working group. We are making Occupy Wallstreet video game. It will be an online browser game. We have a game designer. We have a game programmer. We need an artist and sound designer and game testers. If anyone wants to help. We need you to. I can’t be here during the day, so after the GA meet me at the far end of the library or email me. SKORPIOMM@gmail.com This game will be sweet and it will help spread the message and it will instruct people how to participate.

17.3.7. CARL: I want to propose a working group or rather a virtual discussion about alternate systems of banking. I’m a big believer in the pilitcal principle of show don’t tell, that by creating change…. Best way to create change is to construct a new reality. To change Wall Street by making an alternate financial system. This is no small undertaking, however, it can be done. In Holland. There was a successful bank boycott. And what I’m thinking is we can start movement for people to withdraw their funds from big banks and put them in a new bank. I want to discuss what that new bank should consist of. Please send me an email at CARNE@CARNEROSS.COM. Thank you …I’m particularly interested in hearing from people with financial experience particularly in running banks.

S: We will now be closing stack. Any last announcements?

17.3.8. I want to remind every working group, to send on informed rep to the coordination meeting tomorrow at 9am. The meeting will be right here. Also, this place needs to get organized in terms of the physical space. For people who want to help plan the space 11pm tonight. 11AM tomorrow.

17.3.9. Hello everyone, I have lost my voice over the weekend. For those of you I haven’t had the honor of meeting I am Brian. I just want to say one thing in regards to our health. I’ve noticed, not a lot of people drinking water regularly. It is VERY important to stay hydrated!

17.3.10. HI! DAN: Not to get all conspiracy theory-ish. And I know everyone is being helpful. But when you take baked goods, maybe be careful. We just know that supposedly nice people want to give us treats. I have been informed that majority of the food is cooked by the kitchen staff in a kitchen. NOT THE PIZZA.

**NYCGA Minutes 10/4/2011**

Posted October 4th, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 18

Meeting Date/Time: 10/4/2011 / 7pm EST

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators: Amanda, Brie

Facilitator (F): 100 transport workers refuse to bring protestors to jail, and are filing a restraining order against the NYPD!

F: Are there any concerns regarding Amanda and Bre as facilitators for this general assembly?

GA Response: No!

F: We’d like to begin by introducing the process. The consensus process is one that tries to include every voice. This is a modified consensus, so to pass any proposals, they need 9/10 majority. The hand signals are as follows: Wavey fingers upwards—I agree. Wavey fingers in the middle—I’m on the fence. Wavey fingers downward—I don’t like it. Triangle fingers—Point of process. If we’re not following the process, you hold that up silently after whoever is speaking has completed speaking, we will call on you, and you can explain why the process was being violated. Finger point—Point of information. You use this when you have a piece of factual information to add to whatever is being said. This is not for opinions! Finger point up and down—I can’t hear you, speak up. Block—When we have a proposal, we try to reach consensus. If you block that means you have a moral or ethical concern with whatever is being proposed. A block is very serious. If we can still reach 9/10 majority, even with your block, you are choosing to walk away. We don’t want anyone to walk away, so we will do our best to address all blocks. Circular fingers—Wrap it up, we got your point already.

F: So I’ve been hearing a lot of frustrations, and a lot of concerns about what we can do as individuals, acting in solidarity. But I think it’s important to pat all ourselves on the back and remember how hard this is, and that we are making something beautiful. I would like to say a quote from a poet, Andrew Gibson, who says: “We must create. It is the only thing louder than destruction!” So keep that in mind when things get hard, because this is how a democracy works!

AGENDA

18.1. Action Item (Labor March Discussion)

18.2. Working Group Report Backs

18.3. Announcements

F: Tonight we will be starting with the agenda. Are there any concerns with that process?

GA Question: Do you folks mean that we’ll be going directly to agenda points instead of working group report backs?

F: The order will be the agenda (which is discussing the event tomorrow), the second point will be working group report backs, the third will be announcements. In addition, we would like to announce that Occupier Meetings are held every day at 10:30AM. Those meetings are regarding concerns about this physical space. And they’re held here.

F: This is Chris. He will be taking stack. If we open stack, raise your hand, and he will acknowledge you, and then he will call on you when it is time for you to speak. Let’s make two paths for people to come up and get on stack. Stack is a list of who is speaking. We use a system of progressive stack. So those from traditionally marginalized backgrounds or those who have not spoken will be moved up. This does not mean we want to silence anyone, we want to encourage those voices that are not often heard to speak up!

F: Tomorrow’s GA will cover transparency and general openness in participation in Occupy Wall Street. There have been a lot of concerns recently about transparency, openness, and ease of participation. These are mostly organizational problems, so we need everyone to help with organization.

F: Right now, we’re testing for layers. If you can’t hear me, raise your hand. Can the outer row choose six people to turn around and project their voice backwards so everyone can hear?

F: This is Meagan—she will be conducting so everyone can hear. This is Jason, and he is stack greeter.

Jason—I will talk to you and prepare you to speak before you speak, so you know.

F: We’d like to start the agenda, so anyone who wants to speak on what’s happening tomorrow, please line up to get on stack. We’d like to have Direct Action, Stuart Applebom, and other labor reps, come up to speak about tomorrow’s march.

18.1. Agenda Items

18.1.1. Discussion on Labor March

18.1.1.1. Chris—I want to let you know what’s going on tomorrow from our perspective. At about 3PM, whoever is here in the square, we will be marching to Foley Square to meet up with this labor rally. Labor will be facilitating the rally. After the rally there will be a permanent march back here to Liberty Square. After that we’re going to have speakers from

Labor as well as from our movement meet right about here. While all this is going on, there is going to be a ton of student walk-outs! Students from NYU, the New School, and all around the CUNY system are walking out of their classes in solidarity with us. Some will be going to the rally, some will be coming straight here, but either way, tomorrow will be the biggest day, in terms of numbers, by far, that our movement has seen to date!

18.1.1.2. Stuart Applebom—President of NY’s Retail Workers’ Union. And I’m here in solidarity. Yesterday I was in Detroit speaking to a convention of all unions in the state of Michigan. When I told the union members that I would be here with you today, they started cheering! We need to form an alliance. We need to form an alliance with labor. We need to work together and to learn from each other and to support each other. I urge you to support workers’ needs. I urge you to support living wages and workers’ rights. And I have a message for Mike Bloomburg—If your police department ever over-reacts again, like it did last Saturday, stifling dissent, and limiting free speech, New Yorkers will not tolerate it! We will be joining the march tomorrow with New York’s labor unions. Together we can revitalize a progressive movement in New York and across the country. We are with you! Thank you!

F: We want to hear all your voices, but we need to keep it limited to about one minute. Thank you!

18.1.1.3. Jackie—There are so many unions supporting us that I will not remember them all! I’m a spokesperson for our labor, support, and outreach working group. My name is Jackie. Our group is growing, but luckily, one of the biggest unions is going to offer us space to meet in. We now have about sixty people relating to this working group, so the unions that have supported us are the transit workers, the hospital workers, the Nation Nurses Unions, District 37 all-city Workers, and their international union. We’re also being supported by other national unions, the steel workers, the Communication Workers of America, the phone workers, PSC CUNY Faculty and Staff of City University. We’re also being supported by Building Maintenance Workers, 32BJSEIU, and the International Labor Union of North America, the Writers’ Guild, and the UFT which organized the march for tomorrow, and the IWW. There are more! Tomorrow!

F: For those on stack, if you can keep announcements and focus on the action tomorrow, we would greatly appreciate it. There will be plenty of time for announcements later. Thank you! Additionally, after the announcements that are factual at the end of the G.A., there will be a soapbox. This is time to say whatever you want. Also after, Jeff Mangum from Neutral Milk Hotel will be performing.

F: Just to clarify, we’re getting stack now for factual information or questions about the event tomorrow. Any other announcements will come later. Thank you!

18.1.2. Clarifying Questions (CQ) and Points of Information (PoP)

18.1.2.1. Hello, my name is Rose, I’m here with the United Auto Workers Union, or the UAW. We’re here to say that we are endorsing the Occupy Wall Street movement. We are mobilizing hundreds of people, hopefully thousands. We’ve been phone banking all day today, and we’ll be doing it tomorrow. We’re meeting at Lafayette and Worth St to meet you at Foley Sq.

F: There was a point of process. Would you like to speak?

Point of Process (PoP): Why are announcements occurring at this part of the agenda?

F: We have said the agenda during the facilitation meeting, which happens at 4PM every day by the steps. Everyone is invited. The point on the agenda today was the event tomorrow. So announcements now are about the event tomorrow.

18.1.2.2. Hello! I’m Austin! I’m with Align. We are the NYC chapter of Jobs with Justice. We support you! We love you! We endorse you, and we are part of the May 12 Coalition that put 20,000 people on Wall Street a little while ago. We are so excited to see what you’re doing. And we want your help with tomorrow. Thousands of people are coming, but we want more, so we are holding a Tweet-out. What’s a Tweet-out? I’ll tell you! Go on Twitter. Use the hashtag #99problems. So that the 99% can tell Wall Street what we think is FUCKED. OK? Every union and community organization in our coalition is doing this, too. Join us, and we will build a buzz that everyone will here. Right now 2,000 people have RSVP’ed to come. Help us, and we’ll have 5,000!

F: We are closing stack. Is that OK? Yes. If you would like to be put on stack about the action tomorrow, please come here. After this, is it OK to close stack? Yes.

18.1.2.3. Hello people. Tomorrow will be a very important day for us, and I’ve written a small piece. The people’s revolution, government for the people, and by the people, in the mainstream media, there is a resounding assertion that we have no common ground, goal, or agenda. And that is not true! Because there is a unifying aspect between us all. What unites us is our desire to see change, and not just change in the banks in Wall Street, but change in the system. For the betterment and amelioration of all people. All nations and this earth. The bottom line is that the people want government that is for the people and by the people, and I would like to take this moment to remind the people here, and watching on Livestream tonight, of the foundation of American legislation, the Declaration of Independence. We hold these truths to be self-evident: That all men are created equal, that they are endowed with their creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness…. I propose that tomorrow with the thousands that will be in attendance, we not just take on Wall Street and the banks, but we stand together in solidarity, and in the solid rock of brotherhood, we challenge America to its very principal of democracy, and ensure that we uphold its legislation, government for the people and by the people, is what we are here to claim. We the people of America will claim just that.

F: I appreciate the bravery and strong voices that participate in the assembly. We want to hear you, but we do have an agenda. So if you could please try and keep your speaking to one minute, it would be much appreciated for everyone here! Remember, there’s a soapbox after! You can talk for as long as you want.

CQ: Hello! My name’s Michael! I’m a little confused—on the flyers for tomorrow it says meet at City Hall and march here. Now I’m hearing “march here, and march to Foley Sq.” What’s the truth?

Response: Tomorrow there’s a new plan to march from here at 3PM to Foley Sq. At Foley Sq, at 4:30, we’ll all together march back here, and have a big ol’ party!

Stack (S): Stack is now closed.

PoI: It says on the flyer that it’s 4:30 at City Hall. City Hall is not Foley Sq. City Hall is on Park Row, between Park Row and Broadway. Which is right?

Response: We apologize for all the confusion! Originally we thought 4:30 at City Hall. Now we’re hearing 4:30 at Foley Sq.

Does anyone know the cross streets of Foley Sq.? Worth and Center! If anyone has questions about this, we’re writing this information on this white board. Come up afterwards and find it here.

F: Whoever changed the location from City Hall to Foley Sq., or knows who changed it, can you come up here please?

Response: Foley Sq. is only two blocks north of City Hall! And it seems like a better place to congregate.

CQ: A question for Direct Action—I’m really excited about the march. But one thing that makes this different is that we’ve done some civil disobedience. Maybe we’ll do that some other time, but I’m wondering if any organized civil disobedience is planned as part of the march? Thank you!

Response: Questions and concerns will be addressed after. I apologize for any delays.

Response: Direct Action never plans anything that could put participants in jeopardy. But we respect diversity of tactics, as long as it doesn’t negatively affect the whole group. Don’t give the NYPD what they want!

F: Hearing test. Could we have a people’s mic right here?

18.2. Working Group Report Backs

18.2.1. Speak Easy Caucus—Meeting at 11PM by the library. The caucus is for a broad spectrum of individuals from female-bodied people who identify as women to male-bodied people who do not strictly identify as men. It is to help empower voices that have been stepped on by others. 11PM by the library!

18.2.2. Security—Brian. Tomorrow’s a big day for security. We’re going to present a proposal in the morning to contract an actual security firm. No charge, completely volunteer. We will train our volunteers to properly handle any situations, especially between us and the NYPD. We also started a new communication tool, four codes. 1red means blood, 2blue means fight, 3green means drugs, 4white means thief.

18.2.3. Jesse—Info. Standing here now I want to thank all the groups that have registered their information with us. If you have not, you don’t exist! So please see us! If you don’t have a nametag representing your group, you don’t exist! I can’t tell you how many times people have come to me looking for Safer Spaces or Security, for any group, it’s important that we connect.

GA comment: The red cross and other symbols identifying on arms are pretty much the same thing as nametags.

F: Please do not hijack the people’s mic! Be respectful!

18.2.4. Outreach—Emma. You are all outreach! Right now we need neighborhood and community organizers. After G.A., if you fall into that category, please go to outreach. It’s right over there! There’s a sign that says “Outreach.” We also need students to go to outreach, afterwards! There is going to be a student meeting on Friday. Time TBD. We also need people to distribute flyers for tomorrow’s march to go to outreach after G.A. All of these things concern the flyers for tomorrow’s march. We also could really use a computer donated to us. If you have any resources like that, also go to outreach. So basically, everyone should go to Outreach after G.A.!

POI: If anyone works for a nonprofit that is registered for materials for the arts, they have computers!

18.2.5. Town Planning—Basic nightly announcements. We promised the vendors we would not interrupt the people walking through the park who are their customers. So our consensus is that nobody sleeps, and no objects will be placed between the two rows of trees down the center of the park. Quiet hours 11PM-8AM. Quiet talking in the front, no talking in the sleeping area. Stay out of the flower beds, please!

PoI: At last night’s G.A. we reached consensus that quiet hours would now begin at 10PM. The people’s mic, if needed, may be used until 11PM.

18.2.6. Direct Action—Hello! I’m Josh! I’m with Direct Action! As you know, tomorrow’s going to be huge. We’re going to need a lot of volunteers to help us keep the march together. If you would like to be one of those volunteers, find me after this, and sign up! I will be under the red structure. Also we would like to clarify that the march will be organized at 3PM in that general area. Thank you!

18.2.7. Media—It is up to us to tell our story. If you have any footage you would like to contribute to the community, please go to the media center and give it to post-production. Thank you! For people that don’t know, the media center is the space with the red umbrella.

18.2.8. Facilitation—All day all week! Facilitation has two meetings every day, except tomorrow, cause who knows what’s going to happen tomorrow? These meetings meet at 4PM and 5:30PM. First meeting—facilitation working group, meetings at the bottom of the park. Second meeting—intro to direct democratic process, 5:30, same place. Who’s new here? Welcome! If you want to know how this process works, and how to empower yourself within it, 5:30 is the meeting for you. If you’ve gone to that meeting, or been to a bunch of these assemblies, then maybe the 4PM working group is the place for you! Thanks!

PoI: Just today, the meeting was moved, and it was hard to figure out where you were. So in the future, let us know!

Response: At the tree, at the bottom of the hill.

F: Now closing stack. We will open stack for informational announcements.

F: Please remember, soapbox comes after the G.A. Informational announcements will be kept to one minute.

PoI: Before we move on, is there a group that can report on general needs of the occupiers?

Response: Thank you for your question. That was not really a point of information, but Comfort, Kitchen, or Medical could help you address that concern.

18.2.9. Arts & Culture—Rachel. We’re happy to announce we’ve been given an opportunity for a public exhibition in the historic JP Morgan building, directly across from the NY Stock Exchange. This will be on Saturday. The curator of the space is taking submissions. It’s a broad open call, but they’re due on Thursday at midnight. Email arts\_culture@nycga.net for questions and more information. We meet also every day at 6PM at the bottom corner of the park by the circle.

CQ: What was that email again?

Response: It’s written down on the board up here.

18.2.10. Jason—I just want to raise people’s spirits. First thing, if people could keep aisle-ways but come closer. Second thing, I want to lead a quick chant.

18.3. Announcements

18.3.1. Chris—I have an announcement on Pat’s behalf. She lost her walking stick. It is a wooden stick with a leather strap. If you find it, bring it to her at the Outreach center. Thank you!

18.3.2. Global Block—My name is George Martinez. I am from Brooklyn, NY. I am the US Cultural Ambassador of Hip Hop for the State Department. I just got back from Columbia, celebrating hip hop diplomacy for six weeks, and I get back to my city to see this great sight of real Americans taking over what is already ours! I represent the Global Block, which means we change the world one block at a time. We will be with you tomorrow. We are the streets, this is our America, in solidarity always.

F: I know that everyone has a lot to share. Please remember to try and keep it to one minute! And after there will be a soapbox!

18.3.3 Melanie—A young woman named Amber has lost a purple wallet. It has all her money and her I.D. She needs her I.D. to get to school tomorrow at 6AM. If you find her wallet please return it to the media center under the red umbrella!

18.3.4. Underground Party—My name is Eric, I’m from the Underground Party. www.undergroundparty.net. I’m here to talk about taking over government. Whether your goal is dismantling it or crafting new regulations, we need to elect our own. I will be out here talking about this all week, come see me!

F: We are closing stack. Any other announcements, please come to the front now!

18.3.5. Osiris—Peace! My name is Osiris and I’m with Rev Fit. The organization provides free fitness classes to the community. The idea is to improve the health of the community, while demanding community change. The point is, I wanted to offer the services to occupiers on Wall Street. If Saturday at 5PM is fine with everyone, I will be here. If the time doesn’t work, we can work it out. We’ve been announcing the marches to all our classes, and we will be here tomorrow.

18.3.6. Dawn—I got catcalled earlier by four male comrades in the sleeping area. I understand there are a lot of attractive people here, but sexual harassment is TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE!!! Respect each other! This is a SAFE PLACE FOR EVERYONE. I love you!

F: Everyone who is on stack will speak. But now stack is closed. Thank you!

18.3.7. Dorje—We now have three recycling and compost buckets by garbage cans. At the east, west, and south gates. Soon they will be at every garbage can. We can be the change we want to see in this world. Thanks for recycling!

18.3.8. White Hat—I’m White Hat. Shortly after the general assembly, we’ll set a projector and a screen with thoughts that you provide and also, if anyone has pictures of other Occupies, bring them on a USB and we’ll show them. Thank you!

18.3.9. Rara—I have a very important issue to encourage empowerment. We must dedicate a moment every day we’re here to build awareness on issues here. We are all here with strong beliefs, but some people are shy, have social anxiety, have passive personalities, and feel they will be judged if they speak up. We must not let that happen here. I would like to build awareness on that and dedicate to it every day—although we are quiet, we have a voice, too! But the more aggressive, dominant people are overshadowing some voices or lack-of. We all must be heard! I just learned you could use coaching as a resource. Those that have strong voices already, use it on subways, tell your friends and everyone!

18.3.10. Elliot—Today sixty-three faculty from the New School have issued a statement in support with our occupation! They are also in support of a contingent of New School students who will be walking out and joining our march tomorrow. I have been asked to read this statement of solidarity: “We, faculty members of the New School, would like to express our solidarity with Occupy Wall Street. We support its demand for real democracy, and its denunciation of the effects of the economic crisis, on the conditions of life for millions of people around the world. We strongly disagree with political and economic measures against the crisis, based on the reduction of public spending and cuts to public services. We condemn the exclusive and unnecessary use of force by the NYPD that resulted in the arrests of seven hundred people marching in a peaceful and nonviolent demonstration. It is inconceivable that New York, the city known for a tradition of free and independent thinking, should be governed like a police state.” Thank you!

F: There are five minutes left, and fifteen people! Please try and be short. If you’re willing to step down and reserve your announcement for the soapbox, that would be great!

18.3.11. Jerry—I’m with the War Resistors’ League. Friday is the tenth anniversary of the start of the Afgan War. There is a demo in Time Square at noon held by Military Families Against the War. I want to ask the general assembly to consider filling Time Square on

Friday at noon! There is a huge pedestrian plaza that can easily hold 10,000 people. Consider it, and let’s discuss it tomorrow!

18.3.12. Jason—Tomorrow from 11 to 2, we will have as guests Josh Silver, creator of the Democracy Fund, and Lawrence Lessing, who created Creative Commons.

18.3.13. Kristine—From Comfort. If you’re occupying Liberty Plaza and you need to shower, come now to Comfort and schedule it.

18.3.14. Ketchup—This Sunday at 1PM Chris Hedges will be doing a teach-in on his book, Death of the Liberal Class. He’ll be bringing copies.

18.3.15. Artists for Amsterdam—Wall Street is happening in my front yard. All over the world, I invite groups of people to lie down, to look into the sky, in silence, for thirty minutes. I visited sixteen countries. Is the general assembly interested? I want to announce next Thursday 1PM, Silent Sky Project here.

18.3.16. Rob—Many of the 700 people who were arrested did not choose to be arrested. They thought what they were doing was OK, and the NYPD told people in the front, “do not advance on the road.” There was miscommunication between both sides. Our movement is going to go on a long time. It would be a good idea for us to be able to get along with the cops. I am having a meeting a meeting across the street at the corner of men’s warehouse to discuss forming a police relations working group, right after G.A.

PoI: A police liaison group will work in direct disagreement with a consensus that came from the general assembly to not have a police liaison.

Rob—May I respond to the block?

Clarification—This was not a block. It was only a point of information. If we would like to bring the idea of a police liaison to Liberty Square, that must come in the form of a proposal to be put on the agenda and consented upon by the entire G.A. Since we have already consented that we do not want a police liaison, I encourage this working group to present their agenda item to the G.A.

Rob—We’ll meet and present it as a proposal.

18.3.17. Anthony—G’day! I’m Anthony! I’m with the meditation flash mob. You may have seen us meditating last Wednesday and last Saturday before the big march. A meditation flash mob has been planned for tomorrow at 3:30PM over there. If meditating is your thing, come and join us!

PoP: The meditation group at 3:30 conflicts with the march at 3PM.

Response—You will have to choose.

18.3.18. Brian—Occupy Wall Street now has a Google Plus Account. Please join!

18.3.19. Tomorrow there will be lawyers from the National Lawyers’ Guild who are coming here to give Know Your Rights training. They will be here at 3:30, and they’re going to stay all day. You can recognize them by their bright green hats.

18.3.20. Ronnie—I represent the project to create an Occupy Wall Street video game! Please contact me in front of the library after G.A. We need artists, we need sound designers, we need game testers, programmers, and game designers. That is all, thank you!

18.3.21. Echo—At last night’s general assembly, I made a call for an altar. A number of people answered that call. A specific location has not been chosen. What I see is threefold. We are clearly witnessing a true revolution, which will take many forms, including providing a lasting alternative to the current system, and to replacing money and establishing world citizenship. In the meantime I propose we embrace tomorrow’s march to include the Fed. In addition I have spoken with the National Lawyers Guild. Anyone who would be interested in helping to draft on the ground here, an executive order which we would then present for legalese and improvement. Please see me.

18.3.22. Sunny—In response to a request for a Gray Water System to ecologically process the dirty kitchen water, a group of us have a system ready to bring here tomorrow. We are asking if this is still a need. (Yes!)

18.3.23. Leonard—For those who have not heard me speak before, I am from Bakersville, California. I came 3,000 miles to make a proposal. I would like to form a group to discuss and implement a financial plan to increase the opportunity for people to get jobs, reduce the foreclosure rate, end the federal deficit. For those that are interested in wanting to improve the economy, we will hold a meeting tonight right here, after the General Assembly. Thank you!

F: Unity clap. Start slow, go faster. OW OW!

F: Time for Soapbox, followed by an intimate performance by Jeff Mangum.

**NYCGA Minutes 10/09/11, 7PM**

Posted October 9th, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 23

Meeting Date/Time: 10/9/2011 / 7pm EST

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators (F):

*[Editor’s note: We don’t seem to have a complete set of notes for this GA. Please e-mail OWSminutes@gmail.com if you have minutes from the very beginning and very end.]*

AGENDA 23.1. Working Group Report Backs

23.2. Announcements

23.3. Agenda Items (Sanitation Proposal)

23.1. Working Group Report Backs

23.1.1. HI! It’s ok to cry. Education and empowerment workshop will make a physical board of workshops. So email your info to: occupy101@gmail.com. They are meeting Tues, 8:30pm. Under the red thing (new name, anyone?). Education and Empowerment Workgroup

23.1.2. Outreach: Ben-We are doing an outreach organizer’s dinner (yummy). Tuesday 7pm. 97 Hudson. Info on the website. Also: outreach has a new website!! Needs an image. Subway canvassing all week. 15M in the house?

F: Five working groups left to report. Please keep up participation!

23.1.3. Media: John – Today our team had a special guest with a tough name to spell. We also covered Chris Hedges and the interfaith march! Yeah, livestream! http://www.livestream.com/globalrevolution. Editing and will post ASAP. In addition to covering. (x3) daily events. We will be doing profiles on working groups (smile for the camera) so that we can educate, and inspire the WORLD, by showing them the challenges that we meet and overcome every single day. ALL DAY. ALL WEEK. #OCCUPYWALLSTREET We meet every day at 11am at the Media Circle. (except Tues and Thurs at 5pm). For info: please email: globalrevolutionmedia@googlegroups.com

23.1.4. Arts and Culture: Hi. Raise your right hand up. And stretch your elbow. And then stretch to the left. There’s about to be an explosion of culture in NYC!!!!! #Epic. But he

needs our help! Come to the arts and culture meeting at 6pm! at 60 Wall Street (indoor public space, nice AC). Monday-Friday.

23.1.5. Alternative Currency Group: Rick-Work began today on a proposal trying to implement a currency for this movement. The Wall Street banks and their best customers, the multinational corporations, control the source and flow of $$$$$$$. I have 30 seconds left. This is an open invitation for you to join us in this process! We will be meeting at 11am every day. Every week. Until we’re done. at the red cube. 23.1.6. People of Color Working Group: Meets every Wednesday at 5 under the BIG RED THING. It is open to anyone who self-identifies as a person of color. Thank you.

F: Short and sweet. Nice report-back! Mic check!

23.1.7. Arts and Culture: Rochelle-I would like to have an emergency meeting, after GA…at the arts and culture booth to discuss: what’s the operation prepare of the area we love! Art! Thank you!

F: Mic Check!!! Two more working groups. Thank you for your patience. 23.1.8. Community Relations Working Group: Justin-Two pieces of info: first, that we continue to work with local residents, and the general assembly, to create a good neighbor policy.. We will propose that policy to the general assembly later in the week. Second, we partner with arts and culture..and the loft in the red zone Art Gallery, to create the art exhibit (yesterday), that had thousands of viewers..Will Stay open til Friday!!!!!!! @ 23 Wall St. (check it out!) 23.1.9. Occupy Wall Street Archives: Jez-The first archives were in classical Greece. They were controlled by the people who had the political power. But this is our archive. And we get to define what is history! We need your help to collect flyers and the cardboard signs and your personal notes so we can make this movement HISTORY!!!!! #OccupyWallStreet! If you wanna help do that, meet me at the #PeoplesLibrary after the GA.

F: That concludes the working group report backs. YEAH! Next agenda item: General Announcements.

23.2. Announcements

F: (no opinions, info about upcoming events/teach-ins/marches/etc.)

F: Please keep announcements to 1 minute = 60 seconds. Factual info, people. No es una oportunidad para compartir tu política personal! There will be time after for soapbox! That’s the time to share personal politics!

Random Fact: The big red thing is ACTUALLY called the Joie e Vivre by Marc di Suvero.

23.2.1. Hi everybody. That’s Vanessa. From Brazil! Today we had our first assembly in Spanish! Si! En espanol. We had different voices join us. We created a new working group. #OWSEnEspanol: Wednesday, 5pm, (red cube). Info: go to spanish table! Gracias! Gracias! #OccupyWallStreet demos are taking place in mucho cities and in front of the Federal Reserve. We will be meeting after announcements at the Red Cube.

23.2.2. I’m Marsha? and Steph? We propose an environmental solidarity working group to address disconnects between political debate and the bigger picture of a dying planet. Meet here after GA to discuss. Environmental Solidarity

F: Can we do just 2 generations? Good feeling about that. 23.2.3. Tim and Audrey: Starting a new working group without a name to try to bring all the ideas generated at this event into one location to organize everything into a digestible format (digestion problems), but with a more positive connotation. After GA, meet by the library if you want to join and make them more coherent.

F: Stack is closing. If you have an announcement, talk to the person right down here.

23.2.4. Hi. I just wanted to let you know that there is a giant sign on the side of the NYSE that says Banks Got Bailed Out, We got Sold Out!!!! Pics anyone?!?! Tweet to @occupywallstNYC 23.2.5. Two announcements: (1) I’d like to work with a group of people to write a proposal re: creating a space here that’s non-smoking. Meet at red thing. Smokers welcome. (2) Workshop tomorrow at noon: THEATRE OF THE OPPRESSED. Meet at Altar. Name’s Jen. F: Stack is closed. That’s all four announcements. If you’re on stack, no prob, speak next…Get ready for an awesome pic.

F: Reminder: #PeoplesMic x2 in effect 23.2.6. Occupy Wall Street Video Game Club. Sound design programmers and artists. For video games, email: ronny.r.nunez@gmail.com.

23.2.7. Hi this is John. Forming a group, Healthcare for All

F: Mic check! Help him, he’s losing his voice. 23.2.8. Would like to form working group: Help #OWS have an impact on 2012 elections. Make it clear: this does not mean that we will engage in politics as usual. the point will be to find a way to maintain the spirit of the movement. meet at the red thing.

F: Twelve more announcements, hang in there, people.

23.2.9. After the #GeneralAssembly + 1/2 hr we’ll show a movie about the effects of the civil war on a family and their children. En frances. In french. with subtitles. (we can’t have sound. (yet)). ON THIS SCREEN. YEP THIS ONE. LOOK AT THE SCREEN.

23.2.10. @ProtestChaplain!!!!! We love all religious paths. 23.2.11. Monday, 12pm. Elementary school children are coming here for an Un-Columbus Day Event! (No swearing.) 23.2.12. Legal Team needs more dedicated revolutionaries. If you’re interested, meet tomorrow afternoon at legal table.

Need something to do?

People in the back say “Oh, oh!”

23.2.13. His name’s Jeremiah. It’s an honor to be here. If you’re making a documentary about these events or anything multimedia-oriented, we have tons of music available at our site: earthdriver.org

23.2.14. John. Organizing a walking tour tomorrow about the history of land privatization in #NYC. Privately-owned public space = “POPS”. Zuccotti (#LibertyPlaza) is a POPS owned by #BrookfieldProps. @MikeBloomberg’s GF is on board. They say we’re not cleaning the place.

23.2.15. SUGGESTION BOX at Info Tent with blue umbrella at Broadway entrance. Make suggestions. F: Move up to the front! Seats are free! Also, can folks sit down?!

23.2.16. Raise your hand if you’ve been here since #Sep17!!! Hi dave. A new group: Checks and Balances. Help GA enforce, “step up, step back”. If u don’t have a committee, meet after #GeneralAssembly at SW corner of park (steve’s restaurant side)

23.2.17. Hello NYC! Hi Josh –NYC. New working group: For people with disabilities. We’ll work to make the park more accessible (red cube after GA, tomorrow 1pm)

F: Raise your hand if Wall Street’s working just fine for you…

23.2.18. Hi Henry. Folks flying in from Cali to help us learn about direct action. Training, Monday 4pm. Under Joie de Vivre (aka red thing).

23.2.19. Tomorrow is Columbus Day, a day of remembrance of genocide of native people. As native people are in continual sorrow. We ask you in solidarity to remember us and all oppressed people on this earth.

F: All hands in the air. It’s like a bank robber in here with all the love. Mic check. No Columbus Day for us. #NoColumbusDay 23.2.20. Announcement from coordination: Making a bulletin board to serve as a centralized point of info. In a working group and want up-to-date info? Email: coordinateOWS@gmail.com. Include: current status, requests, offers, and challenges.

23.2.21. Wednesday: Congress votes on free trade agreements w/ Colombia, Panama and S. Korea. They will outsource jobs. Destroy the environment. Make genocide against indigenous people. Tomorrow, 1pm Teach-In under the red thing. What can we do to stop them? #OccupyCongress?

F: Mic check.Mic check.Mic check.Mic check.Mic check.Mic check.Mic check.Mic check.

F: Announcement: Announcements are over.

23.3. Agenda Items

F: One agenda item:

F: At 4pm mtg of facilitation group, no proposals were brought to us. Why? The system for bringing proposals is far from perfect. The planning committee, backed by sanitation, is asking the #GeneralAssembly to consider a proposal that they deem time-sensitive.

F: Temp check: weather’s fine. Temp check on proposal…… good! We will now hear proposal: 23.3.1. Sanitation Proposal

23.3.1.1. Max from Sanitation. Proposal from Town. In terms of traffic flow, cohesive structure and general cleanliness, in order to present an image we can be proud of, increased effectiveness and out of consideration for the general community, we are proposing: An organization sweep. In order to do this, we need containers for the personal. A collaborative cleaning project involving the whole community. Bins for all personal belongings. $2000 estimate of cost for containers for personal belongings. We may use less than half of funds. The remainder will go back. Has been cleared with finance. Nothing in this proposal to assist sanitation with our current needs except providing camp with means to pack up and get clean.

F: We will now be closing stack for questions.

Research on where to purchase containers ongoing. Taking suggestions.

23.3.1.2. There are many people who sleep here who don’t come to GA. How do we survey people who sleep here but don’t come?

Response: #GeneralAssembly represents all people at camp, whether they attend or not.

F: Temp check was good.

23.3.1.3. Craigslist? No need to buy new @#%!!

Response: We have put request out on the live feed. #needsoftheoccupiers. Issue is time-sensitive. 23.3.1.4. We’ve received bad press coverage w/r/to sanitation. Some examples: Lack of organization and messiness. NY1 says Zuccotti Park owners are concerned about sanitation here. Haven’t cleaned since Sep 16. Neighbors concerned about drumming. Mixed-income, family neighborhood (not super-rich).

REMINDER: Consensus quiet hours = 10pm, weeknights.

Concern: Reaction to the press reports

We should be very careful in taking direction from those who don’t want us here.

DIRECT RESPONSE: this is not a reaction to media coverage, this is the first step of a town planning initiative to make space organized, so we can enjoy our team and work more effectively.

The press coverage is recent.

F: Can someone kindly remind the drum circles that it is 10PM and time for quiet hours? Respectfully.

**NYCGA Minutes 10/10/11, 7PM**

Posted October 10th, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 24

Meeting Date/Time: 10/10/2011 / 7pm EST

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators (F): Craig, Daniel

AGENDA

24.1. Agenda Items

24.2. Working Group Report Backs

24.3. Announcements

F: General Assembly Day 24 begins in four minutes! Please take your seats!

F: Introduction of Facilitation Team: Craig, Daniel – facilitators. Eileen – stack (progressive). Vinny – time-keeper. If you’d like drummers to stop, you may (politely) ask them. (lots of spirit fingers). This is a projector screen. If you’re in front of me, please sit down.

F: Mic check: “I asked the drummers to stop, but they said it’s a sacred dance and won’t stop.”

F: Is it ok? We will continue. I apologize in advance if anyone cannot be heard. Mic Check – Drummers will stop in ten minutes. Can we wait ten minutes? (lots of down fingers)

F: Hand signal review. (stand by for GA guide) Step-up, Step-back is self-moderation, not something someone else is going to tell you to do. It’s when voices that are heard a lot and are very active consider stepping back to let other voices that aren’t heard as much and have just as much right to be heard. It’s something we all consider for ourselves. We don’t police each other. We have received a request from the back of the assembly that they can’t hear. If possible, please move forward if you can. #PeoplesMic will be moving into 3 Generation Mode. Let’s try that now (x3).

24.1. Agenda Items

F: Mic check. Mic check. Mic check. Great. Great. Great! Our first agenda item for tonight is in response to last night’s proposal on buying bins to clean up the park from city planning.

24.1.1. The proposal was to buy personal storage bins in order to clean up the space. For people’s bedding. An amendment was made and accepted that the storage bins be Fair Trade. There are no storage bins of the type we’re looking for that are Fair Trade. This is a time-sensitive issue. We need to create a park we are proud of. We need to improve efficiency, traffic flow, and appearance. I want to revise the proposal to remove the Fair Trade amendment. To clarify, a friendly amendment that was proposed does not apply.

24.1.1.1. Any clarifying questions of information? Any questions? Raise your hand and get on stack.

24.1.1.2. After consultation from a number of city planning professionals, as well as the general community, this is the best solution we have come up with.

F: Every time we address something new like announcements, a stack will open for that issue.

OK, this was an opportunity for an already-consensed upon proposal to explain the friendly amendment was not valid. Can we please get back on track?

24.1.1.3. This proposal is the removal of that invalid friendly amendment. I would like to move for consensus. Temperature check. Bueno. Any blocks? AWESOME!!! CONSENSUS!! It tastes so good.

24.1.2. My name is Heather, Marlisa. Is everyone getting enough to eat? Shout out to the kitchen! Right now, we have the most famous kitchen in the world! We serve more than 2,000 people every day! We have outgrown our network of home kitchens and seek a more permanent home for #ThePeoplesKitchen. We need a new, dedicated commercial kitchen space. Urgently. We propose that the #GeneralAssembly empower us to get a new, dedicated kitchen space.

24.1.2.1. Clarification: Food is asking the #GeneralAssembly for the permission to decide on and make their own proposal for a commercial space.

F: Make sure everybody is pitching in to relay our messages that are all very important not just to this community but also our movement.

Announcement: Update on @occupy\_boston….Boston Police Dept (BPD) have told occupiers that they will be arrested at midnight tonight. What you can do: Occupy\_Boston. Can’t hurt. Flood the lines. @Occupy\_Boston Call Governor Patrick and ask for protection? 617.725.4005 888.870.7770. 10/10/11 6:59 PM. UPDATE: police are idling, looking to clear camp in the middle of the night. The way to stop them is people, light, and prepared food. (1 hr ago)

F: Turn to someone next to you and say “Hello!”

24.1.2.2. Back to the proposal. What food is proposing is to be fully empowered to start a commercial kitchen. With the amendment that the rent will be under $2500 /month.

24.1.2.2.1. On stack: Ryan. His question is “can you find a space that is not equipped as a kitchen with lower rent and obtain all materials needed thereby decreasing startup costs while reducing longterm costs.” thank you.

Response: The answer is yes. We would love a cheaper space with donated or low cost equipment

24.1.2.2.2. Angela: have you researched what the different kitchen options are? from my experience, commercial kitchens are very expensive in new york

Response: In our research, there are spaces available in new york for under twenty-five hundred dollars per month. This is the cost of two catered meals here.

24.1.2.2.3. Do you anticipate other expenses besides the rent, and should we approve those now?

Response: We are looking in to used equipment and auctions, and everything we get will be at a big discount.

24.1.2.2.4. Rita: I wanted to suggest since the union march the other day we should reach out to them, and we should ask them to use their kitchens. They have union halls in the vicinity. They are not always using them. So we should reach out to them and ask them to donate space.

F: Mic check

Point of Process (PoP): As a point of process, that was not a specific question about the item proposed; it was instead more discussion regarding other possibilities, however food would like to respond to that statement.

Response: We are reaching out to unions, but the proposal is, is to empower us to make that decision when we find the best option.

24.1.2.2.5. I would like to ask, if there has been an attempt to solicit information of an appropriate space online or otherwise? Also, I would like to know, how many we currently utilize and how many more we would need to feed us.

Response: We have been asking for donations for weeks. Inline and in person, unions and community centers. We are so big, we need a centralized location for all our donations and volunteers.

24.1.2.2.6. One question: In renting a commercial kitchen, is a legitimate concern we could be evicted due to political pressure on who we are renting from. What steps can you take to make sure we can keep hold of that space?

Response: We will take all necessary measures, legal sanitation, political, to protect the movement. The desire for a commercial kitchen will make us safer and stronger together.

Point of Information (PoI): Hey everyone, I’m on Finance. Unfortunately, this is a HUGE legal concern. I’m not trying to stop this process, and we can get a kitchen if we want. We’re what’s called a non-profit organization. If people from food personally buy a space with general money from all of us, and any lawyer looks at it, the person who paid that money can lose everything they have. So normally when we make these purchases, we figure out this stuff before voting, just to make sure it’s safe.

24.1.2.3. Food: Thank you everyone. We will table this proposal. But it’s urgent. We will be right back. Tomorrow, if anyone has any resources, please come to food, or email us at occupiedkitchen@gmail.com. We love you.

F: We would like to take a ten minute intermission. How do you feel about that? See you in ten minutes!

24.2. Working Group Report Backs

F: We’re back! There’s a march leaving NOW over there. Tell your friends. The #GeneralAssembly will continue with report-backs and announcements. Working groups only come to facilitators if you haven’t yet. Library, Arts and Culture. In that order, Library now.

24.2.1. Hello my brothers and sisters! Came by the people’s library today to express your support, it was awesome! In other library news, many groups have been asking people to meet in the library. We welcome this. However, we have limited space, so if you could inform the library beforehand of any meetings, we could help to facilitate a safe space for everyone. Is this cool with the GA? We hope you will join us in the peoples’ library. We love you and we thank you for your generous support. Power to the people!

24.2.2. Think-tank: Evening. Today was our first day. . . . We got more than 100 ideas in about two and a half hours. We had a 45 minute discussion about the specific of local farming. What we’re trying to do is continue that every day. So please stop by the think-tank group, grab a piece of paper and join the conversation. We’ll be meeting from 11 to 7. Today was right here {GA meeting area}. And we definitely need a lot of volunteers. Somebody who can type in ideas and somebody to … the conversations, someone to facilitate/mediate: 2 people at any time. Find me or Audrey.

24.2.3. Arts and Culture: Hi I’m Tony. The no comment arts show that started this weekend got an anonymous donation for $5,000! This has allowed them to extend the show through Friday. They are taking more submissions through midnight tomorrow at www.nocommentsartshow.com. Also, an organizer from the Brooklyn music scene is starting a series of benefit shows starting October 23 at Shea Stadium at 20 Meadow St in Bushwhick for more information email him at ggddffxx@gmail.com.

24.2.4. Hi everyone. You all look beautiful. Through Arts and Culture where you guys are making signs, there are a lot of dirty brushes so please, when you see dirty brushes, clean them! Also, you can use the ghetto brush. What is the ghetto brush? You take a cigarette brush, when you’ve finished smoking it, you … and you twist the end. Then you have a clean brush you can use and it’s recyclable.

24.2.5. People of Color OWs: I ama person of color ….all people of color. I need to ask you a question real quick. Does anybody like music? Does anybody like hip-hop? I’m asking you today, to meet with me Wednesday with people of color because our culture is your culture. 5 PM Wednesday.

F: Next 3 groups, Education and Empowerment, Labor Outreach, Women’s Caucus.

24.2.6. Education and Empowerment: Hi I’m Sully, with Education and Empowerment. There are a lot of people with a lot of great ideas … and instruction here within the occupation. We are trying to organize a structure so we can coordinate these efforts and reduce redundancy. If you’ve got ideas … Instead of starting a new working group, you came a join us. We meet Tuesdays and Fridays at 8:30 PM under the Joy di Vive {red tripod} If you have a proposal for a teach-in you’d like to do, you can email that to occupy101@gmail.com. We’ll help you publicize and publish it.

24.2.7. My name is Ben from San Francisco. I’ve decided to be here to offer … anyway, it’s going to be at 1 PM over across the street next to the orange cube … good night

24.2.8. Labor Outreach: Hi, my name’s Eli. I’m from labor outreach committee. Who here … on stocks? They were all workers. It will be sad to hear, … 680 million dollars last year. Their CEO only makes $60,000 a day. … has locked out their workers, so one thing we know … local 814 some of these … we are taking action against Sotheby’s tomorrow.

24.2.9. Women’s Caucus: Hello everybody. This is the collective voice of the women’s caucus which tries to create a space for women empowerment. … the women’s caucus will be meeting TONIGHT at 10:30 PM at the RED CUBE. Our first initiative. we are going to set up a … space as well as … inclusion of women … that representatives from … thank you! TONIGHT 10:30 PM RED CUBE.

Stack: If you haven’t gotten on stack, come on up!

We won’t let them stop us!

24.2.10. I’m Justin with community outreach … we ordered twenty pizzas from Liberados Pizza … 300 pizzas and those orders came from all over the world. Liberados … us with 99 free pizzas tomorrow. This is just one example of how we support local small businesses. If you want to help us, go and find a local small business. Ask them to partner with us, and my committee will help you with that. We’ll meet tomorrow 12 PM by the media center. We’re working on developing a local babysitters group. If you can help . . . like that, come see me at the media center. Thank you good night.

24.2.11. Sustainability: Hi I’m Marsha. We are a new group. We want to improving … and awareness … impact on this space. We want to encourage reusing … We want to encourage reducing, reusing, recycling. Meeting tomorrow 5:30 PM at the red cube. Our email is owssustainability@gmail.com. Thank you and I love you! Good night!

24.2.12. Brothers and Sisters! Just wanted to let you know, that the elementary school children … we have a mission … teachers for justice now. We will be having a meeting tomorrow at 8:30 PM at the red cube … on an added note, everybody call the precinct and complain about the construction noise.

24.2.13. One … really bad trade agreements … Panama. We decided to form a working group. Tomorrow, there will be another teach-in at 2:30 PM under the orange sculpture. On Wednesday there will be a big action in front of . . . office at 9 AM on 3rd Ave between 92 and 93 St. For more information, come to tradejustice.net! info@tradejustice.net.

24.2.14. @ 2 PM tomorrow, facilitation, there will be a discussion about refining the facilitation process. It will also deal with concepts related to how to make the GA more effective. That meeting will be held in Battery Park but since Battery Park is so big, the meeting will first meet at 1:45 PM by the big tree at the far {West} end of the park.

24.2.15. Media:

F: Any other Working groups? Working Groups are closed. Maybe we can limit it to one mic {one echo}

24.3. Announcements

F: Mic Check. Please sit down and move in. We’re starting anon.

24.3.1. My name is ?. You’ve seen me around, in the wheelchair, who is blind … {can’t hear} mic check please!! Tomorrow at 9:30, 10 blocks away, 60 { } street … division … she must appear … against challenges, and adult protector services and you know from talking to her … but the forces she is fighting … in the lower court system … making an appearance … we the 99% have a better chance at justice.

F: MIC CHECK. Please!

F: We’re doing a really good job. This is hard and people are disorganized. If you’d like to be on stack, please do not harass the stack person and in an orderly line you will be put on stack. Everyone standing … please come join us, also, everyone sit down so everyone can hear. Lots of room up here.

24.3.2. I was just in Philadelphia. A moment of silence for our brothers and sisters that are being killed in Cairo. In this moment to make a difference, we’re gonna have to occupy democracy.

Quick emergency announcement. the info desk has the purse of Cecilia Dunly

24.3.3. From grandmother … the oldest surviving member of the . . . tribe of Indians from Southern Oregon. she is 87 years old and is a chairperson of the international council of indigenous grandmothers. This is her message: Keep strong. Keep focused. Don’t deal with anger. Don’t let people upset you. Walk the path of nonviolence. We need to fight for the peace SEEZZZZ. The animal kingdom, the water, the air, it is not adults who own the world, but it is the children. We need to preserve it for the seven generations. Be diligent. All races need to come together. … praying to the creator to give us courage to continue in the coming weeks 24.3.4. Hello family. Perhaps you noticed we can hear each other right now. You might want to write down this number … Maybe you heard them {the jack-hammers}. We are the solution. With focus and integrity, compassion and truth, we can self-correct and … 1 800 75coned. Work through the … supposed to be here through the 23rd. The stated reason is the … on water vapor … let’s find out. Who is with this. . .and when? We only have 30 minutes and they’re gonna start up again.

24.3.5. I’m Amanda. Today the environmental solidarity group had a very productive meeting. We are meeting tomorrow at 4 PM at Bowling Green fountain to formalize our registration process. 24.3.6. This message is on behalf on this group of Deaf citizens. We are here in solidarity … We would like to facilitate … every Monday, if possible we would like space up front. abayebe@gmail.com

24.3.7. I have been working with some of the WGs on an idea that I have … we are not anti-American, we are ultra-American. we cannot have the colors separated, because we are the 99%. This way… to wear purple arm bands, when she goes to get groceries.

24.3.8. I’m with alternative banking!!! We’re just getting started. If you’re interested in joining especially if you have background in banking or finances, anyone can be a part … please email carne@carneross.com.

24.3.9. I’m Alex with Revolution Newspaper. I’d like to announce that nearly 12,000 prisoners in California resume their hunger strike on September 26 … sensory deprivation. They are mostly black and Latino … humanity. If you would like to help me write a letter in support of the hunger strike . . .that we can present tomorrow to the GA … we will meet tomorrow at that red thing. It’s gotten {too loud} sign up, or meet me tomorrow 5 PM by the red thing, possibly work with Arts and Culture to get this going.

24.3.10. Hi I’m Deserey. I’m interested in forming a political outreach group … civic engagement, including contacting politicians. If you are interested, meet me at the red CUBE immediately after announcements.

24.3.11. Hello I’m Tim. Political and Electoral WG. Organization called ‘Move to Amend.’ We’ll talk about amending the constitution, if you are interested in participating or just listening join us at 6 PM in front of the people’s library. If you’re interested in learning more, politicalandelectoralreform@gmail.com.

24.3.12. … because {s}he wants your feedback and opinions so email owsmedia@gmail.com. … people’s library at 10:30 PM concerning the lack of diversity in the facilitation, media, and outreach committees. Inclusive representation is vital if this movement is to proceed. Black, Latino, and people of color are part of the 99%. You’re all doing a great job. Keep doing it!

24.3.13. My name is ? Working Groups, do you need supplies? … materials for the arts this owswishlist@gmail.com. By this Wednesday at midnight so I can get your materials and bring them to you. This is all thanks to an anonymous organization. If you need supplies, email for them be delivered to you.

24.3.14. Will leave tomorrow at 12 NOON … at 59th St. and 5th Ave … press conference. From there will march to the homes of Rupert Murdoch … John Paulson, and … This is our chance to expose the . . . abuse and maintain equality … and to obtain real economic change for ourselves and our students. So the march meets tomorrow at 59th St. and 5 Ave at NOON. 24.3.15. Hello again. I represent progressive black thinkers. We have a major concern. Our concern is that Kanye West, Rustle Simmons, et cetera do not speak for the black citizens … and have contributed and been a part of the oppressive state that we are fighting. They are going to have photo ops and grandstands … of all of them … they are making demands of us.

We do not have to worry about food, supplies, or anything else … To show that they are down with the cause … And if they do not, then they are not with the cause, and we need to be clear, that that is what we expect at the very least.

24.3.16. This is a … to the people who need it. Outreach … there will be a community organizers dinner, 7 PM, Tuesday, CWA 1180 Office. 97 Hudson St. @ Harrison St. and Hudson Street.

F: THIS NOISE SUCKS!!!!!! CALL 1-800-75-CONED and complain about the noise at One Liberty Plaza.

F: IT’S JOHN LENNON’S BIRTHDAY! POWER TO THE PEOPLE! THANK YOU!

**NYCGA Minutes 10/11/2011**

Posted October 11th, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 25

Meeting Date/Time: 10/11/2011 / 9pm EST

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators (F): Amanda, Mike

F: Want to facilitate? 4pm, west tree

F: Blocks are \*VERY\* serious. Only use if you have an ethical or safety concern re: a proposal. Modified Consensus = 90/100. Stack-taker puts you on a list and call on you. Progressive stack = under-represented voices step up. #OccupyAdvice: Keep your statements on #PeoplesMic SHORT (3-8 words).

AGENDA

25.1. Agenda Items

25.2. Working Group Report Backs

25.3. Announcements

25.1. Agenda Items

25.1.1. Finance Proposal

25.1.1.1. Proposal: $2,179 budget to buy safes, money boxes, a laptop, a tablet, and a cash counter. All are necessary for finance to be able to work effectively for the group. We understand there have been many issues with transparency. We’re working on it. The issue is there is not yet a direct line of communication between finance and all the other working groups. So, we first need infrastructure to be able to build finance up, to be able to make it accountable and transparent for the entirety of the movement.

25.1.1.2. Clarifying Questions

25.1.1.2.1. No laptop?

Response: No.

25.1.1.2.2. With all the resources, how do you not have a laptop? Response: Any expense over $100 must first be passed through the GA. So in compliance with the system, we are asking for the money to make finance transparent. The other reason is to provide a template for other groups to put forth their budgets. People just don’t know process to get dinero.

25.1.1.2.3. Will finance committee have a website everyone can go to? Response: We have a tally in Google Docs for each night, going back a week. There are a few revenue streams. We are compiling them. Who’s the GA. You are! Yes, to get $100+, bring a proposal to GA. 25.1.1.2.4. Does every dept. have a point person, a go-to name to talk among each other – be it finance, organization, or disputes? Response: We understand there are concerns re: transparency. That is a legitimate question. We would like to answer that but we will ask finance to clarify during report-backs. For now, we would like to reach a consensus re: this proposal.

F: Temp check on proposal. Lots of spirit fingers. CONSENSUS! YOU KNOW YOU LOVE IT!

25.1.2. Structure and Organization Discussion

25.1.2.1. Ketchup: we are going to break the GA into smaller discussion groups. Topic: Structure & Organization, decision-making, finance, accountability. No decisions, just feedback.

25.1.2.2. Clarifying Questions

25.1.2.2.1. Any way for a new-comer (#NewOccupier) to get involved in a group? Response: Join any group, and contribute your expertise 25.1.2.2.2. What do you mean by structure? Response: The way the working groups, facilitation, etc, work F: Welcome back from Spokes Council! \*NEW\* Dial-in to 646-666-3328 to listen to GA LIVE! Would the ConEd jackhammer kindly wait until our meeting is over? Mics project to the people behind you! Would someone over there mind projecting that way? Thank you! F: Mic check mic check! Can anyone not hear me? I will type everything so you can hear! 25.1.2.3. Group Feedback

25.1.2.3.1. Hi, I’m Owen! The first thing that our group talked about was the physical space of this park. This is our living space. It is also our working space. We would like to tighten things up to make the space more accessible and useful. Second, it was our feeling that new people feel excluded. WE would like to develop ways for people to come here for the very first time and feel included and involved. Thank you!

Stack (S): Next on stack, Lex. On deck: Tasha.

25.1.2.3.2. Good evening all! I am Lex. I am privileged to be here. THe first matter our group addressed was the horizontal structure we wish to achieve. We think no one group of occupiers can… ought to be elevated over others. Furthermore, we were provided with a sociocracy template, which we are giving at the info desk at the end of the meeting. Please prepare yourself of one. Info is currency. All of the working groups should have computers to

communicate effectively. Finance should make this their priority. A spokesperson system which employs a biological structure is what we are after. There can be many specific goals that each working group realizes. Thank you!

F: This is Jez! He is working with the structure working group. He is taking notes! If you want to continue talking about this after, or get involved, talk to him. Thank you!

F: Mic check. May I suggest all working groups making announcements first announce what working group they are with, so we understand what they’re talking about.

Point of Process (PoP): We understand everyone wants info about working groups. Report backs are going to follow this discussion.

S: Next on stack, Tasha. On deck: William.

25.1.2.3.3. Hi everybody! Ok, we discussed that all working groups must be made more accessible. In order to do this, all of them must have an email address. Also, there must be a white board located at info that has the updated email addresses and weekly schedules of meetings all the time. Also, this information should be updated on a collective location online. We also discussed trying to convince all working groups to post minutes online.

F: Mic check. This is a general assembly. It is big, and we want to respect everyone. So if you could smoke outside of this group, that would be appreciated.

S: Mic check. Next on stack: William. On deck: Chuck

25.1.2.3.4. Hello, My name is William. It is an honor to speak to you. In general, our group likes the way the rules of order have evolved. Louder! We have two suggestions. And of course it’s about the working groups. We would like easier access to information about the working groups. A possible suggestion would be a dedicated webpage. The second suggestion, a better way to identify those taking a more active role in the working groups. A possible solution: colored clothing for each of the groups. That way, those without internet access or phones or technology can identify those who can help us the most. One final thing: as a favor to one of our members, whose asked that we find some way to include more Latinos in their involvement in our community. Thank you very much!

S: Next on stack, Chuck. On deck: Samantha.

25.1.2.3.5. Hi! I’m CHuck! From New Jersey. Our group likes the structure of the GA. But! We have a few suggestions. #1 There should be an orientation for new visitors to the GA. #2 Expand the information desk to answer general questions about the movement for visitors and newcomers. #3 Make the park more inviting for visitors. Thank you!

Point of Information (PoI): Although it is not considered an orientation, at 5:30PM you can learn process at Intro to Facilitation down slope of the park by the tree with the benches.

S: Next on stack: Samantha. On deck: Dan.

25.1.2.3.6. Hi I’m Samantha! Our group felt that daily report backs are really important. There should be a report back from each group at each GA, or at least recognition that that

group is absent that night. These report backs should include information about new involvement. For example, our new volunteers meeting. In what capacity are they meeting? What time to they meet etc. It’s better to err on the side of honesty about involvement than have someone show up to a meeting that doesn’t exist. The white board at info booth should have info about time and location of meeting eveyr day. We’d also like to pose the question of whether that info should include the contact info of a point person for the WG for that day. Lastly, we feel there should be a brochure/pamphlet handout with concrete practical steps about new involvement. For example, check the white board, contact this person for example.

25.1.2.3.7. Our points have already been echoed by many other groups. I will wait a moment. The points that were mentioned included access to working group information. For new working groups that want to form to have a pure idea of how to get started. For people seeking to join groups to have a clearer idea how to join, and for the information booth to be more clearly highlighted on the website as a primary source of information. We also suggest a Wiki that explains the general assembly process and how working groups contribute to it. Thank you again general assembly! One more thing–likewise, as many other groups echoed, we believe the agenda of each working group should be made transparent, either through a document at the info booth or other means. Thank you.

S: Next on stack Eden, on deck: Gabe.

F: Mic check. About the translations on the website of the official statement of occupation, except for Spanish, nothing else works. There should be a translation working group. PoI: It’s coming/developing. There is a translation working group. If you want to get on the email, I’ll try to get the email to info tomorrow.

F: When GA meets, it’s hard to hear if you’re not close the activity going on outside the circle of general assembly makes noise. Maybe only during GA, the only thing that happens is general assembly. I’m done.

S: Next on stack: Dave. On deck, Jack.

25.1.2.3.8. Mic check–I’m Dave. We discussed a few things, most of which we’ve heard from other groups. But I’m gonna repeat them anyway! The number one concern is that there are many of us here now, and some of the confusion may be inherent. Especially with a horizontal process we are implementing. There was discussion of improving communication between the working groups, possibly through email. We have easily outgrown our space, ultimately a solution that was suggested may be to have a number of people, possibly 200-300, set out and lay down roots in other areas of the city. It was also presented that these people may have to be willing to be arrested. Finally, the importance of how we solve these challenges was discussed as we are aware, and we are being watched by all the other occupations in other cities and much of what we adapt will also be adapted at the other locals.

S: Next on stack, Jeff.

25.1.2.3.9. Namaste! WE have a series of suggestions. First of all to form a spokescouncil that would be comprised of spokes people from each working group. This spokes council could be empowered to make some financial decisions. Next, we support a central bulletin board both physically and online to centralize communication and minutes of the working groups.

Next: we support shorter report backs in GA, which would be achieved by posting proposals and minutes before the meeting. Next: We consider mapping out physical space and considering restructuring physical space. Next: form a working group to study other democratic structures throughout history, such as in SPain and Athenian democracy. Also to create liaisons to other Occupy movements in other cities. Thank you!

PoI: We are currently working on networking all occupations! And we already have a structure working group. THey’re taking notes now.

PoI: The think tank WG would be excited to post research and discussion on these exact topics.

F: This is the end of our discussion. We’re gonna move on to WG report backs.

25.2. Working Group Report Backs

F: Working groups–if you would like to get on stack, come talk to Dori. Mic check, if you are trying to get on stack to give a Working Group Report Back, go to the front and talk to Dori or line up by the front. Other announcements will follow after.

S: First on stack, People of Color working group and Women Occupy Wall Street. On deck: Community Outreach.

25.2.1. Hi! I’m Rena. The People of COlor working group is meeting tomorrow night at 6:30PM under the red thingy. So please join us if this is a group that concerns you.

25.2.2. There’s a new group! Called Women Occupying Wall Street, or WOW. We will be meeting tomorrow night at 9:30 at the Cube. This is a women-only group. Please, women join us, it’s very important. The safer space group that is a part of the women’s group has designated a safe sleeping space right over there near the donut stand. This space is for women to sleep tonight and every subsequent night. It is a safe space for women, and right next to that we are open to gay/lesbian/or transgender people.

PoI: This afternoon, a group from Occupy Wall STreet in espanol met at the red cube and were informed that they could not have meetings in that area. My suggestion to be safe, speak again with your group and get another location. Thank you.

S: Next on stack: Community outreach, on deck: direct action.

25.2.3. Hi! I’m so happy to see you all here! My name is Melina from Community OUtreach. Right now we are trying to emphasize outreach to the subways, and so from today to next week, we would like to gather as many of you to bring our voices out to the greater city, to the burrows, to our neighborhoods, as possible. SO if you are interested at the outreach desk, there is a piece of paper to put your information, and someone can be in contact with you. Thank you!

S: Next on stack: Direct Action. on deck: Medical.

25.2.4. I’m Christine from Direct Action. We have three items to report: first, direct action will no longer facilitate the daily march at noon. We will still facilitate the daily march at

5:30. Second, we have established a subcommittee to facilitate future marches. WE need more volunteers to keep marches powerful and safe. Third, this Saturday the 15th is going to be a big day for actions. We encourage you to make small affinity groups of people you trust and plan creative actions. If you put together a well thought out action, send us a delegate so we can support you. We meet Sun-Fri at 2PM at the red thingy and move to a new location. Thank you!

S: Next on stack, Medical. On deck: Trade Justice

25.2.5. Hi everybody! My name is Steve. Medical is working on a whole bunch of things to keep everyone healthy so we can do this FOREVER. However, as I’m sure you’ve heard it’s about to get really wet. Our doctors are concerned for all of you. So anyone who has any umbrellas, or tarps, or ponchos, or if you can get the giant umbrellas like they use at media, the more of those things we can get here, The longer we can stay dry, and the less likely we are to get sick! So reach out to your friends and neighbors, and get as many of those things that you can, have your neighbors bring them down and stay a couple nights. Thank you!

F: Mic check. We know that report backs are really important. So we would like you to try to keep them to one minute. Thank you!

S: Next on stack, Trade justice working group. On deck: OWS in Español.

25.2.6. Hi, I’m from Trade Justice! Tomorrow Congress will be voting on three new free trade agreements, with Columbia, Panama, and South Korea. Like NAFTA, these agreements will export jobs while destroying local economies and the environment in many parts of the world. Tomorrow at 9AM, we will be going to Rep Caroline Maloney’s office to let her know we oppose these deals. She is on the fence, so it is very important that we let her know our opinions. Meet there at 9Am at 93rd st and 3rd ave. Or here under the red thing at 8:15AM.

F: Report backs are primarily for reporting back from something done before today. If there is something coming, please save it for announcements. But feel free to add at the end of a report back, meeting space and time.

S: Next on stack, OWS en Español. On deck, Principals of Solidarity consolidation.

F: Mic check. I would like to apologize for being so confusing. Report backs should involve what led up to future actions. Feel free to make an announcement as part of a WG. But please, remain concise and explain briefly what led to this action. Mic check.

25.2.7. My name is Hector, I’m from OWS en Español. Sunday we met briefly under the cube, and we had a pretty good sized crowd. Then we find out that we do not have a general meeting tomorrow. Therefore, I find it important to let folks know that we do not have a location as of yet. I wanted to bring this to the general assembly and ask you if we can hold our meeting in this area from 5-6:30. The reason I ask for that, I am not sure what the size of the crowd will be. It has been massive outreach, the media has been cooperating with the Latinos, and I don’t know where to place this meeting. I will say that in Spanish. Mi nombre es Hector, estoy de OWS Español … (sorry/lo siento!) Que si nos dan la autoridad para hacerlo aquí en esta área.

F: Can we do a vibes check? Vibes check lets everybody know how we’re all feeling! Thank you!

S: Next on stack, Principals of solidarity consolidation, on deck: facilitation.

25.2.8. Hi I’m Kelly from PSC. We’re still working on it! The document has been posted as a Google doc online, and our group has grown, hopefully we’ll have a meeting soon. I will let you know when, and hopefully we will also have an email address. Stay with us, we’re working on it really hard!

F: We are now closing stack. If you would like to get on stack for a WG report back please come up now, then we are closing for good.

S: Next on stack: Facilitation. ON deck: media.

25.2.9. Hey everybody! Who’s new tonight! (many hands) Welcome! If you want to learn more about this process, come back tomorrow at 5:30PM, go to the bottom of the park to the statue of the man with the briefcase. There we will have Intro to Direct Democratic Process. Also at 4PM, the facilitation WG meeting is at Charlotte’s Place, 109 Greenwich ST. Two, tomorrow at 9PM at 16 Beaver on the 4th floor, there will be a WG coordination meeting. This is for people with or without jobs who couldn’t make the 9AM working group coordination meeting. This is especially for people from Outreach, PR, Media, People of Color Caucus, Queer Caucus, or people who stay up too late to come to these meetings. I want to shoot out an apology to the women’s caucus whose time conflicts with this caucus. We’ll get you all in the next two days, I promise.

S: Next on stack: Media. On deck, Comfort.

25.2.10. Hi! Dave from media. Today we talked about a few things dealing with livestream. They are separate global revolutions. Livestream, and the NY livestream are now two separate things. But we still work together. WE hope to have sixty cities on the global revolution livestream. Also, we talked about financial stuff. And we decided to fast track a new things that we really need for the Oct 15th march so we can adequately talk to people all around the world. Let me remember what else we talked about. We are still trying to streamline the process of the voting. Also, we talked about having a space for media that has been donated. I can’t remember what else. Oh! Tomorrow at 11 is another meeting, if you’d like to participate, right over here 11AM. Thank you!

S: Next on stack: Comfort. On deck: Minutes WG.

25.2.11. Hi! I’m Josh with Comfort! Over the next three days you will receive many inches of rain. Prepare yourselves, and keep your belongings dry and talk to comfort. Thank you!

S: Next on stack: Minutes Working Group. ON deck, Human rights.

25.2.12. Hi, I’m Stephanie from the newly-formed minutes working group. There was a lapse in minutes from October 5 to October 9. We have corrected this now, but if anybody has minutes that they took on their own for those days, please email them to OWSminutes@gmail.com. Thank you!

S: Next on stack: Human rights, on deck: Speak Easy caucus.

25.2.13. I will be speaking for Adeline because she lost her voice. Hi I’m Evelyn from Human Rights. Those who have expressed an interest in joining me as a committed member please meet right after the GA. Thank you!

The question is where Human Rights will meet after the GA.

The women’s group, WOW will still meet at the cube at 9:30 tomorrow night, and if we have to move we will decide to move to another space then.

25.2.14. The speak easy caucus will meet at the library tonight at 10:30PM. It is for a wide spectrum of individuals from female-bodied people who identify as women to male-bodied people who are not traditionally masculine.

F: This is the end of WG report backs. We now open stack for you to make announcements. Please come over here and line up this way. Don’t forget that we have soapbox after announcements. Please keep your announcements to one minute. Thank you! Mic check! Those who are in line will be added to stack, but we are going to, in consideration of everyone’s time close stack after this. Please use the soapbox after. You will not have a time limit. Announcements are factual information. Thank you!

25.3. Announcements

Mic check. For anyone who wants to meet at the tree of life for a full moon meditation, full moon is at 10PM.

PoI: We all want to be involved, and that’s great! But that should be reserved for announcements. So if someone would like to make something similar, please get on stack.

S: First on stack, Josh. Mic check.

25.3.1. Hi, the National Lawyers Guild is providing free attorneys to everyone who has been arrested at Occupy Wall Street. If you’ve been arrested, it is important to contact us at 212-679-6018, or visit us in the park from 5-7PM to fill out an intake form. Tell your friends. Also, sanitation and comfort, and all of us will be having a community clean up party! Friday! Thank you!

25.3.2. We are planning on 11/11/11 one month from today Occupy Central Park! We are going to have a three day camping trip to get out of this concrete jungle! If you would like to help plan this, meet by the red teepee tomorrow at 3PM. Or search occupy central park on Facebook. Thank you!

S: Next on stack, quilting. On deck …

25.3.3. Mic check! A group of artists from Brooklyn have gathered donations in order to give away business suits for men and for women, to anyone who wants them, right here. Saturday morning. Bright and early first come first serve. We will have stylists there to help

you look professional, I said “professional” Subversive camoflogue because business people only listen to other people if they are dressed to other people if they are given a suit. If you still need your own shoes, shoes are very important. Also if you live nearby and there are suits you want to donate, please bring them to comfort thank you.

S: On deck: Jay.

25.3.4. Hello, my name is Seth. I’m a comic book artist and with your permission, I will be presenting a slideshow of my comic strips right here after the general assembly. Do I have your support?

PoP: With such a proposal, that should be an agenda item. Because we have do consult with media. Because right now we have minutes for people who couldn’t hear before. But if you talk to media, they’d probably be happy to put it up.

PoP: I already spoke to them, and they’re cool with it.

S: Next on stack, Jay. On deck: Stephanie.

25.3.5. Hi guys! I’m Jay! As much as I like Zucotti Park, myself, and a few others, hopefully some of you–will go down to Battery park tonight as a trial run for occupying that space! Can I get a temperature check? Not too warm, but I’ll take it. The idea is, there’s more space there, there are bathrooms, there is sunlight there, and it’s in view of the statue of liberty.

From what I heard, this is illegal to camp there. Do you know if …

PoI: By camping at Battery park, you are participating in civil disobedience, and as such are risking arrest. We will be equipped with cameras to hold police accountable.

S: Stephanie on stack, Michael on deck.

25.3.6. Hello, I’m Stephanie! I also will be holding space for a full moon ceremony with at the tree of life at 10PM. We hope you’ll come. Thank you!

S: Next on stack, Michael. On deck, Austin.

25.3.7. Constitution working group! We would like to use our state and federal constitutions to end wars and to restrain corporations bansk and politicians. If that appeals to you, please join us tomorrow night at 6PM at Charlotte’s place. That’s 109 Greenwich st.

F: Mic check. If you can, please sit down. Thank you. And help us use the people’s mic. Thank you!

S: Next on stack, Austin. On deck: Kelly.

25.3.8. Hi everybody, I’m Austin! I’m starting a new working group! It’s called philosophy and ethics. I will be working with great people like you, as well as professors, and other interested people that are already involved. We will be questioning our current process, future movements, and its alignments with our movements political philosophy. If you’re interested

in joining, I will be under the red structure, taking down emails, and setting up future meetings. Thank you very much.

S: Next on stack, Kelly. On deck: Ted.

25.3.9. Hi, I’m Kelly. I have some notes from a guy named Abe who was here at OWS a few weeks ago and has been following, or trying to follow, the movement online. He’s been having a lot of problems following the movement online. He recommends we post minutes of GA each night online, film entire GA, make a YouTube channel for all the GAs and all the occupations… And I have colorful leaves from new England if you want one they’re on this table.

S: Joe, then Ian.

25.3.10. Hi Everybody! Thanks for being here tonight. Earlier someone requested that there be a Wiki form about procedure and events going on here. I’ve been told a Wiki already exists at OccupyTogether.wikispot.org. If you know of an alternate wiki, please tell me. Thank you!

25.3.11. My name’s Ian. I’m making an app to help everyone hear! At general assembly. It amplifies my voice through your phone. If you want to try it, call this number. When you hear the rock music, put your phone on speaker phone. 646-666-3328. Everyone else, be quiet. Mic check. If you want to help, message me at twitter @manyspeakers.

S: Next on stack, …

25.3.12. Hello! I was in DC over the weekend. I have a message from organizers there. the permit On freedom plaza ran out yesterday, but it was extended for another four months! they have food, tents, water, people, something i can’t read, an invitation for everyone here to go visit them in DC, camp out, participate in actions at the freedom plaza group in DC. thank you!

F: We are now done with the general assembly! Thank you for staying with us! Please stay for the soapbox! WE would like to continue hearing your voices.

**NYCGA Minutes 10/12/2011**

Posted October 12th, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 26

Meeting Date/Time: 10/12/2011 / 7pm EST

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators (F):

F: A block is very serious. That means you have an ethical or safety concern. Consensus is 90/100. We aren’t here to silence anyone. We must follow process, though. #PeoplesMic can be very hard, so keep your phrases short (3-8 words). Try to keep your words short and sweet. Progressive Stack gives preference to under-represented voices. Step-up, Step-Back: a policy for allowing others’ voices to be heard. Stack-taker: takes names for order of speaking.

AGENDA

26.1. Agenda Items

26.2. Working Group Report Backs

26.3. Announcements

26.1. Agenda Items

F: We are now moving to Agenda Items.

26.1.1. Proposal: to buy a 6500W bio-diesel generator to power entire site. Fuel has been donated. (many spirit fingers). Cost: $2,200. Oops. Can we get a temp check? Any blocks?

26.1.1.1. Questions, Concerns

26.1.1.1.1. Darrell from finance has no objections to the item. However, for the process, these are capital expenditures. They should come to finance first, to see if there are other options, or to see how much they are going to cost over the long-term.

Point of process (PoP): that is not a block. That is a concern.

26.1.1.1.2. A concern: is the bio-diesel source infinite?

Response: Nope, 2 months.

F: Stack is now open for clarifying questions.

26.1.1.1.3. One question from Kathryn: I want to know who is providing the generator, please.

F: Any last clarifying questions?

F: Alguna otra pregunta?

F: Stack is closed.

F: I’d like to do another temp check

F: Quiero chequear la tempuratura?

F: Algun bloque?

F: Consensus!!! It tastes so good!

26.1.2. Are you tweeting? #GeneralAssembly. New here? Intro yourself as a #NEWOCCUPIER on @twitter. Example: Welcome @MikeBloomberg, the #NewOccupier who didn’t get the nicest welcome…

F: Emergency proposals must be emergencies. 26.1.2. (Continued) Good evening brothers and sisters. Thank you for joining us at this wet #GeneralAssembly. We are here representing MEDIA group. We want a budget to support LIVESTREAMING. On a broader level, we also hope this will establish a precedent for other working groups to establish budgets. Come on this journey with us! Since day 1, a live video stream: http://www.livestream.com/globalrevolution. THE WHOLE WORLD IS WATCHING! Some facts: 2 million unique viewers. 7 million streams representing every single country on the face of the planet except for N Korea (we gotta work on that…). 165,000 streams in CHINA. Lots of censorship there, but still watching. In total, 106 million minutes of video served. Do the math = 200 years of #OccupyWallStreet (Oy, that’s a long time). Why does MEDIA need a budget? Hodgepodge of donated equip and personal gear. With rain and elements and police oppression, gear has been broken/taken/gone missing. To keep up our livestream coverage, we need a budget to purchase necessary gear.

This Saturday, GLOBAL PROTEST. People all over the world will claim their rights and demand a TRUE democracy. On Sat., 80 cities will participate in a livestream for #OccupyTheWorld. Right now, over 5K are watching this #GeneralAssembly. You are all beautiful.

What we are asking for: $25,740 for livestream equipment. Finance: we’ve raised about $150,000 so far! Much of that money is not available to us now, but will be available in the coming weeks. Please be patient. I’d like to get it all paid out in the next week. 26.1.2.1. Questions, Concerns, Blocks

F: We have a block. 26.1.2.1.1. Both Lower East Side Federal People’s Credit Union and Amalgamated Bank

have been very helpful in making this process go faster. 26.1.2.1.2. I would like to amend that statement in that I think there should be a little bit of

prioritization. Critical things paid first. Mic check! This is an emergency. ? (speak up) 26.1.2.1.3. Basically, our fiscal sponsor 501T3 nonprofit organization is responsible for our taxes. We will have to pay them, to be properly accounted for. We are in the process to try to create our own 501t3 … may take many months. In the meantime, we will be using Alliance for Global Justice as a conduit to get our funds. A week from now… 26.1.2.1.4. What’s the list? There was a list, it’s not up right now, computers for…cameras, batteries, microphones, we will request new objects for pieces lost or stolen. We spend many hours reviewing gear, to ensure we do this in the most fiscally responsible way has to be there…for future. We are also going to make sure all gear is present and accounted for and looks something like a signup sheet, so we know who has what gear and who to contact to recover it. Missing gear is a big concern, Media will do everything in its power to protect gear and respect money donated. 26.1.2.1.5. Has anybody approached and tech cost? Yes. We will have them before Saturday. Still looking into options for more expensive options. Donations will be returned to the collective pot that aren’t spend. A free premium account on livestream, to occupations across the country and world. This is worth 10ks of $$$.

?Livestream is much better than it was three or four days ago…I hope production money will help facilitate better livestream. We want to take a new leap forward, to possibilities of democratic media… We are doing something that has never been done before. I am pretty sure we have already set world records!!!

?How much do we spend every day on food, and find other financial support to feed people. If you are interested, come to finance, right now, we have to stick to the proposal. ?

F: Please mic check louder! There are too many people standing at the front fo the GA. 26.1.2.1.6. Will the 25K$ allocated come at the expense of the other proposals? No! 26.1.2.1.7. Will the this $ be able to be dispersed in preparation of Saturday? That’s why we did it tonight. We have the money tomorrow to buy the gear, Friday to build, Saturday night…we go live to global occupation.

F: Two more clarifying questions! 26.1.2.1.8. How the global population listening tonight. Jackhammer is completely drowning everything out. Is there more than one… to facilitate all those people? We can’t hear….

Spread the power horizontally throughout he working groups to sub groups we will always accept more people.. and will teach people how to do this stuff on a shift by shift basis. To make sure it is not just one voice focus on this occupation… does that answer your question??

YES Please speak up jackhammers are loud! Are there any friendly amendments to this proposal?

26.1.2.1.9. Like I said it would be useful for media to prioritize spending. This way, we won’t hold up any other proposals from other working groups so they can move forward as well, The media WG will work with finance to achieve this goal… F: Is that acceptable? Are there any block? We will now vote on this proposal… Media group would like to thank all of you for your input and your help in passing this proposal…THIS IS HUGE We are now doing report backs. If you are in a WG please come and get on stack. Thank you.

26.2. Working Group Report Backs

First: Outreach:

F: We all came in this weather… we are really trying to inspire motivation for us all to empower, I am trying to make this easier for everyone.. we have another way, this will take 3 times longer. So please try to face the other side and project. I’m doing my best Thank you. OK 26.2.1. Outreach: We want to raise money as soon as possible. We are going to the subways. We want to empower you to go into the subways and share your stories from hear. If interested: Malina: you can put your info at outreach table. Than you F: There is a good amount of space up here. So move up, we don’t want to lose our voices. Report backs are for WG… what they are doing now.. please report back.

26.2.2. Darell: Finance: I brought media proposal 26,000 to facilitators so for people who say that finance is sitting on money kiss my ass. In other news, we want to make sure we are doing everything right and bringing in an accounting firm … need space, contacts are being arranged with real estate so we have a place to stay and work. Debit cards for WG will be here for working groups will be here at end of week, No more cash, need receipts.

26.2.3. Hello. There is a new WG called WOW woman of occupy wall street. we met a few times and are committed to working on issues that woman think are most important meet at 9:30 at red sculpture we will determine where to go from there. Thank you. 26.2.4. Think tank WG our group makes a space for subsistence and daily discussion related to dreams, issues and dreams of our movement. we are working on infrastructure to organize these ideas in an accessible online space to engage all of us in creative thought and meaningful research whatever that means to you. today we took steps to make sure we can open our space in all kinds of weather. tom we will be under a big umbrella, please come by to share ideas. If you want to volunteer come to a meeting tom @ 6 pm at think tank sign here at liberty park under big umbrella. F: Are there any more report backs? Please get on stack. 26.2.5. Hello. Sustainability WG. we had our first meeting yesterday. we are actively composting all food scraps being collected behind kitchen. we also have a biodiesel generator on the way and tons of specialists that are helping make this sustainable. to leave no carbon footprint meet tom @5:30 WHERE???

26.2.6. Internet WG: We now have a new… topic? All copies for us that don’t have access to internet right now. Hard copies are in a box @ INFO. when you’re done put them back. We will file and digitize them. We will have new website tom night. With that it will become

easy to use e versions of the templates of minutes. If you have minutes give them to us. Thank you.

26.2.7. Sorry I can’t step I’m 41 and have a bad back. Alexander. Earth justice WG. Sorry to say… panama… free trade agreements are being voted in the senate making it illegal to regulate Wall St and oppose human rights. Pen? Paper? Phone: 202 2243121. Tell them to vote NO on free trade agreements or you will vote all of them out of office. They’re voting by 11.

POP: I understand that this is time sensitive. out of respect for WG that have report backs we need to stick to the agenda, that can be announced during announcements. Thank you. F: Three more WG report backs. Stack is now closed. 26.2.8. Hello. Jose, from constitution WG frost meeting was today we are working on proposal to edition govt. we cannot be ignored if we have your support. it is very exciting that we can create real change peacefully if interested in info… about WG and petitions we are preparing look online. we will be posting it very soon. you can also get contact info @ info desk. or come see me after GA under res structure thank you. 26.2.9. Hello Family! I’m Echo. representing Arts & Culture today just talked to Marika she is grateful for our donation of security.. it was beautiful of the community to.. intellectual stimulation. We created an atmosphere for a better and higher understanding. Not only in terms of art but between people. the whole whorl is re-occupied by what’s going on in Wall St. I want to clarify her words.. this is a collaboration, we need to learn more about you movement. there is another art show tom night. Support OWS. Not asking security, but could use 5-6 strong folks 23 wall St. Tom. JP Morgan building corner of wall and broad.

report back 26.2.10. Mission of the event occupy central park is to reclaim a common space where people can bring awareness to the importance of a sustainable community we will offer a space for GA, workshops and a common ground for humans to reclaim the ability to live as one together. we are new WG that’s the mission statement we came up with today. Occupy central park on 11/11/11 !!! One month from today. Friday @ 3 by red sculpture (next meeting) F: We are going to move onto announcements, but first can we get a temp check… how are you feeling?? We love you!

26.3. Announcements

F: We are now opening stack for announcements, please remember to come up and get on stack and also remember that soap box will follow there won’t be time constraints during soap box. Keep announcements to 1 min. 26.3.1. Ellie, started a women’s sleeping space in front of muffin stand. there every naught would love for woman to com, not about exclusion, but if you look around… there’s mostly men around and it’s kind of intimidating, so we want a safe space for woman to sleep. 26.3.2. There’s a day of action against banks on sat. Come to outreach for info to hand out. there is a canvas training tom @ 1 @ outreach table come if you want to learn how to best…

26.3.3. Tomorrow @ 12, subway teams will be going out to hand out OWS journal, also organizing an outreach team for fir rush hour. 26.3.4. I’m your rep for Malcom x outreach. we will be doing a teach in about slavery in NY on sat and it’s relation to wall St. we will walk to African burial grounds after with short

presentations and prayer. Flyers will be at info desk. 26.3.5. Hey everyone.. By name is Kanasca? I work with entertainment for occupy the concert we have a special guest at 10:30 near the sculpture we will have a sign up for the peoples stage, if you have talent show up at 1030, show @ 11, 1130 I’ll be performing at 12 Rob Morello from RATM, be quiet for 2 hours, is that possible? That’s it I love you. 26.3.6. I’m Katie I’m with the healthcare for all working group. We are planning march on OCT 21 a week from Friday to demand a healthcare system for everyone. taxes on wall street, and the rich. march will start here to speak out against healthcare system we will march around healthcare HQ…. because of corporate greed. we’ll have more info @ info desk. see you there. F: We would like to close stack, whoever is on there will speak, anyone else? Get on stack now. we will close after her.

26.3.7. Caleb Shaefer and Zac Welch were arrested held at 7th percent they may be processed all night, if you know them go to 7th percent and support them Thank you. Where is 7th percent? I don’t know…7th percent is on 5th st near delancey? I think it’s 19. ( Between 2nd and 1st?) 26.3.8. I’m here repine Occupy Jersey city we have started our occupation as of last night!! Those who do not know Journal square is a 10 min train ride.. 2 bucks on metro card. we need support to keep it going. we need to occupy everywhere… we need your help anyone @ 9 am under structure interested in occupying or if you have organizational skills meet under sculpture @ 9PM. Matthew wrote a letter to… for support. He led solidarity movement in Poland 10 mill peeps participated. 1 mill people (half work force) it was the largest strike! Not only did he respond he’s coming here to lend support!!!!! Lech Welesa (WOOT) 26.3.9. Hi I’m ? After GA ?? (can’t hear a thing) come to projector 26.3.10. Hello I would like to emphasize how important it is that he is coming to NYC!! To show solidarity with this movement. As you know LW is the former press of poland and leader of solidarity move,net Nobel Peace prize winner he is an actual working class hero. this working class movement brought totalitarian regime to it’s knees, if you don’t mind.. can I have 30 sec? If you want to talk more about this this time period in agenda is for General announcements… meet @ 10 to talk about this further, labor unions at first mtg. By red sculpture.

26.3.11. I have atria story to tell.. a little piece of history not in text book about our parents generation… F: PLEASE SPEAK UP PoP: this is time for announcement following this we will have soap box. thank you. just to clarify soap box is for your stories, experiences and stories of empowerment bring your energy there so we can carry on with announcements.. 26.3.12. We need a good photo of our good mayor…. bring it to media if you got one. 26.3.13. An org called ? is facilitating the? of homeless people into this movement if interested check into info desk… for info about 1st mtg. POWER TO THE PEOPLE

F: Stack is now closed.

26.3.14. My name is ted one quick announcement a few days back we were getting arrested and my jacket (cam with a sticker on arm and wallet in it. Edward G Haul 3) stolen from

camp site? Noticing discussion is male dominated we need to keep ourselves in check and discuss the fact that we are here because of imbalance between masculine and feminine.

26.3.15. Dave is organizing a 12 step mtg at OWS. AA, NA? ora ny 12 step fellowships see Dave anytime.

26.3.16. This is our historic announcement. Earlier there was a small internet black out, we went to local shop that we depend on. some cell internet was out. put this into perspective, the internet is not in our control. there is something to be said about that.

26.3.17. Issac is director of…. west side of park we have built what we call a freedom tower it will provide fare and open network for all!!! Wee invite you to join us in our struggle to build a global network owned and operated by humanity itself. Thank you.

Nolan Roberts

?? Are you speaking?

Yesterday @ 9 ??

26.3.18. Also proposing … there’s been a lot of buzz around .. and other social we are meeting at Friday by bronze man @ 12 to discuss these topics and how they can help spread the movement.

Jose is back. 26.3.19. Veteran support group will be meeting on Monday @ 6 at red structure. financial support group is very important group if you would like to join please meet @ 12 tom @ center of steps thank you. F: GA is finished… if you would like to stick around for soap box stick around.

**NYCGA Minutes 10/13/2011**

Posted October 13th, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 27

Meeting Date/Time: 10/13/2011 / 7pm EST

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators (F):

AGENDA 27.1. Working Group Report Backs

27.2. Agenda Items

F: Tonight’s assembly in light of recent events will be curtailed, so we’re asking working groups to give report-back that are pertinent to the issue. Also, we will not be doing announcements, but we encourage you to give your personal announcements during soapbox at the end of the GA. I will now give a quick intro to process. Before that I will give you the schedule of this GA. We will have working group report-backs relative to time-sensitive issues. Then we will have an agenda item in relation to the drumming. The reason this meeting is time-sensitive is that there is still a lot of cleaning to do. Please wait for sanitation to guide us through this cleaning. We’re going to make this place look GOOD!

F: Here are the hand signals that we use to express ourselves at GA. Fingers up means I agree with what is being said. Fingers in the middle means I’m not sure how I feel about what’s being said. Fingers down means I feel bad, I disagree with what is being said. Fingers rolling is a request to wrap it up. It means we get what you’re saying and you’re using more words than you need. We ask that use this compassionately. Fingers in a triangle means Point of Process. Means what is being said does not follow the process. For example, the working group report-backs we hear tonight should only be about topics relevant to time-sensitive issues. One finger up means Point of Information. It means I have factual information that will directly clarify the question or being concern being stated. The final hand signal is a very severe hand signal. Arms crossed is a block. This means that you have a severe ethical or safety concern with what is being said. If you are willing to walk away from this movement if what is being discussed, such as a proposal, is passed. Again, this is a very severe signal. At this point, we will begin the working group report-backs. But before that, someone’s going to come up and give a ten-second speech. The march that just left before has asked that we enforce this. We are trying to deliver our signatures. If you would like to reinforce we will meet on Cedar behind the food stand.

27.1. Working Group Report Backs

F: First working group report-back will be from Legal. Could we possibly make some aisles for people to walk along?

27.1.1. Legal announcement has two parts: first, take care of each other! Solidarity! We recommend everyone has a buddy or friend who knows where you are all the time. And keeping in touch with Legal if necessary. The Legal number in case of arrest or you see an arrest and you get that name of the person arrested 212-679-6018. We will have lawyers from the Professional Lawyers’ Guild available. The other announcement: Is that the lawyers will file a letter with Bloomsfield stating our First Amendment right to be here. It also states in strong language that Bloomsfield needs to show legal cause before bringing police into the plaza. That would mean going to court. I have copies of the letter. Our union friends and other community groups are supporting this letter in solidarity.

F: Hey guys! How you feeling? The next report-back is from sanitation.

27.1.2. Hi guys, I’m Max! Sanitation. We have immediate need for tons of volunteers. If you have arms to move anything, go to Sanitation right now. It is 30 feet this way. [West Side of Plaza] …..Do it now. Thank you. If you would like to help after GA, we need your help then too, but we a lot right now. Two things: Cleanup. We’ve been doing it all day. We’re stepping it up after the GA. If you’re here, I expect you to clean. As I said earlier, it’s not a mandate, but it’s not an option. We gotta make this place shine! I’m going to eat off the ground, and if it’s dirty I’m gonna die! It’s on you! Applause

Second thing: Tonight is the ironically titled “trial run”. An even bigger effort …tomorrow morning, starting at 6AM. We’re cleaning this place hard. We know there’s a group of people coming for us, and I don’t know what they look like, and I don’t know what they’re gonna do but I know what I’m gonna do: I’m going to do the same thing I’ve been doing. I’m going to clean this place. I’m going to live here!

F: Hey guys! How you feeling?! Next report back, is Medical.

27.1.3. I’m Shawn the medic. I have some exciting news. Tomorrow morning, we will all be getting a mobile first-aid station. It will be staffed by some of the best doctors and nurses from around the country. [applause]

Hi Guys!! How y’all doing? The next report back will be Mediation

27.1.4. I’m \_\_ from Mediation. I call on you. We want to create a strong peaceful image and get as much support as possible to protect us from eviction. Therefore, we will organize and need you for a vigil all night here at Broadway and Liberty Square. We will pass around these glowing sticks, please light them, please stay here, and please tell all your friends to come here. Thank you.

F: Hi Y’all!! I have to change that word to make sure I was including everyone. So, hi y’all, how y’all feeling?! The next report back is from Direct Action.

27.1.5. Hey, we’re Direct Action. Tomorrow’s cleaning plan seems a lot like an eviction plan. This is the same tactic that was used to evict occupations in Texas, in Barcelona, and in Bloombergville. Fuck that shit! We will resist!! [cheers] To remove us from this park. By our good graces, we will allow the park to be re-cleaned by Brookfield in thirds. We will hold no

less than 2/3 of our park at all times. [cheers] Direct Action will be coordinating two lines of non-violent resistance. That divide the park in thirds. These lines themselves have high arrestability-levels. People who are prepared to defend our home, to defend our community in this manner need to come to a 9:30 meeting starting @ the Red Cube and moving off-site. Tonight, one representative from each Working Group MUST come to this meeting. Everyone can and should have a role in defending our community. We have identified needs and roles with various levels of arrestability, so everyone can be involved defending our home. All of you should come to this meeting. We implore everyone who does not plan to simply abandon our park tomorrow to come to this meeting and learn how you can get involved on all arrestability levels. We have word that the cops might come as early as 4am. So let’s all stay the fuck up tonight. This is our home! This is our community! This is our revolution!! [all kindsa cheers]

F: The next report back is from Sustainability.

I have a time-sensitive announcement in an hour. There still things that need to be brought over by sanitation. If we can have volunteers, meet there immediately before it closes.

27.1.6. From Sustainability. Hi everybody, my name is Lauren. I’m from the Sustainability working group. We’re a group of activistic designers, professionals and architects. We have degrees in sustainability. We want to collaborate with other groups about sustainability efforts here. In case of eviction, we are here to help you with resources available to help ….. and providing occupiers with ways of finding shelter by giving alternative solutions. We will be meeting tomorrow at 5:30 at the Plaza at Trinity and Rector across from Blarney Stone. You can contact us at owssustainability@gmail.com. The sustainability of our occupation here directly impacts the sustainability of our movement. Thank you.

[indistinct] …storage We have a truck …[indistinct].. at the comfort station. She’s wearing a bright orange jacket.

F: Next up: Internet. The disruption is a report that the police are about to tow a truck with our stuff in it. Where is the driver? It’s a white moving truck on the corner. We need him right now! Find the driver of the truck!

F: Mic check mic check mic check

We’re handling the situation as fast as possible. We need volunteers to bring stuff to the truck. The driver is on his way right now.

F: And now back to Internet.

27.1.7. Hello everyone. I’m Drew, with Internet. We are holding a training session for work groups on how to use the new GA website. We request one representative from each work group to meet at the red structure at 9:15 tonight. Our new website – YOUR new website, OUR new website – will be live online tomorrow morning. Nycga.net

F: Hey Y’all, still feeling good? The next report-back is from Archives.

27.1.8. Do you see this? [holding a sign] This is one of our signs. This is our voice. This will be trashed if we are not careful. Bring anything you want to save for your future – for everybody’s future – to the storage facility immediately. Thank you!

27.1.9. Our last announcement – our second to last announcement – is from Chris. Your spirit of unity that I’m observing tonight is truly inspirational. If anybody out there thinks they can kick us out of this park, they’re gonna learn something! The spirit of unity propose that we adopt a color. If we take the colors of the American flag, red, white, blue, mix them together, we get light purple. Because this movement is not anti-American, it is ultra-American! ….we can stop this by all wearing a little purple. My mom can wear purple when she’s buying groceries. If anyone wants one of these armbands, I’d love to give one to you. Thank you.

F: Let’s do this over there!

Mic check! Will someone from Legal please go to the truck? The drivers need you NOW!

F: And now, Media report-back.

27.1.10. Hello everyone! We are the world’s eyes! …So you know right now 4,000 people are watching this. They are with us too. Tonight all the media will be here to make sure the world is watching. Our love to all of you!

I’m from October 15 Planning Working group. For those of you who don’t know, this Saturday is the largest mobilization globally! We are connected with the Arab Spring, with what’s being planned in Greece, in Spain, and other places around the world. We have protests being planned and have been scheduled. You can find that information on our website nycga.net. The protests are leaving from Washington Square Park and Union Square and Liberty Square and other undisclosed locations and are converging at Times Square! The details are on the website and there are flyers.

F: So now, we’re done with Announcements, with working group report-backs.

27.2. Agenda Items

F: The only Agenda Item is a proposal in regard to the drummers presented by Town Planning, Facilitation, and the Manhattan Community.

27.2.1. Hey everybody! What a wild day! Someone said this proposal is just about drums. It’s about so much more than just that. It’s about a response to an attack on our community. It’s about a compromise with the greater community we live in. And finally, it’s about how to make our space a symbol for the global revolution that we in New York are such an important part of. I started my day off getting ready for this attack. Three hours ago, I was at a press conference. Scott Stringer, the president of the Manhattan Borough, absolutely backed up Occupy Wall Street!!!!! Question after question, about this being a private property, about issues within our community, Scott responded overwhelmingly, saying that above all, the protection of our First Amendment rights to keep our home come before any other moves by Mayor Bloomberg! The community board has asked one small request. Time Out.

F: We have a time-sensitive issue from Sanitation right now. Sanitation wants to make sure everyone knows that the storage space at 52 Broadway closes at 9PM. So if you have things that need to be stored there, it takes about seven minutes to walk there from here. That way [down Broadway] so please get your things and take them there. Don’t take anyone else’s things, but we’d really like not to have any excess stuff in the park tomorrow morning.

Now back to the proposal.

27.2.1. (Continued) The community board of Manhattan, who has supported us every step of the way, now has come to us with a small compromise that will actually help us to organize our home. Here is our request: that drum circles (not singular drums) basically anything that’s really loud be curtailed to two hours. These hours should come between 11AM and 5PM. This will give us a chance to organize the musical community within Liberty Square to have smaller, more intimate acts, acoustic shows, vocal performances, and all of the above. …A representative of OWS stay on-site 24/7. So that if anyone from the Manhattan community has a request for OWS, that that can be taken. So one more time, the proposal is that drumming be limited to two hours per day between 11AM and 5PM and that a representative is here to take requests from the Manhattan Community. Thank you so much.

27.2.1.1. We will start this process with clarifying questions. If you have a clarifying question, please come give your name to the stack keeper. We want to keep this question space to ten minutes so we will try to close stack as soon as possible. Stack is now open for clarifying questions. After clarifying questions, there will be time for concerns. Does anybody have any questions?

Mic check!

27.2.1.1.1. Who is a representative of OWS, I thought we are ALL representatives!

The clarifying question is who is a representative of OWS? This man said something amazing. That we’re all representatives of OWS. This person will just take requests and bring them back to the working group coordination meetings so we can quickly solve problems.

F: Are there any more clarifying questions about the proposal? Right now we are taking stack.

27.2.1.1.2. My question is, how are we going to understand and agree upon which two hours that the drummers will drum?

The drummers can choose any two hours between 11AM and 5PM if they want. Stack is now closed for clarifying questions.

27.2.1.2. We will now open stack for concerns.

27.2.1.2.1. My concern is that the drummers may entirely disregard decisions made by this Assembly.

This is very possible, so we must consent as a community to give ourselves the ability to ..a compromise to the drummers.

27.2.1.2.2. I can’t help thinking that we must resist any attempt to peel away support by fragmenting our community. If we go along with their attempts to curtail the freedom of the drummers who will they come for next? And will we as a community agree to adhere to that next attack or will we draw the line then? Should we not draw the line now?

I think it’s very important to talk about we express ourselves. The word “they” was used many times. To show that this request has come from someone outside our community. From someone oppressing our community. This is not the case. These people represent not the Wall Street Bankers, who live far too high up to hear the drums. It’s mostly old ladies, kids who need to go to school, and people who need to get to work. This is not a threat to our community. It’s a compromise within our community.

27.2.1.2.3. I am very happy to be here. As a representative of the older generation I feel inspired by the great moral values and the aspirations for a different world. Like each one of you here, I am also concerned about making the world a different place. I do not think though that the way to go about doing is by making friends with …the very elements of government that you are against..[indistinct] ..Your representatives [indistinct]..government …our President at every level of government, including City government. I think that it is important for this movement to friends with the working class. …

F: MIC CHECK MIC CHECK. Just a reminder, this is a time for concerns that are directly relevant to this proposal. There is time afterwards to express personal opinions at the Soapbox. Before we continue with concerns, we have time-sensitive announcement. Mic check!

F: What we need at 52 Broadway is about 20-30 people to help unload the next truck of goods from OWS. Thank you.

27.2.1.2.4. I have two concerns. Anna came with a very important concern, something I struggled with today, Scott Stringer and the Manhattan Community Board are a governing body. They must have some connection in different ways to forces that we may resist. That being said, no matter what happens tonight, whether we pass this proposal or not, Scott Stringer and the Manhattan Community Board promised OWS that they would be here at 5AM to resist this eviction! Only with that promise would I have come to you with this proposal. Mic check!

F: We have 5 more concerns about the drum proposal.

Firstly, the drums are a way for people to find us. More importantly, though my enthusiasm by that last statement, tomorrow we are fighting for our freedom and for the flagship of this movement. We can use a boost in morale. I would like an amendment that this be enacted later if at all. Again, this amendment is a very important one. From two…they do attract people. One of the minuses though of having them go twelve hours a day is that it drowns out teaching, presentations, and overall the kind of educational political discourse that we’re trying to foster here in this space. Drums will still be allowed to lead marches, and when the police try to kick us out, and if we need energy and strength in that moment, they will be here for that too.

27.2.1.2.5. My concern …meanwhile a serious concern is that we stand here, all of us, breathing toxic fumes from the buses, the planes, the coal plants, the air pollution that is causing cancer…the drumming is nothing compared to this

Point of Process (PoP): My concern is that the hours might feel marginalizing to working drummers.

Great point, Nina. Working drummers who want to come at night and give small performances, intimate performances, are welcome. Again, we’re talking about drumcircles.

F: That is the end of the concerns. We have a time-sensitive announcement.

Mic check! We need to move the painted truck on Cedar Street. So we can park our truck and fill it with our stuff. As far as I know, the owner of the truck is Dallas. Please spread the word that we need to move this painted truck on Cedar Street. Thank you.

27.2.1.3. Stack is now closed for concerns. We have one friendly amendment.

27.2.1.3.1. I’ll agree in support as a community to respect our neighbors, and also that it’s important not to drown out the teachings. But drums are really cool, and when people get off work, seeing a bunch of people playing drums is really cool. So I propose that we tilt the hours so that people getting off work can join us too.

Okay two things. Working drummers are perfectly welcome after 5PM, just as long as they’re not really loud. The second thing, in the interest of compromise, and the fact that everything we do at OWS is a work in progress, and can be brought before the GA again, to deal with problems that come about, the drummers are perfectly welcome to come back at a later GA and request that their time slot be pushed back farther back into the evening.

F: Mic check! We have now exhausted all clarifying questions and all concerns. Can I now see how people are feeling about this proposal? To recap, the proposal says that drums will be limited to two hours between 11AM and 5PM and that a representative of OWS be on site 24/7 to take questions and concerns from the Manhattan Community. How do we feel about this proposal? [Positive temperature check]

27.2.1.4. There is a block. Just to remind you, a block is a severe hand signal. Someone has a block, which means that he has a severe ethical or safety concern with this proposal. Please voice the reason for your block.

27.2.1.4.1. I think that we should at least have drums for more than two hours a day because the people who walk by will stop and enjoy the music we have to offer. What I propose is that we have it at least 4 hours a day.

Mic check! We are always with solidarity. Remember that. So one more time, drum circles for two hours. Other drums any time, other music any time until 10PM. That’s quiet hours. And again, this man and the rest of the drummers are empowered to come back to us, to come back to the community if they feel that this proposal is unjust. Any two hours between 11AM and 5PM.

F: The man has decided to hold his block. Let us respect him. Are there any other blocks? [no blocks]

F: So now let us see how you feel about this proposal with your hands. [Mostly Positive] [one Boo.]

F: When there is a block which has been kept, we move to modified consensus, which means that if nine-tenths of this GA consents on this proposal, then we have consensus. Given that there is one block, it’s clear that we have nine-tenths consensus.

F: Final temperature check [more than 90% positive] [one Boo]

F: We have one final block. We ask that he respects the reason for his block.

27.2.1.4.2. I think the two hours is not enough because as we attract people to come and watch us, more people want to join and play. Therefore I think it’s fair that we make it more than two hours so that we can keep the people happy.

F: So we have two blocks now, and two very good points.

We have a PoP. What he has said is not a block but a concern.

I have a concern too. Those are both concerns. And while concerns are legitimate and should be recognized, tomorrow is the turning point. Let me correct myself: 12AM tonight until tomorrow is the turning point of this movement. If we can vote on this proposal, right now or after that point, I say we get on with this proposal and then decide what we’re doing.

F: Temperature check on this proposal. [Positive] So it seems that we have consensus! [Applause]

F: Thank you very much for your patience in this process. It is slow. Real slow. But we have heard the voices of the Assembly. We have one final time-sensitive announcement.

Mic check! As part of our strategy to hold this space, and build our revolution, we are working with the Legal team to file an injunction to prevent our eviction tomorrow. We have a great Legal team. We need plaintiffs! Those plaintiffs should be living here. We need five volunteers immediately to have identification and are comfortable playing this role. We will have to go off-site and perhaps work all night. If you can be those five plaintiffs, meet me. My name is Han, at the structure immediately. Thank you.

Mic check! Hey y’all, how y’all feeling? [Positive, applause] Guess what? The GA is adjourned! Right now Soapbox commences.

**NYCGA Minutes 10/15/2011**

Posted October 15th, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 29

Meeting Date/Time: 10/15/2011 / 7pm EST

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators (F):

AGENDA

29.1. Working Group Report Backs

29.2. Announcements

29.3. Agenda Items

[Note: These minutes are brief due to a short GA. This was a chaotic day of inspiring peoples’ action.]

F: Facilitation team introductions. Intro to Process

29.1. Working Group Report Backs

None

29.2. Announcements

29.2.1. Black Farmers & Gardeners Conference: we need to grow food; we need to eat; only way to make change in our lives is to grow food.

29.2.2. Echo: Greetings, ancestors of the future; there are no limits to this movement; origin of the world Responsibility.

29.2.3. New Policy working group: in response to provocateurs at Times Square, we need to reaffirm commitment to nonviolence of this movement– meet under yellow and blue tent in ten minutes.

29.2.4. Martin: National organizer of Responsible Endowments Coalition –> divest university money from banks. National conference will be held next weekend (OCT 22-23) here in NYC at Pace University. More info at www.endowmentethics.org.

29.2.5. New Theory working group: discuss history of political social movements and political theory. First meeting will be Monday at 8pm under the red Joie de Vivre sculpture.

29.3. Agenda Items

None

**NYCGA Minutes 10/16/2011**

Posted October 16th, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 30

Meeting Date/Time: 10/16/2011 / 9pm EST

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators (F): Brie

Process: Hand signals. Hands up – I like it. Middle – I’m on the fence. Fingers down – I don’t agree. One finger UP: Point of information – for factual information. Triangle: point of process. A system of step up step back – if you are from a traditionally privileged group please leave space for people from minorities by rethinking whether you need to say what you want to say.

AGENDA

30.1. Agenda items

30.2. WG report backs

30.3. Announcements

30.1. Agenda Items

30.1.1. Safer spaces WG agenda item: As you may know. A good neighbor policy was passed on thursday. What the safer spaces group wants to see is an agreement that will create a safe space for all participants of OWS. In the spirit of horizontal-ism. We are soliciting your ideas as a GA, bringing together into a proposal for a later GA to discuss. We propose that we do this by getting into small breakout groups. Groups of ten to fifteen people.

Handouts and pens will be distributed to the groups. They have all the details and three questions. One: what does safety mean to you…? Two: what are safety concerns for you and others at this space…? Three: what agreements can we make as a community to ensure safety…?

Privilege and oppression, consent, personal contact, mediation… a few ideas to get the conversation going.

F: Stack: Stack is the process for people to address the group on the issue at hand. Raise your hand and make eye contact with the stack taker. We will use a progressive stack so you may not be called on in the order that you raised your hand.

30.1.1.1. I would like to ask what precipitated you to come up with the list you just raised.

Response: Examples of some things that have been brought to the attention of the safer spaces group. Safer Spaces is also contacting specific interest groups ie mediation, women, People of Color WG.

30.1.1.2. How long?

Response: 10 min?

F: Please have one person from your groups return the form and pen. Time keeper tonight is Cory. He will tell us when 10 minutes is up. Please break out into small groups now!

F: Extend for another 5 minutes? (agreed) Any concerns? None. Time up. Reconvening.

Thank you so much for all your input! If you would like to submit more suggestions as individual or through a group you can come see me. Or you can email saferspaceows@gmail.com. Safer spaces will meet wed 9 pm at red cube. If you would like to be part of synthesizing the information you can come to that meeting.

all of this information will be synthesized. And will be brought to GA for a decision.

30.2. Working Group Report Backs

F: Two minutes each.

30.2.1. Labor – Jackie. Labor really came through for us on friday. And some things we may not know: head of central labour union met with mayor bloomburg and told him to

6pm Labour WG. We will try to have someone at the red sculpture.jdesalvo@nyc.rr.com.

A rally at thursday 1:30 york ave in support of the teamster locked out.

F: Two generations of people’s mic.

30.2.2. Outreach – Good news: we’ve begun outreach in the other boroughs. There has been a general assembly in brooklyn, harlam and the brox. We need Queens! Out reach will have a community organizer dinner. This is if you are interested in outreaching to your community.

Please sign up at the outreach table. Meet 6:30pm daily at 52 broadway. Everyone is welcome.

30.2.3. OWS en Espagnol – My name is Chanelle. I am with OWS en Espanol. We just had our third assembly. I want to invite everyone who speaks Spanish to come every Sunday at 5pm. We are located on the south east of the park, the 1st table. You can find out information

about the committees we have in the group. I would like to bring up a problem: we are having trouble becoming an official working group. We need some help with that.

30.2.4. The people’s library: Francis – the good news: we got all our books back. In the move it’s possible that some people’s personal belongings we shipped to new jersey. Everything is back now. If you are missing Sleeping back of pillow or sweater. It’s possible that it is in the corner of the library. Everything is set by the steps.

30.2.5. Think Tank: I’m with the think tank WG. Our group makes a space from substantive daily discussion of the politics, dreams… of our movement. And we are working on the infrastructure to organize these ideas in an accessible online space. To engage all of us. In creative thought and meaningful research. Whatever that means to you. Today we had a very productive discussion about not only about how corporations are not people but also about education and outreach can work. Open every day 12 – 5pm every day think tank space across from info. Tomorrow evening meeting 6pm under the red cube.

30.2.6. Arts and culture: Working to address issues with transparency and communication. Doing everything we can. several people have been at GA representing arts and culture and they haven’t actually been to a meeting. Asking people please not do that and also please come to a meeting.

30.2.7. Demands process Working Group: (Missed part of the discussion due to the rain). At the meeting consensus ruled she should not attend the meeting. She attended anyway. She presented minutes from a meeting that no one recognized the minutes. Two of the people in the working have given them to the NY Times. Others from the WG call the NY times to tell them it wasn’t true but they will run an article based on this information anyway. We wanted the general assemble to know.

F: Passed two minute mark. Three more minutes? Agreed.

30.2.7. (Continued) The corporate media should not mediate WGs and the GA. Additionally I went to the meeting today. There was a photographer from the NYT. Four people in the group blocked having them take a photo but the women said that since there was a ‘majority vote” they should take the photo anyway. She then yelled dissenters out of the meeting. The statement going to the NY times may have demands, it definitely has a preamble to demands that call the group a ‘leftist populist movement’ (lots of downward twinkles from the GA). Next meeting is tomorrow at 5pm by the cube.

Is there someone I can speak to about organization and outreach? Please meet me after the GA.

Point of process (PoP): this time is for WG report backs.

30.2.8. Open Source: (the free libre opensource group) We’re working on getting everyone to produce content, to produce content that helps them be productive. We need to get out of consumerism. People are using the internet to share ways to brew beer! RSS feeds are not owned by corporations. If you publish…? Occupyeverywere.org. Freenet.

30.2.9. Women’s Caucus: we’re going to have a meeting of the women caucus. Right after GA. Meeting at the red cube. To discuss finalizing a weekly schedule for the women’s caucus meetings and a new group I want to start called the divine feminine discussion group.

Why is there division of the genders?

30.2.10. Finance: Daryl: looking at different fiscal sponsors. Whether we’ll become a not for profit – there are legal ramifications and restrictions to becoming a not for profit. We’re looking for a space for housing and for working. Our net worth is approximately 275,000.

[Editor’s note: This is the order the GA went in, but it looks like there was a second agenda item proposed and consensed during Working Group Report Backs. I change the numbering to reflect this. Just wanted to avoid confusing any readers!]

F: The group that made the list of demands in the NYT would like to ask to put a proposal to the GA.

30.1.2. We would like to get consensus by the GA. That the demands that were sent to the NY that did not get consensus of the GA? – Agreed to discuss this proposal.

30.1.2.1. Concerns?

30.1.2.1.1. My concern would be. That we be very specific about the language that we use and not necessarily say that we oppose these demands but that the GA did not come to consensus on these demands!

Clarification: we’re not sure that they have submitted demands to NYT sure that it’s a preamble

30.1.2.1.2. Concern: we often announce that we embrace this autonomous effort. Embrace this effort but make clear we don’t employ spokes people.

Info: this is the only decision making body at OWS. Whether or not we agree with the demands proposed. They did not follow the process that the GA has set out.

Statement made by Bree (facilitator) was partially information and partially opinion.

30.1.2.1.3. Concern is that even though we have a process. Of coming to consensus. That was not followed. The media is so hungry to hear demands they are not going to care about what we say once they have this report. I suggest that we put out a very strong statement that this was not agreed upon this statement!

Concern was already addressed but to reiterate: statement from NYT “OWS identifies itself as a leaderless resistance movement with people of many political persuasions. Specifically by embrace ideologies. …. on the movement may show good will and generosity but fail to understand that the resistance movement is precisely disobeying that kind of political maneuver.”

F: Temp check on the proposal that we make a statement. That the GA have not consensed upon any statement of demands or a preamble. We have consensus.

30.1.2.2. Friendly amendment? Instead of “consensed upon,” “not presented to the GA”. Both? OK! Agreement.

30.3. Announcements:

30.3.1. Women’s Sleeping Space: Wall street about crisis, derivatives. Teach in. from someone that used to work on Wall St. 2pm hopefully by the red sculpture. If you can’t come but would like my hand outalexis@alexisgo.com.

30.3.2. Legal team meeting happens on Mondays at 6pm happens on Mondays. At the legal table. Especially looking for aren’t lawyers but want to get acquainted with all the legal stuff related to this occupation and who have time to sit at that table and answer people’s questions all day long.

30.3.3. Dave: Eve Ensler lead a story telling thing? Eve Ensler wrote the vagina monologues. We are going to hold a weekly story telling workgroup. From 5 to 7 pm every sunday on the steps on Broadway. Amplify out value and speaking our stories.

30.3.4. Abby – from California. My goal and I hope yours is for every student in every public school to have the opportunity to lear how this movement fits into history. I would like to hold a meeting tomorrow at 4 pm at the red thingies for anyone who’s interested.

30.3.5. Matt – representing health care for 995 WG. We voted to have a march on health on health insurance companies. Friday 21st. Will start at Zucotti park. 3:30 pm. March across the street. To empire Blue Cross Blue Shield. ….. near Union Square. Each location will have a speak out. owshealthcare@gmail.com

30.3.6. Steve – I live in Staten island. I’m interested in hearing from other Staten islanders. About a possible location for GA in Staten island. Anybody who wants to meet under the red thing after the GA.

30.3.7. Stoneybrooke University. Is organizing a general assembly this Wednesday during campus life time at 12:15. find us if you’re there.

30.3.8. One thing. The Opensource Solutions group has been working on a document. Originally started for the demands. There are no demands in it. If anyone is interested in working on demands like doc. Please see me

30.3.9. Announcing a new company. Making the tools that we need. Meet me under the teepee. Right after the GA.

30.3.10. The Boston GA. A few weeks ago. Passed a statement in solidarity in recognition of the rights of first nation’s people. And the importance of this movement looking…? I want to do that here. I sit at the legal table a lot of the time. 10:30 – 12 tomorrow!

What happens to the money?

Point of info – please check in with info table for general info like that.

F: Adjourned!

**NYCGA Minutes 10/17/2011**

Posted October 17th, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 31

Meeting Date/Time: 10/17/2011 / 7pm EST

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators (F): Eileen, Marlisa

AGENDA

31.1. Working Group Report Backs

31.2. Announcements

F: Welcome – Eileen. Facilitation meetings are at 4pm.

F: Welcome to the one month anniversary of this movement! Thank you so much for being here tonight! So now to introduce the facilitation team. Co-facilitator: Marlisa. Next we have stack taker, Alice.

Stack (S): Hi, I’m Alice. I will be taking stack. If you would like to get on stack, come to me. I will be practicing a progressive stack. This will ensure that marginalized voices are heard. Thanks. More on stack in a minute.

F: Mic check! Ellie.

Hi I’m Ellie, with an E. I’ll be checking how people are feeling about any decisions that are made tonight.

I’m Ethan, I’ll be keeping time. On minutes, Benedict.

Our interpreter is Dave and Amy. Now a little more about how this process comes together in a conversation of respect. We use a process called consensus. We try to incorporate everybody’s voice without everybody needing to speak. At any time during this meeting, but especially when we’re making decisions, please express how you’re feeling using hand signals. [Review of hand signals]

As vibe checker, I will be checking when we do the temperature check, that there are not lots of people who are on the fence or disagree. If there are lots of people on the fence or who disagree, but we have no actual blocks, it seems that we might still need to review the proposal.

F: To bring it all together, let me tell you what a GA normally looks like. After the intro, we generally have an agenda, which could be proposals or predetermined discussions. When we break that down, we have the proposal that has been brought to us in a timely fashion. While I’m on that: proposals come through working groups, hopefully. Just a suggestion. The sheet for a proposal can be found at Information, and needs to be brought to Facilitation’s 4pm meeting to get worked on and hopefully make it here that night. Sometimes it gets pushed to other nights. So, stack exists because once a proposal is proposed, we have clarifying questions, friendly amendments, and concerns. Each of those topics is open for stack, where anyone can get on the list. We also use stack for the portion called Announcements. If you have an announcement about an event, a march, or something like that (not an opinion), we’ll take stack for that..

F: Tonight’s GA doesn’t have an agenda, so we have a lot more space for announcements. But those come after working group report-backs. Try to use the aisles to come up to Alice, or use your hand to signal her. Try to keep it up to get her or our attention. Thank you.

31.1. Working Group Report Backs

31.1.1. Arts and Culture: Hi I’m Rachel. I have four announcements about different things going on in A&C that you can help with. One is Occupy Halloween. We’re planning some really interesting things that you can learn about at occupyhalloween.org. One thing is we’re making giant puppets for Occupy Halloween at the Halloween Parade. We are still looking for donations and for help on our kick-starter. To help us, email powertothepuppets@gmail.com. You can also follow us at Twitter at @power2thepuppets. There is an artistic group called Pulse that is forming a base of information and musical storage and supplies (like strings for your guitar or a head for your drum). We are working on a proposal for financial support to increase the organization and flow of Pulse. To join or help, call Eli at 347-759-4353.Third, this is a big call-out for anyone who has access to art or exhibition space for the ongoing Occupy Wall Street Exhibition. If that’s you, email Michael.Walery@gmail.com. Fourth, we are making a flow chart version of the declaration of the Occupation of New York City. We want this to be an image that embodies our grievances without oversimplifying them. We want to make sure that this image is considered by many people before we print a lot of copies of it. If you want to help us edit it, or if you have access to silk screen or printing facilities, email me at schragis.rachel@gmail.com. Thank you very much.

F: Mic check! We have a request for two iterations. That means a lot of us are in the back and can’t hear everybody else. So instead of going two mics, I’d like to try first asking everybody to sit down. Everywhere. And we’ll try to really project to each other. And if that doesn’t work, we’ll go two generations. It’s just a little longer.

F: There’s one more announcement from A&C. We also have an A&C kiosk on the ground here for hard copies of suggestions for A&C. But I don’t know where it is, who knows.

F: Mic check! Can we have a few volunteers to act as human mics around the edges of the crowd so that everyone can hear? And for everyone in the front to stay seated. Thank you. Also, we normally keep report-backs concise and sweet because agenda items and proposals

can take a lot of time. Tonight we’re not. We don’t have an agenda item so we’re letting people speak. Just so you know how it goes.

F: The next working group report back is Visions And Goals.

31.1.2. Hi I’m Mel, Hi I’m Ketchup. We are from the Visions & Goals Document Group. We are an exciting new group, and our goal is to continue collecting, refining, coordinating, and working toward publishing the outline for Liberty Plaza’s vision and goals. The document we’re working towards will be released only with the consensus of the GA. This document already has the input of over 200 people. We are meeting tomorrow over by the Red Cube at 12pm to craft a statement explaining the process by which we will beautifully and creatively reflect the goals and vision of this group. We will also be discussing potentially a proposal that working groups for this movement need to follow consensus process as discussed by the GA for the GAs. One more thing: the statement we’re working on about the larger document we’re working on will be proposed at tomorrow night’s GA. To get input on this statement, meet at 12 at the red cube. Now Ketchup will also give a working group report back for Divine Feminine.

31.1.3. I have a schedule that has on it the meeting times for three groups. One is the Divine Feminine Discussion Group. We’ll be meeting tonight at 10pm by the Cube. It’s an open discussion group for female-bodied and female-identified individuals. Also on the schedule are meeting times for Women Occupy Wall Street (WOW), the women’s caucus. Also for the Speakeasy Caucus which is open to both male-bodied and female-bodied individuals for the purpose of discussion for how to make this community a safe space for everyone to have their voices heard truly equally. These schedules I have a few (there’s like 800 at Info).

F: So I’m going to check, how’s that back group, can you hear us? Vibe check!

Point of Process (PoP) here was not to tell you guys how you’re feeling. I hear that point, I’ll watch it. My bad. Also he suggested we slow down the momentum so we can all check in and see how you really feel before you report back to us.

S: Any more working groups that have things to share that haven’t gotten on stack slowly make your way up.

S: The next working group report is Alternative Currency. I don’t know where they are. Alternative Currency.

31.1.4. Sage from Lost and Found: Hey everybody, we don’t have a Lost & Found, I’ll actually be representing Thieves Work Group tonight! We’re really grateful for your feelings of safety. That’s helped us out a lot. We know that a lot of people here support wealth redistribution. We’ve been doing this a long time, we appreciate your participation. We also like Security, making you people feel secure. Whatever you do, don’t tell people about Thieves’ work group, we’ll take care of that.

31.1.5. Hi I’m Sage, I’m here to represent Religious Support Group for ancient religious, philosophical, and chemical affiliation. I’m also here to represent gluten free breakfast, lunch, and dinner. If you have a sensitive stomach, and are afraid of contamination, please see me. I will take you to breakfast, lunch and dinner, or give you a Whole Foods gift card and send

you on your way. I’m all over the place, but you can check in with Info to find out where I am locally.

S: The next working group report back is from Think Tank.

Mic check, my name is Audrey! I’m kind of confused about the first announcement that the previous gentleman made about the Thieves working group. I couldn’t tell if it was a joke or if he was serious about there needing to be some kind of clarity around things being stolen. Could we ask Sage if he’s joking or not. Sage? Question: are you joking or not? -Those work groups definitely exist. It’s important that you love them and not think they are crazy, because they work very hard.

F: We’re going to move on.

31.1.6. Hi everyone, my name’s Elana. The Think Tank is a group that collects your ideas and solutions, and organizes them. The Think Tank connects people that are passionate about the same solutions. We host discussions every day from 12 to 6. Look for our table in the middle of the square, with the big sign. You can also email your ideas to owsthinktank@gmail.com. Our announcement is if you organize a teach-in, you should email the notes from the teach-in to owsthinktank@gmail.com. If you organize a working group that’s focused on solutions, you should also email the notes to owsthinktank@gmail.com. This will help us collect all your brilliant ideas. Thank you very much.

S: Before I announce the next working group, I just want to let you know…[indistinct]…

31.1.7. Nonviolent communication: Our vision is coming together… There are many good ideas, and some confrontations might happen because of getting too overly excited. If you want to get some skills to deal with conflict peacefully and patiently, to get your good ideas across, you might stop in tomorrow to a class given at 60 Wall Street, on nonviolent communication skills. The time is 10:30 am sharp! Tomorrow! Thank you.

31.1.8. Lightsource: Yesterday after the GA we had our first meeting for Lightsource. Lightsource is a low-profit company of the revolution. Our mission is to unite tools to make sure life on Earth flourishes. Our first project is a massively multi-person real life game. People’s powers in the game are based on what they’ve contributed to the movement and the local community. If you’d like to find out more, I’ll be meeting by the red cube after the GA. Thank you.

S: Next up: Medical.

31.1.9. Hi everybody, my name is Steve! Medical would like to thank you. Our first month has been pretty safe. We would also like to thank you for bearing with us during our move. Thank you. As you may have noticed, it’s starting to get cold again. We just want to remind you to try and keep warm. Stop by if you’re feeling sick, or sad, or just want to talk. We’re here for you. Thank you.

Question: where has Medical moved to?

Response: We moved about 10 feet that way. We are up against the plants by the sidewalk. We have a big green tent with red x’s all over it. You’ll see us.

31.1.9. Minutes: Hi, I’m Stephanie from the newly-formed Minutes working group. There are only two people in this group, and that’s a lot of responsibility for taking all the minutes for all these General Assemblies. If you can type, please help us! We only need you to commit to one night a week! Email owsminutes@gmail.com

Question: Why were there a few days where the minutes weren’t posted?

Response: There are only two of us. If someone can’t show up for a meeting, we miss that day. That’s why we need help.

31.1.10. Alternative Currency: I’m Dan, and ever since we put our eye into a telescope, we felt we were very small, so we got insecure. So we used our money to make big tall buildings inside of cities, where we could not see the stars. Next Monday we are having a meeting all day to discuss money, where we can see the stars again. At Charlotte’s Place. (109 Greenwich St.)

F: How are you guys feeling? Cold!

S: There’s actually two more working group reports. Next is Media.

31.1.11. Media: To be a part of Media, to pool resources and footage, visit the nycga.net media committee page. There’s a link to a Google Doc where you can put your suggestions for documentaries or things you want to shoot. Then people with the technical skills can sign up to help execute. There will also be a signup and suggestion sheet at Info, and I think there should be one for every working group. We need an interface to replace this Google Doc that’s more fun and self-interfacing to help these ideas and suggestions rise to the top, so if you can help with this, go to nycga.net. We’re also going to be proposing a “coat check”, a revamping of security. We’re soon going to be proposing break-out session on the GA for everyone to brainstorm how to more effectively spread everyone’s message of solidarity.

Clarifying question: What if I have footage that I want to donate? -Go to nycga.net, contact the emails there, and we’re days away, if not hours away, from being able to accept footage here at Zuccotti and offsite locations. For now reach out to the emails on the media page of nycga.net.

S: The last working group report-back is Livestream. Where are you?

31.1.12. Mic check! I’m Luke! Livestream is a sub-group within Media. Say hi to the camera, there are people watching. We need some help. If you are skilled in Media production, or you would like to learn, please be a part of our team. The easiest way is to come see me with some contact info and we’ll get you plugged in. I’ll be right there by the camera.

31.2. Announcements

F: Okay, now we’re moving to Announcements. If you want to make an announcement, come get on stack by coming back around. Let me clarify, Announcements are important, but still, they’re not opinions, or your personal important thoughts; they’re more about information, like marches, rallies, safety issues, working groups starting up, ways to have communication

and conversations like this, etc. Soapbox – that’s opinions, and the passion behind them, and the expression in you, and it happens here, every night after GA!! It doesn’t have a time limit – as long as you can get people to listen to you and do the people’s mic, it’s your soapbox. Now to important Announcements.

F: Please use small parts of sentences… Thank you for your patience, you’re really beautiful and I know it’s chilly.

31.2.1. First Announcement from Brian. Hello I’m from Security. I believe that we all need to police our own. I just confiscated an entire stash of alcohol. This is the kind of stuff that could get us kicked out of this park. That’s my announcement.

31.2.2. Christina. I would like to announce the 16th National Day of Protest to stop police brutality. We will be marching on Saturday Oct 22, beginning at 2pm at Union Square. At 2 pm there, there will be a teach-in and a rally, and then a march. Please do not misunderstand this movement. We do not promote violence in any form. Some people think because we are against police brutality, somehow we promote violence during our marches. This cannot be further from the truth. This is a peaceful protest against police violence in our communities and also this community.

31.2.3. I’m Christina, I will be speaking that day and I would like to invite you all to join us there. At about 11 Am, since we always start late, I would like to meet here to make signs for the rally, and then whoever wants to join us for our march uptown to Union Square, we will be leaving here at about 12PM. I hope you guys can all come. Thank you.

S: Next from Lamont.

31.2.4. Mic check, mic check, My name is Lamont Oyewale, I’m a member of the Malcolm X grassroots movement and also an organizer for Picture the Homeless. We believe in housing and not wear-housing. The shelter system is not sustainable. It’s not humane. If you are homeless and you want to get involved, we have civil rights meetings on Tuesdays at 2PM and housing meetings on Thursdays at 6pm. Our address is 2427 Morris Avenue off of Fordham Road in the Bronx. Take the 4 train to Fordham. If you’re homeless and you want to get involved, I’ll be standing by the halal truck with more information. Thank you.

Clarifying question: can you help if you’re not homeless?? -You can volunteer, so talk to me about coming to a campaign meeting.

F: There’s a little more space up here, so if the people back there can’t hear, please come forward. It will make the conversation a little more intimate.

S: Next announcement from Harry.

31.2.5. It is a pleasure to address the GA. We have established an Article V working group. Article V of the US Constitution allows citizens to bypass the Congress and pass amendments including a democracy amendment that will put the majority of citizens in charge of approving all legislation, all executive orders, and all judicial decisions that impact the majority. It’s called democracy! This movement is the tip of the spear of this amendment. We can accomplish this and the bankers won’t be laughing, because we’re coming after them legally, by the organization you have created here. Consider this a constitutional convention!

Thank you. Cheers We are here every day, over by the posters at the top of the steps next to

the Big Red thing. Please come and help. Thank you. much applause

Question: What time?

Response: From noon till we leave.

Next announcement from Thomas with the Sanitation working group.

31.2.6. Hello! Mic check! Good evening! I would like to thank you for helping keep this

park clean! But, we are still having a problem with Sanitation, specifically in the morning and

at night. We are all still Sanitation. We must remember to always do our best to all be a part

of Sanitation. If you see something dirty, if you see something on the floor, please pick it up,

please clean it up. Remember, first appearance is everything. Sanitation needs your help. We

must stick together! Yes we defeated Bloomberg, but it is not over. They are looking for an

excuse to throw us out of the park. Give them no reason! Stay clean, stay sanitized, stay

unified, stay together! Thank you! Cheers.

We have a question! Mic check: Please don’t forget to recycle! Let’s reduce the garbage

going into the landfills! It’s going to help our planet, and we have recycling here, so help us

out and recycle: paper, cardboard, plastic bottles, and glass. Thank you.

PoP: That was not a clarifying question, that was not even a question. If you have an

announcement, please get on stack. If you have a point of Information, use the Information

hand signal.

… sorry…

31.2.7. But since it’s out, can you tell us where the bins to recycle are? There are bins next to

many garbage cans, but the central recycling station is over the north side of Kitchen where

the new sustainability table is located. It’s been there for a couple days or even a week, so

please keep your eye out for the main recycling station, over there! Thank you.

31.2.8. Community Relations: We have an emerging and urgent situation where our good

neighbor policy is under scrutiny. So I want to remind everybody, if you have not read the

good neighbor policy, please pick up a copy of this, and please in addition to the amazing

Sanitation presentation, do not pee or poop in public doorways! I cannot emphasize how

emergent and urgent this situation is! We are under major attack from city council people and

the community board. It’s going to take everybody to watch noise and sanitation. Thank you.

Question: Where is the information?

Response: I believe that these are at the Info desk.

Why are there no porta potties?

Point of Process: that is not about this announcement. [murmurs… why isn’t it?]

The next announcement is from Occupy Central Park.

31.2.9. Happy 1 month anniversary everyone! We have grown, that is clear. What’s happening right now, a lot of people who want to be here with us can’t be here. They feel very intimidated by the amount of awesome people that are right here. That also a lot of chaos when we try to get things done. People are wondering what’s our next step, where are we going? That is why on 11/11/11, the global day of solidarity, we are planning a three day gathering in Central Park. If people are wondering, that is illegal, we are not allowed to camp there – we have an answer. We are the people, Central Park is our park, and we have the right to gather there. We want to see people from all across the world come together in place that can accommodate all of us for one weekend, so we can build community with each other. Some people want to start teaching people about self-sustainability. The only reason we hate Wall Street is because we depend on it. We don’t have to depend on it, we can be our own government. So on 11/11/11, everyone be at Central Park. Start telling everyone about this. If you want to join, go to occupycentralpark.org. Friday on 11/11/11, the global day of solidarity, where nobody goes to work and gathers in the park, everywhere, globally, all day.

Clarifying question: What part of Central Park? -We are designing a new map of Central Park. For right now we are planning on meeting by the band shell (72nd), but we are hoping that there will be so many people that we will meet everywhere in Central Park.

F: I just want you to know that this is a little different from how things normally go because the agenda took a break tonight. We don’t normally take a lot of clarifying questions, we find each other. We try to keep things tight. But that being said,

31.2.10. I’m Amanda. I’m with 1199, the Health Care Workers Union. Tomorrow we are having an action because nursing home workers in NJ have been fired for forming a union, and in Connecticut have been fired and re-hired for forming a union at the same nursing home chain, Care One. We are having an action because Daniel Strauss, their very rich CEO, is buying buildings from the Wiki museum for $95 million. He is trying to get development rights for luxury condos on the Upper East Side. Tomorrow we will have a street action. We will come here at noon with our theatre troop. Please join us. We will march to 1 Center Street to greet Daniel Strauss. Thank you.

S: Next announcement from Goldie.

31.2.11. Hi, I’m from Direct Action! There’s a pipeline for fracked gas being built right now in the West Village. Anyway, we can stop this. We have a few direct actions planned this week culminating with a march on Thursday from here. Jay’s taking it. Tomorrow at noon we draw attention to the pipeline by staging a roaming die-in starting at Washington Square Park by the fountain. And Thursday by decision of Direct Action we march to the pipeline hearing to ensure democracy. Starting here at 5pm. For more information about fracking or about the pipeline, see me over at the environmental table over there. Thank you very much. (or the Info desk.) Thank you very much. I’ll be here for the next hour, hour and a half.

S: Next announcement from Ben.

31.2.12. Hi everybody, I am a member of the steering committee of an organization called People’s Music network for songs of freedom and struggle. We came to consensus last week to officially endorse Occupation Wall Street! People’s Music Network was born out of the occupation of the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant by Clamshell Alliance in the 70′s.

F: Hi everybody! Lots of space down in the front, so why don’t we all stand up, stretch a little bit, take a few steps forward, and then sit down again.

31.2.13. Hi I’m Paul Powell. I was here all night last Thursday night. Hi I’m Erica, I cleaned Thursday night. On Thursday October 14th, Mayor Bloomberg and Brookfield Realty instructed the NYPD to evict us from the park under the ruse of cleaning it. A dangerous confrontation was avoided when Manhattan Borough president Scott Stringer intervened in support of OWS. Mr Stringer is an elected official who stood up for our efforts for our First Amendment freedoms, against the mayor and Brookfield. If anyone wants to thank Mr. Stringer, dial 311.

S: Next announcement is from Craig.

31.2.14. My name is Craig. I would just like to announce that I will be starting a queer caucus. This is an open group for anyone, regardless of sexual orientation. It is about education, it is about empowerment, it is about inclusion. If you’re interested in joining, our first meeting will be Wednesday night at 9pm at the Red Cube across the street. Also, Friday and Sunday at 9pm at the Cube. One final thing, rule by a majority means that there is an oppression of a minority. Please remember that. Thank you.

S: The next announcement is from Hobby.

31.2.15. Hi from Berkley California! Imagine secondary school students all over the country considering and debating the same choices as the GA and the working groups here, in their own classrooms and student groups. As soon as the issues come here, it can happen. We met today and have a plan. I’ll pass out the draft of the plan in an hour at the Info table. Please join us for a session on moving to bring this plan into action, tomorrow at 10AM at the orange sculpture. Thank you.

S: Next up: Mark.

31.2.16. Hey, I’m Mark. Good news. Last week I wrote to the author of a book I find personally very inspiring, and told him that we are all here, trying to fight against some pretty big enemies. The book is called Philosopher’s Notes and it summarizes and synthesizes ideas from philosophy, positive psychology, and it’s pretty cool. I asked for one book for the library, and he sent me 40! If you want a free book, come here after the GA I’ll be at the red thing. Thank you.

S: Next is Kelly.

31.2.17. Hi I’m Kelly. I had a great impromptu conversation on the subway last night. There’s a man named Kevin, he organizes weekly events at the PIT. He wants people from OWS to start participating in these events. I have his contact info if you’re interested. And if you’ve maybe been here for a little while, meet me over here after GA. Real quick, GAs are also happening at Washington Square Park at 5:30 pm every night this week until Monday.

Clarifying comment: PIT is People’s Improv Theater!

S: Next announcement: from Ellie

31.2.18. Hi. There is a woman’s sleeping space in front of the thing on Cedar St side of the park. We usually have a sign. It was created to address a problem that women who were new here felt intimidated sleeping next to people, men specifically, that they didn’t know. I would encourage you all, if you’re not feeling safe in this space, and don’t identify as a woman, to potentially create another space, to come and talk to us, because we’re pretty open to different ideas.

S: Next announcement: Kevin

31.2.19. I’m working on a public database of police officer profiles. We want accountability of our public servants. We need photographers. If you can help, I’ll be at the red cube after the GA. Thank you.

Is there a Brian who wanted to make an announcement? No? OK… Giana. No? Okay.

31.2.20. I have an announcement, it’s the last announcement. On October 21st, there’s a National Day to Stop Stop & Frisk. This is when police illegally stop people. It’s mostly black and latino youth. On Friday, people are walking out and going to Harlem to the Federal Building at 125th. If you want to stand with our brothers and sisters that face this, I’m starting a working group to build for this. We’ll meet right there every day after GA till Friday.

F: Okay… there were tonight a lot of people who wanted to say a lot of things about how we can make a better world. This is very good, and good for Soapbox. So stick around after the meeting for that!

F: Just one or two more things: our friend Dick lost his phone. We can help! He’s going to describe it to you. I know you’ll find it and get it back to him.

Hi I’m Dick. I came here Sunday. Yesterday I lost my phone – Ikea, a blackberry knockoff. Somebody called from my phone on Sunday morning to a friend of mine, in the contacts, so I know someone has my phone. They said it would be at the Info table, or maybe they were at the Info table. It’s not there, so I’m hoping we can help solve that. If it gets found, Info table.

F: To end this meeting I want to thank everyone. You’re all amazing for being a part of this direct democracy. If you’re new here, please get involved! If you want to join a working group, you can find information about all different kinds of working groups at the Info table and online at nycga.cc. You can also ask the people around you. That’s what we’re here for. We’re trying to build this thing together! Thank you all.

F: Thank you all, I appreciate you letting me be part of the service. Now it’s time for Soapbox. We won’t facilitate so it’s up to you all to mic for each other, to speak to each other, and hopefully to listen to each other. Goodnight!

**NYCGA Minutes 10/18/2011**

Posted October 18th, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 32

Meeting Date/Time: 10/18/2011 / 7:13pm EST

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators (F): Johannah Thompson, Morgan Steele

Minute-taker: Hannah Appel (ha2315@columbia.edu). Facilitators: Johannah Thompson (from Occupy Miami) & Morgan Steele (from Occupy Ashville, NC). Stack Taker: Ethan. Stack Greeter: Jack from Occupy Boston. Time Keeper: Travis for Occupy San Francisco.

Morgan goes over hand signals: I agree/ I feel good; I’m unsure; I do not feel good/I do not agree. Point of process, to return us to process; Point of information if you have a fact to share Wrap it up if someone’s being a little too lengthy Block – if we’re trying to pass a proposal with which you have an ethical or safety issue. The block is a very serious thing. It should be used sparingly. The block means that you are willing to remove yourself from the Occupy movement if the proposal goes forward. You will be asked to support your block. Speak up; C is for clarification – if you have a question or need more information.

F: Everyone sit down. We also need to make sure that we have space on both sides so members can come up and get on stack. The last point that I’d like to review is step up step back. That is put in place so that we can include all types of people in the GA. That means you personally acknowledge your privilege. If you recognize that you are someone who is speaking too much, you have to consider stepping back and allowing someone else to step up and present their point or position. Can we agree that we will use the step up step/step back Not everyone can hear. Can we do a double echo? Think we got it! Let’s proceed.

AGENDA

32.1. Agenda Items

32.2. Working Group Report Backs

32.3. Announcements

F: Temperature check on the agenda: looks good

Point of process (PoP): When asking for temp check, please pause to take account for social momentum. And please don’t tell us how to feel. Ask us, wait, we’ll think about it, and then watch us.

F: I’m going to ask again, and listen. Can we get another temperature check? Looks good…

32.1. Action Items

32.1.1. Stop and Frisk Working Group Abraham: We know that Wall Street and corporations put profit over people. We know that this profit imprisons our democracy. But Wall Street and corporations also profit from incarceration and arrest of human beings. This industry – the prison industry – violates our constitutional rights, degrades our justice system, legitimates police harassment, profiling, destabilizes our communities, and continues the legacy of racism and oppression sponsored by the state.

Amelio: I too am affiliated with the Stop & Frisk. “We the Occupiers of Wall Street wholly challenge the New York City Police Department’s unconstitutional, racist, and inhumane Stop & Frisk policing practices.”

PoP: Sage: this sounds like a solidarity statement that you are asking for, now being broadcast over People’s Mic. I personally agree with 99.9% of what you’re saying, but using people’s mic in this way is not proper for the process. I’m sure that if you give us a chance, and ask us if we want to say a solidarity statement with you, we’d probably say it. That’s not people’s mic, or an announcement. My name is Sage. I’m with the Loyal Opposition.

F: We would like to take a temperature check on this point of process. We have another point of process.

PoP: This is an agenda item to come to consensus for support of a statement. It is my understanding that the proposed statement is now being read so that we can come to consensus on it.

F: Can we take a temperature check as to whether or not we can proceed with hearing the statement from the Stop & Frisk WG.

PoP: Sage: I am here, people who live in this park, have a very special relationship with the police. There’s a bit of a difference between the GA and the people who live here and sleep here day in and day out. I don’t feel safe repeating statements about the police that I haven’t already read myself. Please understand my concerns.

F: We have heard Sage’s concern. Again, can we take a temperature check as to whether or not we can proceed with hearing the statement. Please proceed.

32.1.1. (Continued) Stop & Frisk policing practices voice our opposition and challenge this policing practice at the Stop & Frisk rally on October 21st, 2011 in Harlem @ the 16th national day of protest against police brutality, repression, and the criminalization of a generation. On October 22nd 2011 we will march in solidarity at 12pm from Liberty Park. We will be meeting at 11:30am right under Joie d’ Vive F:

Emergency Announcement: police are mobilizing on Hudson & Dominic street at the Skylight in Soho where 150 protestors are waiting for Andrew Cuomo. We need reinforcements from Zuccotti. If you feel like you need to go you can leave GA. We’re going to leave from this corner.

F: Should we open stack for questions and concerns? Or, do people feel as though we can take consensus on this proposal. Does anyone have questions? If so, come get on stack.

32.1.1. Clarifying Questions

32.1.1.1. Q: I just want to know, where you will be marching?

A: I will clarify two points. First, our proposal is to stand in solidarity with the marches on the 21st and on the 22nd, and to adopt the statement you heard. Second: we will be marching on the 21st in Harlem @ 125th & Adam Clayton Powell. On 10/22 we will be marching from Liberty Park to Union Square. We have fliers, thousands of them.

32.1.1.2. Q: I feel like there were too many interruptions for us to discern the difference between the statement and the general announcement of the march. I don’t believe that I can make a decision based on the fragments of the statement I heard.

A: this person is going to speak because we don’t need to take consensus on a call to solidarity. Therefore, we’ll be doing that, and anyone that wants to be part of this or discuss it; we’ll present more in the soapbox.

32.1.2. Collaboration between Medical & Food WGs: Howdy! My name is Niklas. I’m here because I love you all and want us to be strong together. The project I’m proposing is called the People’s Cup. It is collaboration between Food and Medical. We want to offer hot tea and herbal brews fresh and at all hours. We need to stay warm, healthy, and strong. We are asking for public approval to spend $1400 from our fund on equipment and supplies. How do you feel about this?

32.1.2.1. We are now opening stack to questions and concerns.

32.1.2.1.1. Q: I was wondering if that money includes herbs and whatever you need for the herbal tonics.

A: there have already been lots of herbs and teas donated. Within this proposal is a small amount to buy more supplies, but we’re also counting on donations.

32.1.2.1.2. Q: how long do we suspect that the $1400 spent on our tonics will sustain us?

A: most of the $1400 is for physical equipment to make bulk teas. We have supplies for maybe five days. And with the $1400 should bring a few more days’ supply. The way the funding works, we can have an operating budget of $100/day without needing another GA approval. I suspect after this proposal, we’ll have hot teas and herbal tonics for as long as we want.

32.1.2.1.3. Q: can we have coffee too?

A: absolutely!

32.1.2.1.4. Q: I’m concerned there’s not enough focus on specific objectives of this currently peaceful revolution.

A: some of us might agree, but I don’t see the application to tea.

F: we see that there has been a point of process from some in the crowd. Let me remind you that the point of process is used so that we can stay on process. We respect our members’ issue, and we would like to come back to that issue during soapbox. Can I take a temperature check on that point of process?

PoP: The person presenting should not be facilitating.

32.1.2.1.5. Q: how do I go about donating supplies for tea or coffee.

A: let’s talk directly after this. I’ll go to the carts over here.

32.1.2.1.6. Q: Can we be assured that any tea or coffee that is purchased with our funds is certified fair trade.

A: Absolutely.

32.1.2.1.7. Q: $1400 out of how much?

A: In response, this is not a discussion about the public’s finances. The last I heard, it was up around $300,000. And I’m asking for $1400 please.

32.1.2.1.8. Q: Can we have the timekeeper move this along please. I’m not here for a tea party.

32.1.2.1.9. Q: very quick question: have you considered approaching the unions for discounts on stuff like this?

A: this person asked if we could move a little quicker. Can I get a temp check?

F: Is it possible that we take a general consensus about the proposal on tea and coffee and then if there are other…

32.1.2.1.10. Q: will there be refrigeration for dairy supplies?

A: And I’d like to stick for hot beverages for now.

32.1.2.1.11. Q: can we get an answer about the proposal to approach the unions for discounts on supplies?

A: that’s a great idea, and I’ll approach the unions first thing tomorrow.

32.1.2.1.12. Q: what are you doing with all the cups?

A: my proposal includes funding for ceramic cups so we can reuse them.

32.1.2.1.13. Q: Is there a consensus on whether people think that coffee is healthy? Because the point is…

PoP: Who is facilitating this meeting?

A: I am one of the people co-facilitating the meeting; and I am the other person facilitating the meeting. Stack is closed.

32.1.2.1.14. Q: I would like to thank everyone for their serious cooperation on the establishment of the composting. Please take that to soap box. Can we please have …

PoP: Can I just remind you that it’s good to ask for a temperature check before consensus, and then you move to blocks, and then you would ask for a consensus.

F: As a facilitator of this GA, I was trying to get to that. I was trying to get to that. I was continuously interrupted. Do we have any friendly amendments? Stack is open for friendly amendments.

32.1.2.2. Friendly Amendments

32.1.2.2.1. Amendment – I propose that an inventory of what is purchased be made transparent for everyone to see either online, or posted somewhere here.

Response: I’ll do both.

32.1.2.2.2. Amendment – I propose that the concerns that were raised and addressed and agreed to be specifically placed as friendly amendments to this proposal.

Response: Sounds great. So far I’ve got – contact unions for discounts; transparent inventory; fair trade.

32.1.2.2.3. Amendment – friendly amendment to include creamer.

Response: I can’t promise to have any creamer, but I’ll give it a shot. I can’t run a fridge.

F: Can we get a temperature check on this proposal? Are there any blocks?

F: Consensus

F: The next proposal is from the Internet working group. Correction – it’s from the open source WG

32.1.2. Open Source WG: I propose that the GA disperse $1500 for the construction of a freedom tower, which is a powerful mobile hot spot and VPN uplink. Such a tower has been operating near medical for the past 5 days. That tower is the property of the Free Network Foundation. It is needed for demonstrations. So I built that one, and I’d like to build one for all of you to have Internet.

32.1.2.1. The floor is open to questions and concerns.

32.1.2.1.1. Q: cost?

Response: the cost of the materials is $1500. I will donate my time.

32.1.2.1.2. Q: my question is about power outlet availability in relation to construction of an Internet tower. Will people have access to electricity as well?

Response: I have been running a Honda 1000 as much as possible for the past 5 days. It is currently providing power to medical, comfort, and nicotine. The plan is to continue providing the same service. We may have to move the cell phone charging station so that it does not block the egress to and from medical. The second function is that of a VPN Uplink. VPN stands for virtual private network. My collaborators at the Free Network Foundation have been working for the past several weeks to build a national site-to-site VPN to connect Occupations nationwide and globally via secure and encrypted channels.

F: Stack is closed. There are two more.

32.1.2.1.3. Q: First – will the Internet provided through the tower really be enough bandwidth for all of us? Second – who will own the infrastructure in the terrible event that this occupation finishes?

Response: At present, the tower gets its upstream bandwidth via multiple wimax connections. These provide an aggregate of 30 mega bits down and 10 mega bits up. This should be enough as long as people don’t stream tons of high def video.

PoP: We’re typing here. We can’t hear because of the construction. Particularly over there. Shout louder.

Response (continued): To the second question: as to the ownership of the tower, it would belong to the GA.

32.1.2.1.4. Q: question about security – we have a problem with surveillance. Will this tower increase our vulnerability to surveillance?

Response: To the question of security: the plan is to run the network as an open network. Open networks are by design vulnerable to surveillance. There are counter-measures. If you are concerned about your privacy, and you should be, you must use https and ssl. If you have questions, about how to do so, we will be happy to help you over by the freedom tower.

F: can I please open friendly amendments to the proposal on the freedom tower. Can I get a temp check? Are there any blocks? Consensus. The network ID is “The Free Network”

F: Now we’re moving on to Working Group Reports. If we have any reports make yourself known to the public.

32.2. Working Group Report Backs

32.2.1. Comfort: my name is Sparrow and this is Sarah. And we are part of the comfort community. As you know, winter is coming. And the situation in this park has become a humanitarian crisis. Comfort has been working very hard with the community … we would like to invite the community to the comfort meeting on Thursday at 7pm. Comfort is located in front of medical, near kitchen, in the corner.

32.2.2. Direct Action: Hi I’m Alex. Today we proposed and passed a new structure for Direct Action. To make our group a more horizontal hub for affinity groups. Our new structure goes like this: working group coordination – report back – roles – share experiences with direct action – what we hope to get out of direct action. Then we break out into groups and discuss our plans based on mutual interest and action. Then we have a check in with the entire group, announcements, and brainstorming. Everyday Direct Action meets at 2pm under the red structure and moves offsite. Before coming to Direct Action, we encourage you to attend a training that happens everyday at 1, which is a direct action training. And at 4pm, which is a nonviolent direct action training so you can more productively participate when you come.

32.2.3. Arts & Culture: The EG Arts & Culture has its open meeting every Tuesday – Sunday 6pm @ 60 Wall Street in the atrium. There is now an arts & culture kiosk on the north side of this park. The Occupational meetings are at 60 Wall Street on Mondays at 6pm. There is an open call for musicians to perform on Friday between 8 and 10pm. A & C is looking for rehearsal and exhibition spaces. Contact: michael.walery@gmail.com

32.2.4. Sustainability: I’m Allison. I’m Lauren. We have a sustainability table right next to sanitation. If you visit we have a new, exciting thing: We have our first bicycle generator. So please come visit us and check it out. And if you’re a working group, please come to us and we’ll do an energy assessment. We also need help with recycling. We’re working on a better system now, and we need volunteers. If you want to volunteer to help us recycle, please come to our table or email owssustainability@gmail.com

32.2.5. Radio: I am Danny. A group of us have been working with media to get a radio station going here. A lot more details will follow in the days to come. And we will be putting out an open call for all … this is just something to keep in mind if you make radio. For now, if you’re interested, you can email us at owsradio@gmail.com. One more thing: it’s going to be called People’s Mic Radio.

32.2.6. Mediation: We think it’s very important that our movement develops nonviolent and transformative ways to deal with conflict. Therefore our WG offers three things: we have an empathy table that is right behind the kitchen where you can come and just be listened to; second, we offer trainings in nonviolent communication and in mediation everyday from 12-2. We strongly recommend that we all come and learn about these things to improve our skills. Third, we offer professional mediation if you have a conflict in your WG, or between WGs. Just come and see us. We also mediate, for example, between the drummers, the neighbors, and the GA. If you’d like to get in touch with us, come to the empathy table behind the kitchen or to one of our meetings: Wednesday 6pm, Sunday 3:30. We need people who want to contribute.

32.3. Announcements

32.3.1. Hello everyone. Comfort needs someone who is in the carpentry union. Also, it is going to rain tomorrow. If you do not have a tarp, you need to get it now

32.3.2. My name is Mo. There are people on this square who have taken it upon themselves to police the square. Last night, I had a fairly bad experience with one of them. I feel that I was bullied and violated within the square. I feel these issues need to be addressed. I feel less safe in the space. I don’t want to live in a police state.

PoP: this is for announcements. Please state clearly at the … This is not about “I feel” and “you feel” … my life last night/my security on this square… I don’t feel safe living in a police state within a police state.

32.3.3. Sarah – I’m from the sex workers outreach project. I want to tell you about a screening Monday 10/24, 7pm @ Blue Stockings. The subject is resisting police brutality and criminalization. Short films about sex workers’ rights.

32.3.4. Daniel: Earlier today I formed a WG. It’s currently just myself, and I’d like to invite all of you. It is meant to review and possibly revise, or propose revisions, of the process that we use to ensure that it is and remains to be as consensual as possible. If you want to meet with me, I will be right over here after GA for a couple of minutes so we can choose a time to meet. If you can’t meet then, you can have my email:

32.3.5. Martha: I’m from Grandmas for Peace. We are having a demonstration this Saturday at 12 noon at the central library, grand army plaza, opposing the longest war the United States has ever been in, and demanding the repatriation of our tax dollars for schools, libraries, senior centers, etc. We would welcome your participation.

F: Please move forward… so we can hear each other better.

32.3.6. Moveon.org sent an email that really made me angry. Those of you who don’t receive their emails, I’ll sum it up. They are trying to raise money for their independent campaigns using Occupy Wall St. I would like to get a temperature check on issuing a denunciation of this practice through the Working Group – the declarations committee. Temp check/ point of process – are you proposing to bring such a proposal to the GA? A: no. This is a temp check to see how people feel before I waste my time writing such a thing and going through the process. This is not a proposal. It’s just a gauge to see how people are feeling.

32.3.7. Craig – the police in Atlanta murdered a young black man unrelated to Occupy Atlanta. Occupy Atlanta protested this act and they are threatened to be shut down on November 7th. They need support. They need numbers. They are on our side. 2: I have started a queer caucus WG. Our first meeting is tomorrow @ 9pm @ red cube. I have colorful fliers with more information. If you’re interested, come talk to me

32.3.8. Occupy San Francisco also needs your solidarity. On October 15th OSF expanded its base from the sidewalk in front of the Federal Reserve to Justin Herman Plaza, 2 blocks away. Since Saturday’s move, there was a police raid resulting in arrests and hospitalizations. There have also been a heightened police presence and continued threats of another raid. OSF needs your solidarity to continue growing this peaceful protest movement. So please encourage anyone who can to join OSF’s camp so they will remain strong.

32.3.9. My name is Rick. I’m a nurse. I work medicine. I am also a mountain climber. This winter, is this revolution’s valley forge. We must persevere this winter. The mountain climbing community would like to help and will provide assistance with dress and equipment and how to survive in the cold. We will work with Medical and with Comfort care over the next several weeks to provide professional groups that will teach you all how to dress in the cold. No matter how cold or wet or windy it gets. We’ll be here in the Spring. AND then, it’ll grow even bigger. We’re unstoppable.

32.3.10. Sage: if anyone has any stomach-specific needs – like gluten free. Come see me. I take people to breakfast. You can live here even with a sensitive immune system. I work autonomously from the kitchen. But at least I don’t get sick.

32.3.11. There is one man on Wall Street our presence really scares. To salvage justice for all, there is one man we can still send to jail for what happened during the financial bailouts. My group I am starting is called the Lloyd Blankenfein group. I will answer it. Who is is Lloyd Blanenfein. We should all know who he is. He is the CEO of Goldman Sachs. Announcement: I propose to build a dummy with a suit I brought as a symbol that our government understands that we are knowledgeable in who should be held accountable. He lied under oath. That is illegal. Let’s send him to jail.

32.3.12. Occupy Democracy – West Harlem chapter. Thursday at 6pm. If you want to go, and live up there, or know someone who does, please invite them. I have fliers at the OWS en espanol table.

32.3.13. Women’s sleeping space in front of the bright food vendor. So bright, nothing sketchy can happen. Also, there have been unconfirmed reports of arrest at a house …

32.3.14. White hat – I run the projector. After GA and after the soap box we’ll keep the projector running for comments and announcements that anyone wants to make. Just come up to the projector as long as you see it on. It’s called People’s vibes. (?)

32.3.15. Connie: In solidarity… unemployment insurance… anybody can wind up like us. There are 7 million 99ers in America. We don’t want any of the 99% to wind up like us. Therefore, for everyone who is jobless, I am starting a working group to help find solutions to the rampant unemployment in this country. If anybody wants to come to the group, we’ll meet on Friday at 4pm under the big red X. If anybody has questions, I’m here all night.

32.3.16. TW100 – John Ferreti – our union has pledged it support to OWS. As a rank and file member of local 100, I demand that support means hundreds of thousands of bodies. This is a worker’s fight. The central labor council will meet, and we will lethally outsized. Rank and file workers and occupiers demanding a mass demonstration on Saturday November 5th. The demands are that working people shouldn’t pay for a crisis they didn’t make. No to layoffs, budget cuts, and service cuts. Create jobs and infrastructure with a federal program of public works. Stop police harassment of the OWS. 5:30 – 6:30 @ 216 w. 14th street between 8th & 7th. There are fliers at the labor union table.

32.3.17. Hello brothers and sisters. I’m Train and I’m Paul. New WG focused on streamlining our concerns to create concise objectives so we can strike more efficiently, beginning with removing corporate money from politics. Our group will meet tomorrow at 10am under the red thing. We have fliers if you are interested. Our email

is: objectices4ows@gmail.com. We have more fliers behind the kitchen at the free empathy

and millions against Monsanto tables.

32.3.18. Mediation has been talking to businesses asking if they have any concerns.

McDonald’s has expressed a concern about people loitering in the rain. It’s been affecting

their ability to do business. Prepare for the rain.

32.3.19. On Thursday, when we were going to be shut down, the Lost & Found that was kept

at Info was moved to Coat Check and then Info went to Coat Check to retrieve it. Nobody

knows where that went. Anybody from Info, please come see me, or if you were involved at

any time in that process, come and see me.

**NYCGA Minutes 10/19/2011**

Posted October 19th, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 33

Meeting Date/Time: 10/19/2011 / 7pm EST

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators (F): Luke, Catherine, Casey, Sully

Process Review/Opening Comments: Facilitators are not leaders, they are only here to help facilitate the process of the meeting. They are always looking for new facilitators, and especially encourage anyone from an underrepresented minority to join them. Review of hand signals and definitions. Establishing additional generations of People’s Mic if needed. We take progressive stack. This means that speakers who do not usually get the chance to be heard. If anyone can interpret in sign language, please come up.

Agenda Items: We just spent 10 minutes on intro to the process. We have three agenda items. A proposal from Outreach, Discussion item from Visions & Goals, Statement to be ratified by the We Will Not Be Co-Opted working group., and Proposal from Sanitation.

AGENDA

33.1. Agenda Items

33.2. Working Group Report Backs

33.3. Announcements

33.1. Agenda Items

33.1.1. Outreach Working Group Proposal for Budget

33.1.1.1. We are proposing a $3,000–$4,000 a week budget as standing budget for the printing needs of OWS. Big Apple Printers is offering us printing at 4 cents a copy. Based on our printing needs, we anticipate a printing load of 8,000–10,000 copies a week. We are also in conversations with friendly unions who have volunteered free printing for large print jobs. We’ll get it done free when possible. 33.1.1.2. Clarifying Questions (CQ’s) 33.1.1.2.1. How many copies a week did you say? 8,000 to 10,000 copies of what?

Response: These copies are fliers and forms, generally, whatever working groups have to print each week.

33.1.1.2.2. Will the services of Big Apple Printing be available to individual members of this collective for personal printing needs? Response: No, this is solely for working groups that have printing needs, so we can make room in their budgets. If you have a personal printing need that you think is relevant to the group, we suggest you form a working group. 33.1.1.2.3. Will this cut into the food, comfort, or sanitation budgets? Response: We have spoken to Finance. They asked us to proceed to the GA to approve the budget. It’s my understanding the other groups have already done their budgets, so they’re good. 33.1.1.2.4. How did you come up with the current number of copies made? And do you see that growing? Response: The current estimate of copies was based on Outreach’s copy production, which has already collaborated with a lot of groups. It’s also based on Info’s copies, copies given to us from other groups. It is an estimate. Hopefully it’s accurate. It seems to be. Contingency: We can propose a budget amendment through this process, as needed. 33.1.1.2.6 C: This is a mix of a concern and a question. If there are proposed 8,000–10,000 at a rate of 4 cents per copy, wouldn’t that equal a budget of $400? Response: I’m not sure. I didn’t personally crunch these numbers. I believe the figure is accurate. I apologize for my math. F: That’s a very good point. I might suggest you bring this back to your group for discussion.

Response: Outreach is spending $4,000 week for their copies. If you add everyone together, it will be more. Maybe the numbers are off, but it is based on our recent levels of printing. We already went through Finance with this budget. They crunched the numbers themselves. I’m confident on the dollar figure, but the number of copies is apparently inaccurate. This is urgently needed and they are offering a good deal, and it’s better than each working group going to Staples when we could be giving business to an independent copier. F: Financial lack of clarity in the proposal. We suggest you return to Finance Working Group.

33.1.1.3. Tabled 33.1.1.4. We hadn’t factored in the numbers of copies of the other working groups. This proposal of $3,000–$4,000 serves as a ceiling for all the groups’ printing. We are linking the account to the 501(c)(3) so no transactions are going through this working group. All print jobs will be paid as they are made, and anything left over in the budget remains in the general budget. 33.1.1.5. Concerns

33.1.1.5.1. Is there an itemized list of expenses available? Response: Yes! We’ll be publishing it online but the itemized list right now has one thing that says “printing.” No other costs. 33.1.1.5.2. How do you determine which working groups get how many copies? Response: It’s determined by working groups submitting prints, telling us how many to make, and we make them! It’s up to you. There’s a workflow process in coordination with of all these groups, where you can submit your ideas, get design help if you need it, and we send the project to print. 33.1.1.5.3. Is there a limit for each working group? Or just an overall limit? Response: Right now there are no limits; the overall limit is simply the budget ceiling of

$4,000. Given the numbers that were crunched, I hope we don’t get to that ceiling. I don’t think it will happen. F: I asked for concerns, so if you are concerned about this proposal, reasons we shouldn’t adopt this, this is the time for concerns. 33.1.1.5.4. Is that independent printer a union shop? And is that an issue? Response: I believe it is. I don’t have the information on me. If we want to revisit that, we can. We are always looking for the best shop possible. We shopped around a lot. If we find a better one, we’ll go to that one. Right now we just have a lot of printing to do. F: Stack is closed. F: We can’t close stack for concerns. Concerns must be addressed, but ONLY concerns. 33.1.1.5.5. My concern is that having a printer for all the working groups to use and creating a budget for printing are two separate things. What this does, as far as I can tell, is increase the budgets available to working groups who do a lot of printing, where working groups that don’t print won’t benefit. F: That concern is noted. Any more concerns? 33.1.1.5.6. I’m concerned it would fly against the ideals of our movement to be doing our printing in a shop that doesn’t pay a living wage. F: As facilitator, let me ask a question. Where do we do our printing now?

Response: Right now, I believe that where you do your printing is up to each working group—sometimes Staples, Big Apple, or elsewhere. For Information, we’ve used Big Apple before, sometimes we’ve had to use Staples. If we could at least not support Staples! And I believe the shop is union. I’m sorry I don’t know. I’ll get more information. F: Concerns? 33.1.1.5.7. Hi I’m Adara. I’m concerned with where the money is going to continue to come from. F: Noted. Okay, so we have two concerns, possibly three. Can we address them? a) The wages of the print shop people. (33.1.1.5.5.) b) The amount of money that will be continually available. (33.1.1.5.6.) c) Providing a budget allows a greater budget for specific working groups over others. (33.1.1.5.7.) As I understand it, you believe printing costs should come out of individual working group budgets.

Can anyone speak to that concern? Response: My understanding is that this is to disburden those working groups that are throwing a lot of their money into printing when they could be doing other useful things. So this proposal would actually be more fair to all the groups. I’m not part of this proposal, but it seems fair to me. F: Can anyone else offer resolutions? Response: It also seems that with this proposal, we will be getting a discounted rate on ALL printing. For those working groups who do not use printing, they might at some other time or currently have some budget needs for something else that other groups would not need and in that case they could bring their proposal to the GA. F: Does anyone still hold this concern? Let’s move on to next concern. 33.1.1.5.8. It would behoove us to do a little local research on where we can find a quick-fix print shop here that’s owned by a family business and talk to our newfound allies about where they do their large-scale printing. Response: AMENDMENT to the proposal! We will only use a union print shop. If this one is nonunion, we won’t use it. That may change the finances of this proposal. I would suggest we

go with this, and work toward that, because right now we’re using Staples. 33.1.1.5.9. I’m concerned with where the money will continue to come from. Does anyone have any answers? F: Is there someone from Finance here? Response: I’m not from Finance, but I do know that we have received over $300,000 in donations. I’d encourage us to continue looking at the rate we’re spending money, but at the moment it doesn’t seem to be a pressing concern. 33.1.1.5.10. I want to understand, do all print jobs under this proposal go through this shop? Response: All print jobs may not necessarily go through this shop. If we get union or other printing for free or can coordinate with The Occupied Wall Street Journal, we’ll try to save as much money as we can. The ceiling is just a weekly limit. We won’t be taking money out, it’s only per print job. 33.1.1.5.11. I want to know about really timely, emergency print jobs: Can we get it done anywhere? Response: This printing agreement is nonbinding. It’s a tool we are offering to the community. If you want to print somewhere else, good. 33.1.1.6. CONSENSUS TEST: Achieved!

33.1.2. Visions and Goals Discussion

33.1.2.1 Visions & Goals representative: Hello to the people of Occupy Wall Street! We’re here to introduce and invite you to an ongoing project of the Visions & Goals working group. We see Occupy Wall Street as much greater than a protest. It is a movement that has awakened the entire nation and now gives us a unique opportunity to revise our relationship to the world in which we live. We come from all walks of life and from our own campaigns and political struggles. There is an ongoing discussion and much public inquiry about the presentation of demands for Occupy Wall Street. We would like to clarify that we see Visions & Goals as a different focus from demands and tactics, though the two are interrelated. The purpose of the Visions & Goals project is to create a long-term, comprehensive vision of what we would like our future to look like and how we can shape that future. We are here right now to invite you all to work with us in this process. In order to be a true reflection of the movement, we want our process to involve everyone’s input. We have a draft of a document that has been worked on for almost a month, contributed to by over 200 people. We would like to open the process even further, so that everyone can participate. We welcome all to the Visions & Goals dialogue, which will take place every day at noon, gathering at the Red Cube. Please check with the Info desk if the group has moved. There are other ways to get involved. Other groups are working on ways to collect ideas, both at Liberty Park and on the Internet. We welcome any suggestions on how to improve this collaborative process and make it accessible to as many people as possible. We’d like to gather input from all the other working groups, especially the input of people marginalized by race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or socioeconomic level. Please join us tomorrow at noon at the Red Cube for further dialogue. With your involvement, our group can be empowered to reach for collective goals. 33.1.2.2. Clarifying Questions

33.1.2.2.1. Hi, I may be wrong about this, but I feel the occupiers, i.e., the people who sleep here and hold down the park every night, might not have their voices heard because they’re too tired cleaning and holding down the park in general. Would it be possible to have someone from your group go around to the occupiers and ask them in person one by one instead of having them come to your group? I don’t want this to seem like favoritism, it’s just

a reality of living in the park. How does everyone feel? Response: We are definitely planning on doing that. There’s also a Think Tank that’s working on this. Comment: I’m Lou, I’m working with Think Tank to do a real survey to see what people think about this effort. Thank you. 33.1.2.2.2. Hi, I’m Liza. Question: Are you working with the technology groups so they make sure that in building the websites and the wikis, your project and this survey are served so people who are not here can contribute? Response: That is one of our major goals, and was part of the process for creating the document that we have at this point. Our group was born out of the Open Source group, so we are excited to work with them on this process. 33.1.2.2.3. Hi, I’m Liza. Question: Are you working with the technology groups so they make sure that in building the websites and the wikis, your project and this survey are served so people who are not here can contribute? Response: That is one of our major goals, and was part of the process for creating the document that we have at this point. Our group was born out of the Open Source group, so we are excited to work with them on this process. 33.1.2.2.4. I’m wondering if there’s a large objection to changing the timing of the daily meeting to after business hours so people like me who have a fucking day job can contribute to the process as equally as those so dedicated to the revolution that you don’t have a day job. Response: There’s no objection. We decided we’d have the meetings at noon for the first week and then work with people to develop a schedule to get alternate times on different days. The noon time is just a beginning. 33.1.2.2.5. Hi, last night I found out that we have a Demands group. I’ve been meaning to say this, that I think the word “demands” is for terrorist groups. We should be working on solutions, as in the Open Source group, Visions & Goals, and in this group. I’d love to propose that we stop making demands. It has failed us the last 100 years. Point of Information (PoI): Very early on, this General Assembly agreed that we would make no demands. So before demands are made, that agreement would have to be examined.

33.1.3. We Will Not Be Co-opted Working Group Proposal

33.1.3.1. This is the statement we are asking you to consent upon: “The Democratic and Republican parties do not represent the people because they’ve been bought and corrupted by Wall Street, and the occupation does not support their candidates. In collusion with both parties, the top 1% has profited at the expense of everyone else. We have moved beyond false hopes and submission to eloquent speeches and populist manipulation. We rely on cooperation and solidarity to imagine and create the changes needed for a sustainable world. From diverse multicultural, racial, ethnic, gender, and sexual backgrounds, and from different walks of life, we have begun to unite on common ground to oust the global financial powers that have bought our government and who hold us hostage to their greed.” We Will Not Be Co-Opted representative: The mainstream corporate media is trying to dismiss this movement. They are constructing a narrative that we are the puppets of the Democratic Party. The Tea Party was co-opted by the Republican Party; we will not be co-opted by the Democratic Party. The statement we’ve written hopes to ensure that the Democratic Party or the Republican Party cannot use our movement to drive votes and money to the 2012 campaigns on behalf of the same people who are already committing crimes against us. F: Temperature check! Negatives? Yes. 33.1.3.2. Clarifying Questions

33.1.3.2.1. My question is about voting. Does this mean we are encouraged to not vote? Because if we are, I have a problem with that. Response: We are in no way discouraging people from voting and we didn’t enter that into the statement. 33.1.3.2.2. What is this statement going to be used for? Who do you plan to give it to and are you going to claim it represents consensus by the GA? Response: The point of this item is for the GA of people occupying Wall Street to come to a consensus about whether this statement represents us. If we have consensus on this statement, then it becomes a representation of the beliefs of this GA. I think. The question of to whom this statement will be given is everyone—the media, the Internet, my grandma, and President Obama. 33.1.3.2.3. Does only mentioning the Democratic and Republican parties mean that this General Assembly might support other parties? Response: Currently there are two dominant political parties that are on the payroll of Wall Street. They want to dismiss us and we won’t let that happen. That’s why we’re focusing on them. There are more involved questions that can be dealt with at a later date. 33.1.3.2.4. In what way is your statement materially different from the Principles of Solidarity and the Declaration of the Occupation of New York City? It seems to me that your statement is quite similar aside from being addressed to those two parties. Response: What we propose, from the input from many people involved in those principles, is that this is in solidarity with those, with the exception of pointing out that we will not be co-opted from the two Wall Street political parties. I hope that answers your question. 33.1.3.3. Concerns

33.1.3.3.1. To be clear, we are in a very good position. Never in my life has a political party been trying to co-opt my agenda! We’re doing very well. We’re reframing the discussion, like certain groups on the other side have been doing for 40 years. If we want 99% to be with us, that includes a lot of people who, for their own reasons, have determined it’s important to engage the political parties that exist. This includes a lot of effective communities. I don’t think now is the time to put up barriers to potential allies. I think now’s the time to kick Wall Street’s ass, to do it a lot, and to co-opt them. Because right now we ARE co-opting them. But I don’t think we should officially endorse any party. 33.1.3.3.2 My concern is we only have one government, one system, so if we reject parties, we cannot participate. 33.1.3.3.3. I love this statement; however, I am concerned about the language, which seems kind of negative and aggressive, and so I feel that this statement would benefit from further workshopping with more people. 33.1.3.3.4. My understanding is that movements can be co-opted or lost in three ways. The first is to die out. That’s not gonna happen. The second is for a party to take over a movement. The third is what happened in May 1968, when the entire system recoiled and found ways to invigorate itself. My concern is this does not address May 1968 and what happened to that movement. 33.1.3.3.5. My concern is that we have left out language regarding voting and therefore some people may see this as a call to prevent people from voting, to ask people not to vote. And that could backfire rather badly. F: It seems as if many people have major reservations with this statement. Temperature check? \*mostly negative or on the fence\* In light of that it seems appropriate to table the statement for the moment. I would ask that this working group workshop this statement further and bring it back to the GA at later date. There will be an announcement in the announcement section about how you can participate in this process.

33.1.3.4. NO CONSENSUS. PROPOSAL TABLED. 33.1.4. Sanitation Proposal

33.1.4.1. Sanitation representative: This proposal is to allocate $5,000 to storage bins so they won’t decide tomorrow to kick us out of the park. It includes 500 bins at $10 dollars a bin. 33.1.4.2. Clarifying Questions

33.1.4.2.1. What is the purpose of the bins? Response: The purpose is so that people can put personal belongings in a dry space so that we save money on laundry and don’t have wet sleeping bags and stuff all over the park. 33.1.4.2.2. What happened to all the bins we purchased not that long ago? Response: They were so successful they are being used everywhere. We need more. 33.1.4.2.3. What does keeping things dry have to do with Sanitation? Response: If things get wet and start rotting, Sanitation has to clean them up. 33.1.4.2.4. Has the Community Board made a specific complaint about wet things and debris? Response: They have three complaints: hygiene, maintenance, and noise violations. So yes. 33.1.4.2.5. Have you thought about using construction bags, the heaviest duty garbage bag there is? Response: The issue with this is you can’t stack things in bags because they don’t stay in a pile. 33.1.4.2.6. My concern is a point of process that I had earlier about how emergency agenda items get onto the agenda. F: I understand. I’m drafting a proposal about emergency items, since there is no process for emergency proposals at this time. 33.1.4.2.7. I’m concerned with the characterization—that this anti-consumerist movement has been presented, in stark terms, the need to purchase $5,000 worth of plastic bins or face eviction. F: Noted. 33.1.4.2.8. I’m concerned that it will be another crisis next week, someone else could try to kick us out, and that purchasing these bins will not actually affect the decision of the Community Board. F: Noted. It seems that people are less concerned about the substance of this proposal and more concerned about the timing. F: Temperature check on that statement? Noncommittal. Response: I just think that the Community Board issue is just part of this and what the gentleman earlier mentioned about the people living here being uncomfortable is a very real reason to get these bins. It has nothing to do with the Community Board. 33.1.4.2.9. I have a concern that regardless of the bins, people are cold and this could derail our movement. We should buy rain gear. F: This is not the time for that concern. 33.1.4.3. TEST FOR CONSENSUS. Consensus Achieved

33.2. Working Group Report Backs

33.2.1. Art & Culture: The NYC Halloween Parade has asked us to become part of the parade! We need donations for puppets, and we’re planning a marching band. You can contact us at powertothepuppets@gmail.com. Let us know how you can help. 33.2.2. Direct Action: Today Direct Action had a second meeting of a new working subgroup that functions as a vessel through which different groups can network to plan direct action.

33.2.3. Labor: Labor has endorsed three actions for this week. Tomorrow at 1:30 pm there is a rally at Sotheby’s for locked-out Teamsters. It’s at York Ave. and 72nd St. Or you can get here at 1 pm and there will be a bus. Also tomorrow at 2 pm here at Liberty Plaza, there will be representatives from Walmart who will be doing a teach-in. They are coming from other parts of the country. After, there will be an action outside Walmart’s office. Friday at 4:30, Verizon workers will be having strike rally. We’ll meet at 140 West St. and march up Broadway and rally at Verizon Wireless. 33.2.4. Medical: As you know, we’ve gotten a lot of union support. One of our nurses’ unions is circulating nationally a petition that they will give to the mayor to allow us to use tents and the appropriate things inside them to stay dry, warm, and be here all winter! Also, the NYPD is barely tolerating the medical tent. With other people setting up tents, we are pushing a little too hard on their good graces. They could come in and tear down all the tents at any time. Please consider that, if you have a tent up or are planning to put a tent up, that you may be putting our clinic in a little bit of jeopardy. 33.2.5. Divine Feminine: Tomorrow there will be a meeting of the Divine Feminine discussion group for female-bodied and female-identified individuals. There’s like 600 copies of the schedule at Info if you’re interested. It’s either at 1 pm or 4 pm, or maybe not. It’s at the Red Cube. Hope to see you there. 33.2.6. Facilitation: We met today and realized that we need more people in Facilitation. We meet every day at 4. Come join us! 33.2.7. Finance: We’ve been working to get funds out easier. We need rain gear and sleeping bags. Temperature check on emergency spending powers? If there’s an emergency, can a group of two or three people go out and spend without having to ask at GA or spokes council? Point of process (PoP): None of this would be binding.

33.3. Announcements

33.3.1. Direct Action and Healthcare are holding a march on October 26 starting at the park to fight insurance companies. 33.3.2. Tomorrow at 6 pm the local Community Council is meeting to discuss their desire to take away the rights of the drummers of Occupy Wall Street. This is problematic because the majority should never take away the rights of minority in a pure democracy. People in the Facilitation group have not been being neutral on this issue. They’ve been promoting anti-drumming sentiment. Drumming is a sign of protest, and for us to allow the 1% to influence the Community Council to do away with drumming is an oxymoron to what is going on. Since this is an emergency and is happening tomorrow, I ask as many people as possible to come to the Community Council tomorrow. We’ll meet here at 5 and go there together.

I would like to express a very important opinion of historical fact about drumming, Wall Street, and Occupy Wall Street’s connection to it. The very wall that we’re screaming about was built by slaves, and indentured servants and slaves were sold were the Exchange stands now. So we all need to meet at the Community Council and express that the drums are important and represent oppressed people. 33.3.3. I’m from the Community Relations working group. We have been formulating our strategy for a Community Board meeting that’s happening tomorrow night. I’ve been empowered by the working group to represent us at the meeting. Our plan is to communicate to the Community Board, not negotiate with the Community Board, but to bring their concerns to my working group and to the GA. Our basic plan: If they put forth a proposal that threatens our ability to stay here, we will vigorously defend the actions that we have taken to address their legitimate concerns. However, if they put forth a proposal that simply

encourages us to abide by certain rules, that we are already working on, that we are making progress on, then our plan is to say thank you, we hear you, we’re going to do our best, and take this back to GA. That sound okay? \*positive feedback\* Objection: You’re not a drummer Response: I will not be representing the drummers, I will be representing the Community Relations working group, and that is all, which has been empowered to have a dialogue with the Community Board and local residents in order to be better neighbors. We don’t negotiate, we don’t make promises, we serve as a conduit of communication and advocates for being better neighbors. We invite everyone to attend our working group. The next meeting is Friday at 6 pm, 60 Wall Street atrium. The Community Board meeting is at 250 Broadway. We should meet right before 6 pm. It’s open to community residents. Someone in crowd: We live here! F: Point of clarification: The Community Relations working group was created and given empowerment to represent Occupy Wall Street with the community residents and local businesses. And so, they’ll be representing what has been agreed upon by the GA. Drummer: I think it’s problematic that the majority is representing the minority. You should bring drummers with you. Response: There are drummers on the Community Relations working group. F: One more announcement. … Two more. 33.3.4. Tomorrow at 5 pm, Direct Action is leading our march to a public hearing that deals with the frack pipeline that being built in the West Village right now without the consent of New Yorkers. This is the last hearing before the issue is closed. Be here at 5 pm. We’re marching to the West Village for a hearing at a school on 11th Street. Meet right here at the tripod. 33.3.5. I’m from the Trade Justice working group. On Friday, President Obama will sign trade agreements with Panama, Colombia, and South Korea to outsource jobs to sweatshops. If you want to get involved, call the White House comment line tomorrow: (202) 456-1111 Tell Obama to veto these trade agreements. F: GA adjourned at 9:20.

F: The People’s Soapbox will be open after the General Assembly. This is a chance for anybody to speak their opinions, political views, or anything else they would like to share. Announcements are for factual information only.

**NYCGA Minutes 10/20/2011**

Posted October 20th, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 34

Meeting Date/Time: 10/20/2011 / 7pm EST

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators (F): Sonni, Dori, Leah, Steve

Process Review/Opening Comments: Facilitators are not leaders, they are only here to help facilitate the process of the meeting. They are always looking for new facilitators, and especially encourage anyone from an underrepresented minority to join them. Review of hand signals and definitions. Establishing additional generations of People’s Mic if needed. We take progressive stack. This means that speakers who do not usually get the chance to be heard. If anyone can interpret in sign language, please come up.

AGENDA

34.1. Agenda Items (Proposal from Stop Stop and Frisk Working Group, Proposal from Legal Working Group, Proposal from Structure Working Group, Proposal from Pulse) 34.2. Working Group Report Backs

34.3. Announcements

34.1. Agenda Items

34.1.1. Proposal from ‘Stop, Stop and Frisk’ Working Group

34.1.1.1. Hello, I’m Alex, with the working group, stop “stop and frisk”. We have a proposal to endorse an action tomorrow. Before we read the endorsement I’m going to tell you what the action is and why it’s taking place. Before I’m done speaking, two people in NYC will be stopped by the police before GA is over, 75 will be stopped. This year, 700,000 people will be stopped. 85% Black and Latino, most of them doing nothing. This hangs over and defines an entire generation that at any moment, you could be forced to empty your pockets, get down on your knees or be degraded. This is an injustice and an outrage. We’re here at Wall street to stand against such outrage. We cannot call ourselves the 99% if we do not support this action tomorrow. Tomorrow at 1pm in Harlem, Cornell West, Carl Vicks, Reverend Stephen Felps, many others, will engage in non-violent civil disobedience to put a stop to this. Many others will wear black and be there to bear witness and support. This is from the Stop “stop and frisk” working group, and we’re proposing that this movement get behind this. Very briefly John is going to say one thing about this.

John: Hi, my name is John and I’m from NY. I’m also a US Navy veteran. And I also want to share something with you. I have had my own personal experience with stop and frisk. To make a long story short, my friend and I were driving to a restaurant one night and were stopped by undercover detectives, they forced us out of the car, hand-cuffed us, had us sit on the sidewalk while they searched the vehicle and searched our persons. The made us get to the front of the car, after they had found nothing and then asked us to dance for them. The dance called the Chicken noodle soup. This needs to stop now. There’s one more thing, this is very embarrassing and humiliating, It should not happen to any American. That’s all I want to say and have a good night

We propose four things: One. This pledge be taken by us by posting it at the top of our website and online. This Friday we will join Cornell West, Karl Dicks and others, to go from up against the wall to up in their faces. With stop and frisk. We are answering the call to engage in non-violent civil disobedience. Targeted at this illegitimate, unconstitutional , racist policy. Or to support those actions, and bear witness in Harlem. We are stopping all this. And we need your help in doing that. Two: We wield our social media to make this known to the world. Three: A press release go out and a press conference be held at 10:30 tomorrow morning right here. Where we express our support. Four: And one hour of tomorrow’s drumming with the help of the drum team if they so desire, take place from 10:30 to 11:30 over here, to rally us to go up to Harlem. That’s our proposal.

34.1.1.2. Clarifying Questions

34.1.1.2.1. Where in Harlem? Response: The state office building. 163 West 125 34.1.1.2.2. Are we discussing all four points at the same time? Response: Yes. 34.1.1.2.3. I have a question about the exact type of civil disobedience that we will be participating in. Response: If you want to participate, in the civil disobedience component, you can talk to him: Kamil. You don’t have to be part of that, you can just go and support. 34.1.1.2.4. Can you tell us, so well be informed, so we can decide how to support what kind of civil disobedience is planned. Response: No everybody, the civil disobedience that is planned is non-violent. It may look like a number of people linking arms to virtually shut down a police station. To send a message about stop and frisk. 34.1.1.2.5. I have a concern, about moving the time, and the location, of the drummers tomorrow morning. I know that the community relations team have been in conversation with the drummers and I don’t want that negotiation to be placed in jeopardy so we can follow this proposal. Response: I understand, we can change that proposal item, to a suggestion and talk further with the drummers. 34.1.1.2.6. What are the chances that people will get arrested in front of the police station? Response: If you participate in this civil disobedience, it is likely. If you are there to bear witness, we are working to ensure the police respect that difference 34.1.1.2.7. For people who decide to do the civil disobedience, do they need to be there at an earlier time for any kind of training? Response: If you have, these kinds of concerns, about HOW we’re going to do this, our working group will have a meeting after GA meet as right here at the sculpture. F: Temperature Check: Good

34.1.1.3: CONSENSUS: ACHIEVED 34.1.2. Legal Proposal

34.1.2.1 WE do things like getting you out of jail, and applying for permits. So we have a proposal for the GA concerning permits. The Activist legal team, is asking for a consensus of the GA that no person or working group, apply for permits or injunctions or file lawsuits on behalf of Occupy Wall Street through the city without consulting the legal team first. This is first and foremost. To encourage and give legal resources to autonomous actions. This is also to negate redundancy. And to coordinate efforts. It is also to discourage individuals or working groups from filing legal actions on behalf of occupy wall street without consensus through the GA. Going through the legal team, ensures that our team of lawyers, can act in our best interests. They will not prohibit our autonomous political decisions, but it is important, that our lawyers are made aware of legal proceedings. Above all, this will empower us.

34.1.2.2. Clarifying Questions

34.1.2.2.1. My question for the legal team, please clarify what exactly is the proposal because it seems confused. Response: Sure, simply, we want anyone who is going to file for a permit which will affect this group, to go through the legal team, before you proceed. What we’re asking for, is that if you want to take legal action, the ramifications fo which, might affect this assembly, or this occupation, don’t do it, without first consulting the legal team because there might be, political ramifications you haven’t thought of. 34.1.2.2.2. Your previous statements about not taking autonomous action, without first consulting the legal team, without considering how this action will affect our community, does that include restraining orders, used to manipulate work group actions? AKA: I don’t like what you’re doing, please go away, or I’ll take a restraining order out on you. These are really great for community Response: There is a difference between taking legal action about your own personal situation, and taking action on behalf of the occupation, even if you’re not using the name of the occupation. For example, if you decide to take it upon yourself to apply for a permit to put up portapotties, this is something, that affects the whole, and needs to be coordinated. So, if you want advice, or want to consult, about legal actions, involving your own personal situation, we’re available for that, but we’re not talking about that right now. 34.1.2.2.3. : If we come to a consensus on the current proposal, will the agreement be manifested in accessible readable form? Response: Yes, online, in the GA minutes, and afterwards, at our legal table, and on the NYCGA website. F: Stack is closed for questions. Are there any concerns with this proposal? If so, get on stack. 34.1.2.3. Concerns

34.1.2.3.1. Shawn(C): If the proposal passes, can we translate it into Spanish? Response: Yes, and into as many other languages as possible 34.1.2.3.2. Nan: I feel, this movement is becoming a cooperation rather for the people, this movement is about the people including laws that we are currently fighting, that are not good for the people right now, she stands in favor of blocking this proposal. Point of Information (PoI): One reason, we are asking for the GA’s consensus is that it’s quite possible for somebody to go ahead and apply for a permit, or file litigation that ends up having an undesirable effect on this occupation. If we have this on our records, and we need

somebody, to consult the legal team, before taking such actions, we can then in the future, refer to this agreement, as evidence for saying, that person did not, act on our behalf, therefore the decision, shouldn’t actually. It’s a preventative measure. F: Temperature check? Do we have any blocks? 34.1.2.4. Blocks

34.1.2.4.1. My concern, is that this statement, that he was reading, stated, that no one can assume if something would have happened, for example, if I understand right, if someone, does something to someone here, that means, cannot take legal action without, going to legal, what if, legal, refused to give that individual the victim, the clearance to file the proper lawsuit papers. Response (Legal): Three points: the first is that, this is a very good point, and concern, the second is that, we will reiterate that the focus, is on legal action on behalf of the entire occupation. Which is not to say, that legal matters, concerning individuals, might not have repercussions, and it would be cool, if you want to talk to us about that, but that’s not what our proposal is about. And the third point, is that legal cannot block anybody from taking the action that you decide to do.

BLOCK: then I will, remove, my block.

F: Temperature check!

34.1.2.5. We have reached consensus.

34.1.3. Spokes Council Model from the Structure Working Group

34.1.3.1. The proposal is available at http://www.nycga.net/spokes-council/. Marissa: Hi, I’m Marissa, I’m from the structure working group, after 2 GA discussions, we started meeting to discuss problems of structure. Our movement is growing at a rapid pace. Every night we see new people. And we hear new voices. This is amazing and historic. But working groups, who do most of the day to day work, that keep us warm and safe, have found it difficult to work within the GA. Many of those groups, don’t even come to GA anymore. We need a process for those groups that is accountable and transparent. For instance, financial decisions, are very difficult to make with the people’s mic. They require, longer dialogue. A spokescouncil, allows working groups and caucuses, to maintain our culture of horizontal process, participation and direct democracy, but in keeping with our larger scale. The structure working group has a proposal that outlines the spokescouncil model. It is now being distributed for you to review. We are suggesting, that we all break out into groups of 20 or so and meet for about 30 minutes, then we will reconvene, each group, will have someone report back suggestions for the structure working group. We will take these suggestions and make an amended proposal tomorrow night. How do people feel about that. Members of the structure working group, will be visiting your break out groups to help answer questions. Sonni: So to reiterate, what we’re going to do now, is break into groups of about 20. Read the proposal. Designate one person to take notes and report back on what you love about the proposal and what you’d like to see changed about the proposal. And after small groups, each group will be able to report back for 1 to 2 minutes, and your notes will be sent to the structure working group. Can I see some fingers if you understand the plan? Let’s implement the plan.

—BREAK OUT IN GROUPS— .34.1.3.2. Group Comments

34.1.3.2.1. (Group 1) Audrey: Hi everyone, I’m a little nervous. Some of our concerns were about how to define working groups and clusters. There was also concern about what we understood would be a fringe working group for anyone who is not in a working group. This seems unwieldy, but may be the only way for some people to participate. There was also some concern about the ability block. There was concern about accountability between the GA and the spokes council. My time is up but I’m not done. There was worry about clusters and marginalized groups being in one cluster and therefore more marginalized. And the suggestion to slow down the timeline so that the GA can still happen on Tuesdays and Thursdays at least for a while. 34.1.3.2.2. (Group 2): I have 4 points to make: The first is that the document is not on the website. It should be there. My second point, is that the four bullet points of the types of decisions that the spokes council will attend to are a little confusing and broad, they should be clear and direct Specifically, the fourth should be rewritten, to include define checks below it. My third point, what is the enforcement if a working group does not submit a charter? My fourth point, has to do the language about the documents, specifically, working groups should be encouraged not expected 34.1.3.2.3. (Group 3) Hi everybody. My group came up with 3 main points. Generally we support the spoke system and are eager to try it out. First point: we’d like the GA meetings to continue during the week. This is to keep up the energy, increase transparency, and keep it more accessible. We’d also like the GA meetings to interact more with the Spokes meetings. Second point: we need to talk more about the caucus clusters in the GA meetings. They sound like they could bring in a lot of messy identity politics. Third point: We’d like to continue the conversation on setting up the structure for thematic groups and how they differ from working groups. That’s all, thank you.

34.1.3.2.4. (Group 4) Kelly: My group came up with 5 points. We’ll keep it brief because most of them have already been address. 1: Curiosity and concern about blocks, making sure the structure has the possibility to be removed. 2. Transparency. Good concept, good structure, we can work out the kinks, and we suggest a brief trial period of one or two weeks.

34.1.3.2.5. (Group 5) Louisa: I’m a little nervous. I have four points. First: When you are a member of 2 or more groups or caucuses, who do you stand with? Second: When a person represents a working group or a caucus how can we be sure, they are speaking for the agreed upon decisions of the entire group and not just representing themselves, we need a democracy, not another republic. Third: Working groups should perhaps come before the GA once a week regardless. Fourth: How practical is it to call back people when they are representing your group and you’re in the fifth row and you can’t hear what they are saying. That’s it, thank you.

34.1.3.2.6. (Group 6) Jaylin: Good evening. My group had two questions: First: How will the number of clusters pokes be determined and amended? Second: If there is division within a cluster, who will mediate those disagreements?

34.1.3.2.7. (Group 7) Ashley: My working group was concerned, if there was only one vote per spoke, which would mean smaller groups would have the same influence as larger groups which could spell out inequality. Our second concern is the selection of spokes is almost similar to the way of gerrymandering which could disenfranchise certain voters. We were

also concerned about the qualifications of “thematic” groups, would the POC and women’s group be considered “thematic” groups because there already seems to be an outcry that POC and women are not being heard. If the drummers are forced to be in the Arts and Culture group would they be marginalized like they are now. The majority should never vote on the rights of the minority in a pure democracy. 34.1.3.2.8. (Group 8): Hi, we have 5 points. Most of which have been brought up. First: Thematic groups may clash with working groups. Two: We like the first two fo the four decision making groups, we disagree the third and fourth decision making points. Third: We are concerned about, one vote per spoke. Fourth: We are concerned about the number of people within each cluster. Fifth: There needs to be a mechanism to account for non-consensus within each cluster. 34.1.3.2.9. (Group 9) Benjamin: Hey everybody. Our group liked the ability for people to talk in a more intimate space, multiple levels of engagement and the ability to get practical things done quickly. But we would like to remind that transparency, having a clear agenda and strong facilitation are going to be critical. 34.1.3.2.10. (Group 10) TC: I’ll start with the positives: We like this proposal because it’s a way to promote more active participation in the working groups and to formalize the working groups. We also like it because its in use in Chiapas and Basque region. It seems there is a possibility for lack of access points to marginalized groups, there needs to be more clarity about the relationship between the GA and the spokes council. Also who decides what is essential to the occupation. How do we define what is more policy oriented and what is more logistics oriented and how are those expressed in the GA versus the spokescouncil. For instance, in the list of groupings of the caucuses there is no mention of spiritual or religious groups, how do these groups establish themselves within the system? 34.1.3.2.11. (Group 11) Casey: Our group had a grave concern that those who cannot attend working group meetings will be disenfranchised. Some felt we are dismissing direct democracy too quickly. However, some felt this addresses the issue that in a very large group, only the loudest voices will get heard. So, we have two friendly ammendments. 1: the spokes system is only for budget and logistical concerns. 2. the GA retains the power to dissolve the spokes system. 34.1.3.2.12. (Group 12) Christian: our group came up with concerns that were very much like the last person who spoke I could say that we were in consensus with her. The only other concern I could bring up: Defining what active participation means leads to leadership, we need to keep this a leaderless movement. We have a special GA dedicated to working groups clearly detailing what it is they want to work , how much autonomy they need and how much autonomy we can give them regarding budget decisions. Have we thought about decentralization? How can we bring this process to other communities so that other communities in NY can work on their own needs. In order for that to happen the GA process needs to continue to be encouraged more so than a spokescouncil. 34.1.3.2.13. (Group 13) Chris: To start, our group was in unanimous consent about the concept of a spokes council we were also in unanimous agreement that this would work to destroy already existing implicit hierarchies that were formed out of necessity and works to make our movement horizontal. We are worried about what the transition would look like and if this would be a messy process in the beginning. We suggest that in the first week we hand out tons of schedules describing when the meetings are taking place, when and where they are taking place. Some people think we should have Gas Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday Sunday. Others, Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday. In general, we just want to open dialogue about schedule. There was concern about GAs on Saturdays when there are lots of mass arrests. We were also concerned about people in multiple working groups. 34.1.3.2.14. (Group 14) David: How could new interest groups get into spokes council

considering this has already been an issue in just the GA. One of our members has had

trouble finding who to talk to in just the GA. IF you make something less public like the SC,

The amount of stress that is going to be needed to be put on financial transparency, it was

suggested that minutes be posted on the GA website, specifically regarding financial

situations on a regular basis, not just from the SC. Another suggestion: running the SC as a

trial. Concern: the potential of the SC limiting direct democracy, although it was

acknowledged that there needs to be some expediency added to this process.

F: That was amazing and thoughtful and smart and expedient. So now, before we move on, to

the next proposal we are going to hear a brief report back from the structure working group

34.1.3.3. Hello again. Thank you for all of your wonderful suggestions. We are taking your

concerns both now and via email and we will report back with an amended proposal. Briefly I

want to respond to some of the concerns raised. The SC meetings will definitely be public.

We want to encourage more participation in working groups. We promote transparency. All

minutes will be posted on the NYCGA site. WE will also be posting our amended proposal of

this on the NYCGA site. The issue of representation was raised a few times, the SC model is

not a representative model. It is a horizontal model. In which the position of spokes would be

rotated and recalled at any time. Each working group would be empowered to make that

decision about that spoke. WE encourage more participation in working groups. We

encourage many members of the working groups to be the spokes. The SC makes the

working groups more accessible because it makes them visible and makes their meeting times,

and minutes to the public. Please email all of these questions, concerns and suggestions to

OWSstructure@gmail.com sometime tonight so they can try to modify this to find something

that works for everyone.

34.1.4. Pulse Proposal

34.1.4.1. My name is Elija Moses. I’m here today to propose a consensus with you all that

will assist us and this movement we are looking to achieve a base outside this occupation

which will be an occupation for drummers and musicians. IN order to do that, we must create

base here. However, we do not have the funds to start this. Another problem, the other night,

our strength was weakened. More than 5,000 dollars of equipment was intentionally

destroyed. Now, we are trying to rebuild. We are asking for 8,000 dollars to help replace and

secure. We do understand that we must stop. However, when we are not playing here, we will

be elsewhere, making what we can known elsewhere. We will build on our information, our

strength, elsewhere. Let’s use the strength of PULSE to help occupy other areas. Us as

drummers who are valuable to this movement and in many ways equal to any other action in

this movement are tying to organize so we can optimize the usage of our skill.

34.1.4.2. Clarifying Questions

34.1.4.2.1. (Ashley): I’m here with a few other drummers and we never agreed to the 2 hour

thing that you’re saying. My question, two questions: Did you hear that we had agreed in a

resolution meeting last week that it would be 4 hours? Therefore, if this proposal passes, does

this mean our plight to have 4 hours has just been bought for $8000, that a few drummers will

have, is more important than our plight. Which I don’t.

Response: We all had consensus on 4 hours, however, yesterday, community affairs came up

to me personally and told me the community board still said no, so what we drummers have

to do is strengthen ourselves elsewhere so they can respect us again. In order to do that, we

have to show what it means not to have drummers here.

34.1.4.2.2. (Ellie): I have 2 questions. First: Is about the ownership of the materials that will

be bought with GA money. Second: I just need a clarification of what you mean by building a

base?

Response: First off, all materials that will be purchased will be under PULSE as a working group. They will be used by drummers and musicians who know how to use these instruments. We also are trying to equip ourselves for repairs. The other day a hand made drum was sabotaged, it was worth more than $5000, to us it was priceless. Overall, the base will be meant to protect these instruments. That requires dedication. We need to grow, and we need your responsibility involved into this. 34.1.4.2.3. (Jessica): First thing I want to say. Is that I do think that drummers should have a voice in our movement, it’s a powerful sound and I hope we can come to a resolution on how it fits in here. I don’t understand about the sabotage who did it? Why should the whole movement be responsible for paying for it? And what kind of drum was it?

Response: Overall we are not trying to place responsibility for these replacements on GA, we are here requesting your assistance. The drum that was destroyed was a handmade drum, given by a community member. The sabotage happened two nights ago. I was sleeping in the rain. They took advantage of the fact that it was raining and that we were not going to go out there. So we woke up in the morning to find our instruments missing or destroyed or removed. That is what happened.

34.1.4.2.4. (Jason): I have two questions. First: Do you have a detailed list of which items you would be spending this money one that you could present to the general assembly? Second: Have you considered reaching out to the community for the donation of drums instead of funds. Response: We have as a working group been earning funds since day one. We have been giving our funds to finance. We have earned more than enough to do what we are asking. We are willing to put our everything… We have a list, to go through this list will be extreme and will take too much time now. We will have receipts, any money not used will be returned to finance with receipts. 34.1.4.2.5. Have you considered starting a kickstarter campaign so that people can choose to support this so that you don’t have to take this out of general funds. Response: Well, we have considered this, but we no longer have the materials to support ourselves. But if you feel that we need to support ourselves think about how hypocritical you are being. We are here to support each other. We have supported this movement by bringing people here from blocks away. This movement would not be here right now if we need not do what we did, by playing all day. 34.1.4.2.6. I have two questions. First question is, around process, it seems to me that process is being violated in accepting the proposal of one individual from a working group without consent of the working group. Why is there, all kinds of exceptions being applied with regard to the drummers? Response: These people that have a problem who are claiming they were not a part of this consensus they are responsible for themselves for the consensus. These people behind me are working every day to make our instruments top quality. So if you have this problem, come and make your voice known, and then come and be a part of the consensus. 34.1.4.2.7. It seems to me that this is a proposal to buy out the drummers which goes against the spirit of the movement. This is a question for the GA. I don’t think that this is your doing. SO my question to you is perhaps if you shouldn’t be separating the issue of the funds for purchasing the replacement drums from the question of the consensus. Thank you Response: Overall, these people are a part of this. We are trying to fund ourselves. However, they wish for us to also fund them. How can we fund you if we can no longer fund ourselves. We need to build as a group and build on our respect as a group. We need you to take us more seriously. What we are doing is trying to establish a place for drummers to connect to

the entire movement. This movement is not just Zuccoti park, it is the occupation worldwide. We are trying to connect this worldwide. But we cannot do that if we do not start somewhere. Where better than to start right her. So if we build a vessel that we will replicate that we will have when we move than we will also be able to replicate this globally. 34.1.4.2.8. (Hero): I’ve been here since day 1. About a week and a half after this movement started we had a band of drummers and other musicians, that band has been very helpful in building this movement. Since I’ve been here, this has been a little bit of a nuisance during meetings and GAs. But these drummers have made sacrifices over and over again because they knew it was essential to take a punch to keep going. We are here in solidarity together I know what its like to take a couple punches because something is bigger than one person and one group, and they have done that, so for them to ask for a couple of thousands of dollars to last for a long time, when we have many thousand, I think is asking well within their means.

34.1.4.2. 9. (Jack): I would like to say this is an issue of money. We shouldn’t worry about that. We are the 99%. We are fighting for a common cause. We should support the drummers. We have a cause we have the means we have the people lets continue moving and stop worrying about small things we have a park we have occupy so lets start. Who is here for the occupation? Mic check, who is here for the occupation? Mic check, Who is here for the occupation? Support the drummers. Point of Process (PoP): Dori: I know we all have strong feelings about this, but please try to follow the process that we have agreed upon and leave questions for the questions section and concerns when they are due. F: We’re all tired, its normal to feel frustrated. Just keep in mind, we want to do this in a way that is efficient and not keep us talking about the same thing for a very long time without new insight. PULSE is requesting $8000 and solidarity to let their voices be heard. F: It is now 10:40 and 20 minutes before quiet hours and I simply don’t think that we will have time to voice our concerns, address our concerns and finish our GA. I think that we should let PULSE know that they should bring this proposal back tomorrow night so that we can further discuss this. 34.1.4.3. Drummer: We are trying to grow. We are forced to have these two hours, the community board will go against us if we do not go with these two hours. WE asked for four, we were told no, so a few of us said we were going to play anyway, but we must think about the entire movement, we do not want to remove you all because of our apathy for you. However, in order to compromise we need to re-establish our strength here and develop elsewhere. F: Sonni: So since there are only 15 minutes until quiet hours, I suggest that people with concerns take them right now to PULSE outside of the GA so that they can bring their proposal back tomorrow. So let’s do another temperature check on this proposal so that we can see if we can decide this tonight. F: Temperature check: Mixed Elijah: With the drum circle, the drum working class. We have worked for you. We will remove ourselves and earn as we did. And when you realize what happens when we remove ourselves, you will come to us and appreciate what we are doing. We shall support ourselves.

F: Sonni: What we’re doing here is trying to build consensus. There is a proposal right here that we don’t have consensus on. That’s okay. We can voice our concerns and make our suggestions so that we can reform the proposal so that we can hopefully eventually come to consensus. So, we need to move on from this issue right now. Because frankly, we do not have a choice because we do not have consensus. So hopefully PULSE can amend their proposal so that we can have consensus.

Ashley: I was just at the community board meeting for two hours. I support the drummers. They have earned their money. The drummers had consensus on 4 hours, the community affairs working group had a consensus on 2 hours. I thought the timing of this proposal was problematic because we have not come on consensus about the time. I think we need to demand 4 hours before we accept $8000. Because I will not be sold out and neither will the other drummers. Concern: I don’t feel that that emergency announcement kept to process. We may need new facilitators to close out this meeting. F: Ashley: The yelling had nothing to do with the drummers. This is anti-drummer sentiment. PoI: Tonight at the meeting at 250 Broadway, the community group, included the yelling with the drumming, we have now all been silenced in solidarity. PoI: I was just at the community board meeting. The community board fucking loves us, many of the residents fucking love us. They want to work with us. I believe we need to all work together and give the working group of drummers our full support. (YELLING, CHANTING, 4 HOURS!!!) Comment: I believe, we should all support the facilitation of this meeting, take our time and compromise. F: Dori: There is a lot of frustration and a big sense of urgency to make a decision right now. Seeing as though there is no way for us to get through the rest of the agenda. I suggest that we end the general assembly now and reconvene now when we are not as frustrated or tired and can think with clear minds. Comment: The good neighbor policy does not even mention anything about the drummers or any bullshit this community is putting on the drummers. PoI: The current good neighbor policy has no official hours of drumming. It just came to me that there is only two hours of drumming per day. None of the drummers of PULSE has had any say in this 2 hours at all. When do we have a say? F: Sonni: This general assembly needs to end. This is turning into a free for all that doesn’t respect the process that previous GAs have consensed to. Therefore, we as facilitators are stepping away. We are going to call this general assembly over.

**NYCGA Minutes 10/21/2011**

Posted October 21st, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 35

Meeting Date/Time: 10/21/2011 / 7pm EST

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators (F): Lady, Amin Process Review/Opening Comments: Facilitators are not leaders, they are only here to help facilitate the process of the meeting. They are always looking for new facilitators, and especially encourage anyone from an underrepresented minority to join them. Review of hand signals and definitions. Establishing additional generations of People’s Mic if needed. We take progressive stack. This means that speakers who do not usually get the chance to be heard. If anyone can interpret in sign language, please come up.

The facilitation team meets at 4pm every day at 60 Wall Street. Everyone is invited.

AGENDA

35.1. Action Items (Emergency Proposal from Comfort, Proposal from Structure, Proposal from Outreach, Proposal from Occupy Central Park, Proposal from Arts & Culture)

35.2. Announcements

35.1. Agenda Items

35.1.1. Emergency Proposal from Comfort 35.1.1.1. “We’re going to hire a truck and take the laundry and wash it ourselves. But we have to pay for the truck. We need $3,000 now! There are a lot of mothers here tonight. Let’s show them we can do our own laundry! “ We have an emergency agenda item. It has to do with laundry. It rained, and now we have a lot of laundry that needs to be washed, and we need to deal with it now. There is someone that we’re going to put up in time to describe the proposal. I was involved in talking to people, and we decided, before we get to the agenda, that we have this be the first agenda item to be discussed. A few days ago, we had a lot of rain. All of the rain created a lot of wet laundry. You can see it on the other side of the plaza. It’s a mountain of wet laundry!!! Nobody wants to wash it! Several people have volunteered to assume this enormous burden for the second time. In the future, we’re going to find a better way of doing this. For right now, we need money! We’re going to hire a truck and take the laundry and wash it ourselves. But we have to pay for the truck. We need $3,000 now! There are a lot of mothers here tonight. Let’s show them we can do our own laundry! One more thing, the money is also for the machines, but we are washing the laundry – we just need a lot of quarters. We also need 15 volunteers to help load the trucks and wash the laundry. If you can help, go to the giant pile of laundry. It’s very easy to find. Thank you very much!!!! F: In the interim, I will also clarify that we use something called progressive stack. By

progressive stack we mean a process by which stack-takers are empowered to elevate certain traditionally marginalized voices, or voices that we have not heard from. Additionally, we encourage the process of Step Up, Step Back. If you’ve been talking a lot, try to step back. If you haven’t said much, please try to step up. We’d like to hear from everyone. 35.1.1.2. Clarifying Questions

35.1.1.2.1. My question is, is the money we are releasing from the general OWS fund, or are we trying to raise that money right now? Response: The answer is: Both! We are desperate! This has to be done! The money we are collecting now is not going to go very far, but thank you so much for giving it. This will happen again, so we will have laundry money for the future as well. 35.1.1.2.2. You said you were trying to come up with a plan for the future. When do you think you’ll have that? Response: I am not personally coming up with a plan. A Laundry working group has been proposed. Nobody wants to organize it and nobody wants to be on it. This is a collective problem that we all have to find a solution to together. 35.1.1.2.3. Clearly we don’t want all of those resources going mildew-y and being ruined. But we also don’t want this to continue happening. We need to put into place a process that will make sure that the next time it rains, people take personal responsibility. F: Thank you. But that was a deviation from process. At the moment, we’re only fielding questions. There will be time for concerns and friendly amendments. For purposes of the process, please allow facilitators only to do mic check. Also, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce Leo. He is keeping time. Please keep your questions to one minute. We have a lot of stuff to do tonight. 35.1.1.2.4. My question is why did Finance take so long to give money to Comfort for the laundry? Response: That’s a great question. Comfort isn’t doing this. They can’t do this. Several people are doing this on their own because no one else will or can.. 35.1.1.2.5. I believe the question was is the truck the most economical option?

Response: To be honest, I don’t know. We don’t have any other options. Point of Information (PoI): This gentleman here has just kindly offered to let us use his truck! cheers For free! cheers Response: We will have two trucks. One important point: he’s not paying to do the laundry. We still have to pay for that.. 35.1.1.2.6. How does a new free truck affect the overall cost, and is it now lower? Response: So, I sat in on the conversation, which was happening in a very urgent manner. I understood that the truck and the driver were recommended by a union that is in solidarity with OWS. I also understood from the driver that his fee to your question was five hundred dollars. The individuals that are taking the lead with dealing with this issue are estimating last time we did this it cost us 5000 dollars. This time were taking the laundry out of Manhattan. Last time they used two services. I don’t know where it went! This time were using one service. It’s going to Inwood. It’s going to take 5 trips, and 6 or more hours to do everything. 35.1.1.2.7. My concern is that if this is a repeat problem. If this is a repeat problem it might be wise for us to reconsider how we can use these resources. It might be easier to mobilize a lot of people around doing a direct action that involves Wall Street’s doing laundry, and getting the state to pay for it.

35.1.1.2.8. Have you considered promising the laundry all our future business if they will pick up and give us a discount?

Response: Let me clarify: we are doing the laundry with many, many quarters. The service

we’re paying for, in addition to the truck, is simply to use the machines.

35.1.1.2.9. Abdullah one: I thought they were buying the machines with 3,000 dollars. You

will get from me one day to hold your laundry. Let’s do this again you will get one day of my

time to haul your laundry to the Laundromat.

Response: Let me just say from the bottom of my heart for that offer. We may need that in

the future, but we need to do this right now. The laundry has been sitting around for two days

already. We’re already having to load it onto the truck.

Point of process (PoP): over here. We have yet to hear the people presenting the proposal

telling us the exact amended amount that they’re asking for now that the truck and driver

have been graciously provided by our comrade over here.

Response: As I mentioned, this is an emergency. We are unable to use this gentleman’s

services tonight. As in right now. As in, it’s happening right now over there. I also want to

remind everyone that the laundry belongs to everybody. It’s our collective responsibility, and

we’re trying to do something about it. In the future, we hope we’ll be better prepared.

35.1.1.2.10. It sounds like the truck is already here and we already committed to this action.

How are we proposing this after already committing to it?

Response: That’s a very good point. You may be right. I am just a messenger. The people

who are doing this took action. They asked me to make this proposal. If the proposal is not

accepted, I honestly don’t know what they were planning to do. It was a crisis, so they acted.

F: Thank you. We have a lot of allies and a lot of them have trucks. Next time I propose that

we reach out to them, to save our money.

35.1.1.3. TEST FOR CONSENSUS: ACHIEVED

F: Thank you very much! I think that this is an achievement that we all share collectively.

Please visit the library!

*[Editor’s Note: The next three paragraphs seem out of place, but not sure where they should*

*go. The original note-taker may have copy & pasted or something?]*

I have a question about this proposal. I’m wondering, given the raised issues that have been

brought up repeatedly about this movement, what we plan to do to make sure that the spokes

council is not overwhelmingly white and male?

At the very beginning of this process, we spoke about two things: respecting each other, and

respecting the process. And the reason we do that is so we can have all voices heard. And I

hear your concerns, and I highlighted how as a society we’re divided along many lines. And

race is one of them.

Back to what we’re talking about. In this space, more than anywhere else I can imagine, we

can talk about race. We can talk to each other about the discrimination we do every day to

each other. The only reason I’m doing this right now, and I’m stepping out and I’m really not

fitting in the process is because I don’t want this movement to be misunderstood. This

movement is what we can make it. And I don’t want to silence a voice, just because I’m a

facilitator, without explaining what I’m doing. We have a process so we can address all these

things. But we have agenda items that we must stick to, so collectively we can make

decisions, and we can propel this movement to change our reality. Now we have another

agenda item.

35.1.2. Structure Proposal

35.1.2.1. Hi I’m Marissa, I’m from the Structure working group. As was stated, we have

been meeting for two weeks or so now. We have had many discussions about how to improve

this process. We want to keep the participatory, horizontal, and directly democratic nature of

this movement. However, a lot of our working groups are having difficulty communicating

and coordinating, so we suggested in a proposal last night that we adopt a spokes council model. Many of you here had an opportunity to review this proposal. We broke out into small groups and took all of your wonderful suggestions. We synthesized these suggestions and amended the proposal.

Many of you voiced concerns about the lack of GA time in the schedule. In the new proposal, the GA will meet four times a week: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday. Another concern was that it was unclear how clusters would form out of existing groups. Therefore, we created a charter process for clusters. So now, working groups and caucuses will bring their charters directly to their clusters. Those clusters will then bring those charters to the spokes council for approval. And each cluster will receive one spoke at the spokes council. There were also concerns about disagreements within clusters. Some of you asked how to mediate disagreements. The new proposal suggests that a spoke must reflect all sentiments within a cluster, even if they differ! There was also a concern that we would limit the types of caucus clusters. In the new proposal, we are not limiting it. So we compromised by asking caucuses to self-organize into clusters, but clarified that only clusters will have spokes, and the spokes council will not micromanage these or any other clusters. We recognize that thematic groups were not adequately addressed in last night’s proposal. In the new proposal, we clarified that thematic groups will not have a charter, but they also do not have spokes in the spokes council. They will be autonomous, and be able to bring forth proposals to the GA. Our intention was to not limit the plurality of voices or kinds of political discussions. If a thematic group wants to bring a proposal to the spokes council, they can work with the appropriate cluster. For example, Alternative Economies may be considered a thematic group, but it would make sense for them to work with Finance on projects for the Occupation.

The spokes council model that we’re proposing is a confederated direct democracy. It allows us to keep our culture, but to also make logistical and financial decisions for OWS. An example of such a decision would be how to do laundry. The spokes council will not speak for the Occupation as a whole. It will continue to hold political debates. Many of you expressed an interest in spokes councils, but wanted to know more about how they would work in practice. We are not reinventing the wheel. Literally. Other movements have used this structure. Tonight, we’re going to hear from some of those movements. One of those movements was the anti-globalization movement. The spokes council was used for many years all over the world. In the United States, in Chiapas, Mexico, and in India. We use spokes councils to plan giant actions and to make directly democratic decisions in confederations across the continent. This model was also used very effectively in China during the time of Tiananmen Square. Is the gentleman from Tiananmen Square here? Chang Yung? If he comes later this evening, and people are interested in talking to him, we will point him out. He was here last evening, and wanted to present to all of you. We would also like to introduce Bobby, who is from Sanitation. 35.1.2.1.2. Hey everyone! I’m Bobby! I clean the park every day! Last week we were facing an eviction problem, largely based on issued of sanitation. Sanitation brought to the GA a proposal earlier in the week to purchase storage containers. It passed with amendments. The containers had to be Fair Trade. They had to be bought on Craigslist. That was impossible. The GA is beautiful. I used be a sailor. This movement is our democratic ship. The GA is at the helm. But we need rigging and sails so we don’t crash on the rocks! If the sails suck, we can get different sails. Love you guys! 35.1.2.1.3. Direct Action WORKING GROUP: I don’t have a speech. The other day, in Direct Action, we consented as a working group that we’re in support of the spokes council

model, and that it would help us work. Direct Action likes the spokes council model. 35.1.2.1.4. Before we hear from any speakers, or any people who have clarifying questions, we’re going to take the next five minutes to review this proposal. Copies of this proposal have been circulating. The underlines are the amendments from last night’s suggestions.

Point of Process (PoP): Could we have more proposals circulating to the back? (And to the front!) So just a reminder, we’re taking five minutes to make sure everyone got a chance to look over the proposal. Also, while more copies circulate, it has been brought to my attention that the Laundry crew needs ten volunteers to help with Laundry. If you could kindly volunteer, because we all need laundry done, please make your way back to the heaping pile of laundry. Also, feel free to share your copies of the proposal. It could be a great way to make a friend. If you have a friend that you’re standing next to that is holding a sheet of paper, please pass the next one on. If you don’t have a friend, make one.

[proposal is available online at www.nycga.net/spokes-council] The five minutes are over. Do the people feel that we need more time? GA: WEEKS! For purposes of tonight, do people feel like we need more time before we move on to questions? If you’re in favor of more time now do this [spirit fingers], if you’re not, do this [down fingers]. Mic check! So we’re seeing a lot this [negative fingers} so we’re going to go on to address clarifying questions. But first: a brief announcement from Direct Action. Direct Action Announcement: Hello brothers and sisters! Maybe you haven’t heard yet: tonight there’s a midnight occupation. For 35 days we have occupied this square. We’re not leaving! Tonight we occupy Columbus Circle. [cheers] At 9:30 pm, we meet at this red structure and start with a subway party. We will take the one train from Rector Street to 96th street at 10:30 pm. We meet Pete Seeger. Tell Seeger and others to march and sing together from 95th and Broadway to Columbus circle. At midnight tonight we occupy the circle. Pete Seeger may be 92 years old but he hasn’t forgot what it means to fight for social justice. This will be fun, we will sing, we will show this messed up system what it means to be beautiful. 9:30 pm at the red structure. Thank you. 35.1.2.2. Questions

35.1.2.2.1. My name is Nan. I’m with several groups in this movement. I stand with these people and the people of America. I wish to make concern with this new amendment. I find there’s a lot of fault and not fair for everybody. My question is: how this amendment will affect those individuals that find themselves victims on their different working groups because of this amendment. Response: Many of us are in different working groups and caucuses. During the spokes council, you can either choose to sit with just one or to get up and move. We will create the space so it’s easy to find the different clusters, which will also help you to join a new one. {agreement spirit fingers}. 35.1.2.2.2. My question is concern about segregation. For example: Occupy the Hood was started to combat and discuss the severe economic injustice in specific communities. Shortly thereafter, the People of Color Caucus was formed. People in Occupy the Hood want to represent themselves. So how would that work? Response: Answering both of her questions: first about Occupy the Hood. I speak with Malik (of Occupy the Hood) often. This would be a completely different occupation that OWS has no bearing over. As for the caucuses, they will have their own cluster to address issues where

they feel their voices were marginalized. I am a member of the People of Color caucus and am in full support of the spokes council. [cheers] Thank you. 35.1.2.2.3. My question was why thematic groups are specifically excluded from having their own spokes and clusters. Information about how members of thematic groups can join working groups does not answer that question. Response: We are not excluding thematic groups from being part of the greater Occupy movement. We are very excited about all the ideas coming out of Occupy Wall Street. We want to encourage many, many ideas. We did not want to create another council to limit thematic groups. We also wanted to be clear that the working group spokes council would deal with logistical and financial decisions. We also were responding to your concern voiced last night about declarations and statements that are idea-based, that represent us as a whole, not having to go through the spokes council, as we originally proposed. So thematic groups will bring their ideas directly to the GA. 35.1.2.2.4. It says in the proposal that in two week’s time, the GA will review the spokes council. How will that look and specifically if at that time, we are divided over whether to keep the council, will it be dissolved? Or will we need a consensus to dissolve it?

Response: To be clear: if the GA should decide by consensus to dissolve the spokes council in two weeks, the spokes council will be dissolved. To answer further, you are correct. Our concern with requiring to consent to form the spokes council again is that it takes many days to bring this proposal forward and the people in our midst change so dramatically, which is an amazing thing, that in two weeks, we’ll have to explain it over many days again. [spirit fingers, positive] 35.1.2.2.5. Can you guarantee that the well-publicized in-door location for the next spokes council won’t require the occupiers to pay $2.25 each way to get there and back? Response: We agree. It has to be in walking distance.. 35.1.2.2.6. Hi! It says in the proposal a cluster can recall their spoke at any time if they are failing to adequately reflect the will of the cluster. I have a concern what will happen if the spoke has already made decisions, and the cluster decides that was not the reflection of their will. Will there be a process to rescind the decision? Response: Your question is a good one. The members of the clusters will be in attendance and if a proposal is so big and important that it needs to go back to the working groups, a cluster can propose that at any time. This spokes council is not perfect. It will require that we build trust with each other. But for many of us, that is the point of being in a movement. You will be able to recall your spoke, but our hope is that you will be able to communicate well with your spoke. 35.1.2.2.7. Love and respect. Hey guys. Will you, that are bringing forth this proposal, which we all want to get with if we understand it, take five days, do some time in the park with us, instead of in separate, secluded offices, and discuss it with each group within the park? This is where the occupation is happening. Kitchen, medic, security, etc. Will you do face time? Thank you! Love! Response: That is also a very important concern. To be clear: this proposal came out of open GA discussions, discussions that were public and announced at three GA’s and this whole week. We’ve been going to the coordinators meeting to explain the proposal and ask the working groups if they want us to come to their groups to describe the proposal in person. Many of them requested that we do so, and we described the proposal in person. It sounds as though security did not get that opportunity. We’d be happy to talk with you. 35.1.2.2.8. Because kitchen, medic, security has real time jobs to do, we may not hear the GA. Lots of people deal in our areas all day, all night. So the question remains: will you do face time until the park is satisfied that they are being discussed with? Since you are

proposing this, it should be vetted well for obvious reasons. Response: Although very pertinent, and this process needs time, we must stick with the process. For now, we’d like to take more clarifying questions. If you all cannot come to any agreement tonight, like any proposal, we will have to table it. We have been trying to reach all of you for three weeks. It has been difficult, and we are sorry. Point of Information (PoI): This proposal was workshopped over a half dozen times in six different meetings of over a hundred people. It was brought to two different GA’s. This has been the most transparent proposal we’ve ever had. 35.1.2.2.9. Hi I’m Stephanie! The proposal says working groups have the autonomy to make decisions relevant to their own needs, composition, or operation. My question is: can the GA override this autonomy if an issue arises about the operation in a group that the GA does not feel is being run in a way that reflects our values? Response: That is a complicated question because you are asking also about the GA. Our proposal is about the spokes council. (text missing) It is this community that will have to decide the jurisdiction of the GA. 35.1.2.2.10. The proposal states that the spokes council approves the charters of working groups and caucuses. Those are the entities that vote on the spokes council and make all financial decisions. That makes the spokes council self-selecting. {agreement} Does that not concentrate power? Response: To clarify: working groups and caucuses would produce charters for their clusters. Those clusters would produce charters for the spokes council. This body, the GA, is bringing into being the spokes council so working groups are not creating the spokes council. Response: Can I clarify further? Last night there were many groups that voiced your concern. So the proposal was amended. This is confusing, we’re sorry. An example: If there is an Arts and Culture cluster that has got a spoke on the spokes council, new arts working groups can just go to that cluster and join the cluster. We would like those clusters to have the ability to have some autonomy. So if a working group is extremely disruptive, we would like the clusters to have the ability to address this. Again this requires trust. There is no system that is perfect. But in response to your concern: we are decentralizing the power. The spokes council would be approving charters from the clusters. Working group clusters and caucus clusters. They would not be micromanaging the individual working groups or caucuses. The power resides in working groups in caucuses, not in the council. The council has no power to act autonomously. 35.1.2.2.11. Are affinity groups the same as thematic groups? Response: Affinity groups are not specifically addressed in this proposal. Traditionally, historically, affinity groups are based on trust and political affinity. Thematic groups that are addressed in this proposal operate as forums for education and discussions around particular topics for issue areas. They are not the same as affinity groups. Particularly, they will be open for new members.. PoI: Direct action works has a hob and invites all affinity groups who would like to partake in direct action to be a part of the Direct Action cluster. Please! 35.1.2.3. Concerns 35.1.2.3.1. Hi I’m Anna. I’m concerned about the pitfalls of modified consensus in the spokes council system. Depending on the number of clusters, a decision could be made without the support of the entire cluster or more. This could potentially drown out the voice of a caucus cluster representing marginalized people, not to mention individuals marginalized within the cluster. Response: In response: each cluster, both working group clusters and caucus clusters, would have one spoke each on the spokes council. I’m hearing a second generation. I don’ think that’s necessary. Thank you. So working group spokes would have to work with the caucus

spokes to reach consensus in the council so they would not drown out the caucuses. In this

system, caucuses are very empowered. Not only do they have all the power of working

groups, but they also have the additional power within their clusters to block proposals that

the spokes council is working on if they feel it relates specifically to their area of system

marginalization. In addition, we are using modified consensus of 9/10ths in this proposal

because that is the culture of this GA and we didn’t feel like we should take the license to

change that. At a later date, either the GA or the spokes council can decide to move to full

consensus. But we can decide that later.

35.1.2.3.2. I have many concerns. I believe that this proposal is being rushed. No matter how

much we are told that it has been discussed, it remains unclear. As such, I plan to propose

two amendments. One would be that the GA would have the power to dissolve the spokes

council at any time via consensus. The other is that the GA would periodically, perhaps every

two weeks, have to re-ratify the spokes council via consensus.

Response: Thank you for your concern. We have been meeting for 3 weeks now discussing

this proposal. We’ve workshopped it to death. We sought input from working groups, from

the GA’s, and we’d love to continue the conversation. Ideas around process are open to ideas.

In response to the two amendments: they can’t be considered friendly because we would do

this constantly. We would never have time to discuss the larger questions, political questions,

of OWS and the larger occupy movement. We don’t want to just have meetings.

PoI: Not every working group can bring the proposals that they want to the GA in a timely

manner. Obviously we’ve lost well over a hundred people tonight. It’s a long process.

35.1.2.3.3. I’m concerned because I’m confused. I was given a piece of paper for the first

time today two hours ago. I was here yesterday. I gave feedback, now I have this paper. I’m

still confused, and so are other people. Can’t we take a little bit more time, have a table

permanently here, staffed by the structure group who knows what they’re talking about, so

we can explain and iterate how this process will work? So less than ten percent of people are

confused?

Response: Our concern is that if we table it till Monday, you all may not be here and it will

start all over again.

35.1.2.3.4. I am concerned that we are not doing all that we can to prevent the problem of

self-selectivity in the spokes council. Towards that end, if the only grounds on which a

cluster may legitimately exclude a working group is there disruptive behavior, then I think

that should be specified in the proposal. But if a cluster may exclude a working group

because the cluster views that group’s work as not sufficiently logistical, or beneficial, then

the spokes council starts to seem to me like a self-selecting body. And I think that’s a

problem.

Response: At the moment, we have like 50 working groups. We don’t know what they’re

doing. We don’t have transparency. We don’t have communication. Why? Because these

groups are coming to the GA. They don’t see the GA as an effective decision-making body

for day-to-day concerns. This spokes council would force these groups to be transparency in

public, meet in public, make their decisions in public, so we’d all have a better idea of what’s

going on and how to plug in.

35.1.2.3.5. Good evening. I got a ton of concerns. I know I don’t have time. It sounds like

this is a hierarchy, maybe I’m misinformed. When it gets colder, and the GA is not as large,

will the council supersede the GA? And will the GA become marginalized?

Response: Just to be clear: this spokes council model is not a hierarchy. It decentralizes

power. It gives power to working groups and caucuses. It would never supersede the GA. It

does different work than the GA. The spoke council would deal with logistical and financial

decisions, whereas the GA would deal with larger political questions about OWS and the

greater movement.

35.1.2.3.6. I’m Isaac. It is very concerning to me that the proposers will not accept a friendly

amendment to state that the GA can dissolve the SC [spokes council, referred to as SC in this

text from here on] with consensus. That is alarming.

Response: The friendly amendment was that we review the SC every two weeks. We had a

discussion earlier about this very proposal. I think many of us think it’s a good idea.

[[Minutes note: there are a couple of sentences missing]] Our concern is that the SC could be

dissolved by people who don’t have this movement’s interests at heart. That is our concern.

What if we make a friendly amendment…I’m screwing up sorry…that if someone wanted to

dissolve the SC, we come up with a process where there’s adequate time for everyone to

come and speak for or against it. And then go through a process.

35.1.2.3.7. Hello. I’m Andrew. My concern with this proposal is that if it does not pass very

soon, the winter and the additional stress on our already stressed infrastructure (as was

displayed with laundry tonight), will crumble.

35.1.2.3.8. My concern is about invisible leaders. I had raised a concern a couple weeks ago

that people in the Women’s caucus and the People of Color Caucus and society at large in the

media were feeling that this movement was being represented by predominantly men who are

not of color. I brought it to a couple working groups and ever since then, I have been bullied

and attacked by a few individuals in facilitation. My concern is that there is not enough

content in this proposal considering the importance of diversity. Thank you.

Response: That is an excellent concern. The language in the proposal around diversity…. The

People of Color caucus helped to draft that language in their own structure sub-committee

and it came back to us. In addition, the desire behind the proposal came out of a desire to

empower marginalized voices. The caucuses have more power to make unilateral decisions

than any of the other working groups. It was obvious to us that the GA has not been a

particularly welcoming space for marginalized voices. We have done our best in facilitation

to make this better. The SC model we hope will improves this.

35.1.2.3.9. I have a concern that we’re not giving enough trust in our process to believe that

the people who have worked long and hard on this proposal have the best interests of our

movement at heart. I would encourage everybody to trust more. Thank you.

F: Lady will step down temporarily from stack taker to participate in this discussion.

35.1.2.3.10. My concern…my name is Lady…my concern is that many people not only do

not trust others, but they do not trust themselves. They are working against each other

because they do not know themselves. They are working against each other because they

limit themselves. They limit this movement. It is important to move forward in this process.

This is an evolution. This is not a revolution. With every revolution, there is war. We do not

want a war. What we want is to get each and every point across because it’s not about

Occupy Wall Street. It’s about the individual ideas that everyone has come with.

35.1.2.3.11. My concern is that we just had the new amendment and five minutes is not

enough to review the proposal. And I would like for us to have more time to read it. To

review it before we make any decisions.

35.1.2.3.12. I’m the right David. It was proposed yesterday that the SC was to be on Monday,

Wednesday and Friday. The GA was supposed to be on Saturdays and Sundays. On Tuesday

and Thursday nights were to be cultural nights where we had musical events and such. I think

that was a great idea, and I don’t want to lose that. So maybe we can narrow that down to one

night a week.

Response: We agree with you. Our problem was: many people didn’t. So we decided to leave

it to the GA. Outside of this proposal if the GA wants to take down their nights, you can

decide that here. It was just confusing the proposal. We’ll support you!

35.1.2.3.13. My concern is regarding the decision to place financial decisions with the SC. In

light of this, I will read a quote from Amschel Rothschild: give me control of a nation’s money and I care not who makes the laws. We need to find a way to have everybody participate individually in financial decisions. And in fact, we do have the means of communication to do so. Response: In the existing system, with the GA, we have working groups like finance that operate autonomously. There’s no check that works on their power. Financial decisions require much deliberation. They also require that people know the day-to-day operations of the working groups that keep the occupation going. The SC model made of working groups would be the most effective body because they will know how things are operating. They will be able to check each other and keep financial decisions transparent. Also: this body will be open to observation whereas now, working groups don’t have one meeting time other than the coordination meeting (that is public). Let me clarify further: one of the reasons behind the SC having decision making power over finances is that budgets need to be made and debated in an open way. Where everybody can see all the money, where it’s going, and talk about it. And that can’t happen very well in the GA and so the SC, which is completely open, is a space for that conversation to happen. PoI: Just really quick: I’m from finance. We have been begging for something like a SC, specifically because working groups don’t want to spend five hours trying to get money…or when they need money, in a timely manner, can’t get it through the GA. So everything they just said is what we’ve been begging for for three weeks. On top of that, I think you’ll notice here that while this is a great forum for concerns, it sometimes has some trouble with synthesizing ideas. If you put money in the picture, it gets even harder. I know, I’ve tried to pass budgets through the GA. PoI: Real quick: anyone can join a working group. So anyone can make a decision about money. I just want to add to the comment that was just raised: yes all working groups are open. Also: if people join working groups, they will be more active, more directly participatory in this process. They will know more about how things are operating than if they just show up at the GA. An SC will make it easier for people to know how to join a working group. Additionally, I noticed that in the SC proposal there is a section for a spoke for occupiers who live here even if they don’t belong to a working group. 35.1.2.3.14. I have a couple of concerns. My first concern is about our ability to facilitate small group meetings. And when I say small groups, I mean the clusters…there could be like 50 people. I’m wondering if there’s going to be lots of training in facilitation that’s not just GA facilitation, but encourages discussion and consensus building within the clusters. My other concern is about enforcement. Within the GA, we’ve already had the problem that we make decisions here and they can’t be binding on the rest of the community. Because some people just weren’t here. I think the same problem will happen with the SC and I’m wondering how we’re gonna deal with that. Response: Let me speak to that. Your first point is excellent, as is your second one. Not every member of every cluster needs to show up at the SC. Instead, clusters can meet independently, come to consensus, send…[text missing]. They don’t need to come to consensus at the SC. 35.2.30 One very different part of this proposal based on your feedback is that if a group is in a cluster, and they can’t get their cluster to consent to their proposal, their spokesperson will still bring their proposal to the SC. We thought this was a good idea. We definitely know that facilitation is an ongoing challenge and we hope to continue facilitation training and also to train many of you to facilitate SC. It’s easier than facilitating GA’s. PoI: At the facilitation meeting today, a number of us consensed upon establishing a table on the premises of Zuccotti Park that would be manned for 9 hours to train any person in facilitation at any time that they are available. We haven’t totally figured it out yet but it

should be up and running early next week.

35.1.2.3.15. My concern is that GA will have no financial power if the SC is empowered as

the proposal stands now.

Response: Just to be clear: all of you here tonight could join working groups or caucuses.

You can be part of the new SC. The spokes in the SC have no power in and of themselves.

They rotate every meeting. Ideally, everyone would be a spoke. This is a way to decentralize

power and encourage active participation so that all of you can contribute more than you are

today.

The SC is also more transparent. We want it on livestream. We want every decision and

every budget on the website after every meeting. This is explicitly outlined in the proposal

that all minutes will be posted on nycga.cc.

35.1.2.3.16. First I apologize: I’ve spoken a lot. But this issue is really big and there are a lot

of concerns and everyone needs to get all of their concerns addressed. I personally have many,

and I’m sure many of you do as well. My first concern is that it appears that the people

proposing the SC are attempting to limit and take away the power of the GA with saying you

can always join a working group. It wouldn’t be necessary to say that if they would allow GA

to retain the power that they have and share it with the SC. The GA does not have to give up

the power to make budgets to also allow the SC to. My time is up, I have a lot more concerns.

F: How does everyone feel about hearing the rest of his concerns? [agreement fingers]

35.1.2.3.16. (Continued) Working group charters being made in the clusters and clustered

charters being made in the SC, it’s been said before is self-selecting. These charters could be

made in the GA. If thematic groups and individuals not residing in the park are excluded

because they do not need to be represented by the logistical concerns dealt with by the SC,

why is it that caucuses do need to be there? Caucuses and individuals need to be able to be in

the same place.

Response: The reason we have caucuses and not thematic groups is because thematic groups

are generally formed based on opinion. Really important opinions. There’s a difference

between having a great idea and being a marginalized group. We definitely want to create a

space to elevate the voices of marginalized groups. There are many thematic groups that

through their ideas do work. Like the alternative economy group. They are creating a

conference, this then is work. So many thematic works would then become working groups.

But while they are in the realm of ideas, they are not a working group. This is a fluid process.

When they start doing work that is to the benefit of all, they then would propose themselves

to an appropriate cluster. Our hope is that people in this movement are not exclusionary and

if one cluster got exclusionary, other clusters would have a problem with it. We hope the

majority of you would help us all maintain a democratic ethic of the SC. But yes, if we all

decide to be fascists, it could be really bad. We’re going to work on creating a SC that helps

educate us and make us more democratic through the process of participation and dialogue.

Also this proposal is a living document. It can be added to, amended, we can talk about it,

add addendums…join the structure working group. It’s an open group.

35.1.2.3.17. Clarifying question: You just described a process whereby a thematic group

might become a working group, which I found confusing, cause it is my understanding that

all thematic groups do work, it’s just that the working groups in the SC do work that is

specific to the occupation logistics. Organizing a conference is not that kind of work. Is that

correct?

Response: If a group wanted to become a working group or a caucus, they would submit a

charter to a cluster. For example: the alternative economies group. If they intend to become a

working group, they’d submit a charter to say, finance and those clusters would decide

whether they were a valid group. We’re not saying that they would or would not because we

don’t have a charter in front of us. We want to leave that up to the clusters so that we’re not

micromanaging.

35.1.2.4. Friendly Amendments

F: I would like to say that I personally trust that the working group is attempting to act in the

best interest of all of us here. I also understand that this is a super duper confusing proposal.

Two suggestions: on the one hand, we could table this tonight, come back another night, and

find a way to demonstrate the difference between the GA model down and the SC model

across so that we would understand better. Alternatively, I’d ask of the group if they would

consider implementing a two week time limit if we approve the proposal tonight, such that

the proposal expires unless the GA chooses to renew it. Thank you.

F: We are going to hear all of the friendly amendments and then the structure working group

will address them.

35.1.2.4.1. Hi I’m Sully. I propose the proposal be explicit that the GA can still pass

financial proposals even though the spokes would also be empowered to make financial

proposals.

35.1.2.4.2. I propose that in this plan, that neither the GA nor the SC will have the right to

sanction a working group before they have had the opportunity to respond to allegations that

have been made against them. I am part of the demands working group, and there were false

statements made against the group at the GA assembly that members of the Demands

working group spoke to the press in the name of the whole Occupy Wall Street.

PoP: We’re only stopping you because I see a lot of point of processes. Your voice is

important, we all want to hear what you have to say, but we must respect the process so we

can respect each other. Right now we are addressing friendly amendments for this proposal.

If you have a friendly amendment for this proposal, we can only suggest that you frontload

your statement with that friendly amendment. If you could please restate your friendly

amendment, it will be taken down for consideration. This has been going on for a long time

and flourishes, while expanding detail, are not a luxury we can afford at this time.

35.1.2.4.3. My friendly amendment is that neither the GA nor the SC has the right to

sanction a working group before they have had an opportunity to respond to the allegations

that have been made against them. An example of the problem is what was done to the

demands working group.

F: Thank you for that friendly amendment.

35.1.2.4.4. I have a couple friendly amendments. The first one has to do with ratification of

the charters. Mainly that it would be nice if the charters were not permanent and had some

kind of refresh mechanism. I’m a little worried that clusters determine those charters. We’re

capable of determining those charters. Another amendment: feedback loops between GA and

SC. There’s nothing like checks and balances here, it’s weird. Also: it’d be good if the SC

had to deal with smaller amounts of money. Perhaps the GA deals with large amounts of

money?

35.1.2.4.5. Hi! My friendly amendment is that in the places where autonomy is mentioned, it

specifies autonomy within the SC and that in the relationship to GA, there is something about

the GA’s jurisdiction, so that it is clear that it can still make decisions regarding operations,

or some kind of amendments if necessary. Was that clear?

Response: GA part wasn’t clear.

35.1.2.4.5. (Continued) I’ll try to clarify. It feels like there should be some clarification about

the GA’s relationship to the SC and that it should have the authority to amend the SC. Does

that make sense? It’s related to the checks and balances issue that the other guy said.

35.1.2.4.6. Hello I am going to break point of process. I would like to warn everyone that

this is very similar to a process that we are here to get out of. It is bureaucratic, it is

micromanaging, and I don’t like it. I also do not like groups, because they are a direct road to

classicism. Thank you. F: I want to remind everyone that the process of direct democracy is difficult. And we’re all learning it. And we need to be patient with each other. And I made mistakes, and we all make mistakes. But part of what we’re doing in this square is building solidarity and so, let’s try to respect the process, and respect each other. 35.1.2.4.7. I propose that we amend the proposal to specify that for now, the only legitimate reason for a working group to be denied a charter, or to have the charter revoked, is because of disruptive behavior, and depend upon our democratic ethos and trust to prevent those who should not be participating as working groups in the SC from doing so. With the understanding that if this doesn’t work out and things get too congested or crazy, or log jammed in the SC, it could come back and request more power to exclude working groups. F: Stack is now closed for friendly amendments. 35.1.2.4.8. I propose to amend the proposal to include a provision that would allow the GA to dissolve the SC at a meeting of the GA that has been announced 48 hours in advance. I have a second amendment that the GA should from time to time have to reach an affirmative consensus in order to keep the SC in power. 35.1.2.4.9. Breakout groups work great. Why don’t we just turn the GA into an SC thing? 35.1.2.4.10. Sage: My friendly amendment is if we have an SC, we need to form sleep work group so that whether or not members of our sleeping population have a work group, their needs are represented at the SC. And that spoke will be responsible for relaying that information back to the people who sleep here. The other friendly amendment is that wherever these meetings take place, they should always be able to be protested somehow. So that no matter what we do, we never become hypocritical asking the world to accept our protests while we internally only accept those people who behave the way we want to. 35.1.2.4.11. I apologize for speaking twice. I have a quick friendly amendment that we bring back the Tuesday and Thursday cultural events. I just think that’s great. Response: Like last night, many of these suggestions are good. There’s also a lot of repetition. And we heard it. What we’d like to propose is two friendly amendments: one is that the GA will have power to dissolve the SC. We would like there to be one week notice for it to be announced in the GA, in the SC, and on the web so that we aren’t caught by surprise and people can address it and have adequate time to prepare. How do people like that amendment? The second amendment is that we agree that language should be the basis for excluding a working group, or if they exhibit disruptive behavior. Point of Clarification PoC): who would determine what disruptive is? Response: All of these details we will have to determine together. There is not a way we could write a whole law on all of the different ways someone can be disruptive. It will have to be, again, a moment of trust for us to figure it out together. If a working group felt wronged, they could bring it to the SC. All of these details we will continue to figure out as a community. Again, this is a living document. If anyone has suggestions, they can always join a structure working group. Also I think there’s some confusion between the SC and the GA. Everyone who’s here tonight and on future nights is in the GA and could also be a part of the SC. Also campers, people who don’t necessarily belong to a working group but who stay here, have their own spoke on the SC. You have to understand the very simple picture on your printout does not show that. It is written in your proposal in the picture from the web, it’s written there that the occupiers have a spoke. Also I want to be clear that this is not about creating a hierarchy or centralizing power. This is about destroying implicit hierarchies that exist due to the lack of structure!!! F: Can we get a temperature check on how we feel about passing this proposal? Are there any blocks? 35.1.2.5. Five blocks

F: What we did was we heard the proposal, then we heard concerns, and those concerns were

addressed. And then we asked for friendly amendments, and then the structure working group

accepted two friendly amendments. And now they’re asking this body to pass the proposal in

your hand. Temperature check says people feel good. So we move to consensus. And when

we move to consensus, we’re counting blocks. When we see those blocks, the structure group

will decide how to proceed…Those who make the block will have to explain their position.

Once that process is over, we’ll move to see whether there’s consensus. If there is no

consensus, we could move to modified consensus, which is a 9/10th’s vote. However, after

counting the blocks, that is for the structure working group to decide. They may decide to

table it. That’s where we’re at. So we move to consensus. Those who are blocking, make

your block visible.

F: There is a question to clarify what a block means. A block is like a veto. A veto is made in

very serious extenuating circumstances. It is when there is a moral, ethical, safety concern

with the proposal. It’s extremely serious. It means you feel in danger or find that the proposal

is totally reprehensible.

PoI: The way I understand it is that the block and the concern is not just individual to the

person doing the block, but is a concern for the whole group.

So now we will see if the group doing the proposal would like to hear the blocks.

F: We just spoke to the Structure working group. The Structure working group has been

notified that in this body there are seven blocks. And they were asked if they would like to

hear the blocks. And their response was, if that concern has not already been stated in clear

terms, please explain your blocks. So now we will hear from the people who have a block. If

you have a block in the back please come up. [counting blocks] 15 blocks

35.1.2.5.1. My blocked concern is how many people are here right now voting on this.

There’s a whole population over there right now that is not here, that this decision directly

affects. I have other concerns just as serious that I’ll leave for later.

35.1.2.5.2. This document was just given to us five hours ago. I have an ethical problem with

the process in which a document is given to us which we don’t have time to review. We need

at least a few days with the final document.

35.1.2.5.3. I feel that the Structure working group didn’t put enough effort to make a public

call to find another system besides this one and reach out to the people at universities or place

an offer on the website for people to bring another proposal.

35.1.2.5.4. Hi. I just think we need more time to think about this. It’s a very big change.

35.1.2.5.5. What I believe is we do not need that new system. What we need to do is to work

hard to make the GA a better system for everybody because the GA is the body of everybody

here. We do not need another system, because Rome was not built in one day.

35.1.2.5.6. I have serious moral and ethical concerns with this proposal. I really don’t think it

really puts the concern of diversity at the top. I also have a concern with invisible leaders who

are misusing their roles and bullying people they don’t like. I’m concerned that the SC model

will disenfranchise voters that are members of certain groups, and some groups are larger

than other groups, and yet they will have only one vote, and I think that will spell out

inequality.

PoP: can we please not use misrepresentative language. We have no voters, we don’t vote.

35.1.2.5.7. My concern is with the working groups, the way they’ve been functioning already.

Anything that strengthens these working groups, whether the spokes revolve around the

groups or not, as long as we keep on being addicted to centralization, we’ll keep on forming

lockups and keeping a dependency on people who make themselves too vital. So unless we

develop a culture that will digest the people who don’t make themselves a part of this process

into the process, I don’t want to support anything that will solidify the hold that the

workgroup culture already has.

35.1.2.5.8. I have a concern that the lack of democracy under the present structure, as

exemplified by the attack on the demands working group with unsubstantiated claims that the

group was not allowed to defend themselves but nonetheless were punished. If we don’t deal

with the anti-democratic structure we have now, it will simply be replicated in this new

structure.

35.1.2.5.9. I blocked because questions, concerns, friendly amendments: Stack was closed on

all of those, and was not opened after it was closed. There were concerns and amendments

that were not voiced. There were concerns that were voiced that haven’t been addressed, and

concerns that were addressed that haven’t been resolved. There were many concerns brought

up, the working group accepted only two of them. …. I don’t believe there is meaningful

consensus. I believe a lot of people didn’t block because of the emphasis put on not blocking

by facilitation in the past and just wanting to get this done with tonight.

35.1.2.5.10. I blocked because I view the general assembly as the initial legitimate voice of

this movement. And what this proposal wants to do is change that, and not allow the general

assembly to continue in that role. Specifically financially, but also in some other roles, and I

feel that’s a mistake. I feel that both groups can play those roles.

35.1.2.5.11. Mic check. I really love SC’s and I don’t have a concern that I don’t think can’t

be addressed. While I am still worried that this proposal will disenfranchise people who come

to cluster groups, get fedup with crappy process, and just give up. I’m willing to give it a try

but I do think that the finance question needs to be addressed. For the sole reason that the SC

will only meet 3 times a week. Almost every night, we have financial proposals coming to the

GA. If we need to spend money, that working group might not want to wait until the next SC.

That’s all.

35.1.2.5.12. Although I agree with formation of caucuses, I have a problem with creating

clusters based on not the work produced, but race gender and gender identity. I don’t want to

divide us based on these things when we’re trying to make decisions.

35.1.2.5.13. I have watched a lot of people walk away from this meeting. I think that we

should respect the people who aren’t here and have this discussion longer than just tonight. I

personally am swayed by a lot of what’s been proposed tonight. I would like to hear

alternative proposals.

35.1.2.5.14. We are about to pass a proposal that would change the entire structure of our

protest with maybe 200 people. I know you guys have worked really hard on this and I really

like a lot of what you’re doing but you have told us too many times that details will be

worked out later. And you have asked us too many times to take things on faith. You say you

have workshopped this to death, but look how many amendments you yourself made just

from last night. We all want the same thing here. We have all been working together. We

have all sacrificed a lot of time. And we are about to change the system without hundreds of

voices being heard, without hundreds of voices even being consulted. For that reason alone, I

urge that we vote this down. This structure working group should have a few days of teaching

and take some suggestions. I think it will be passed overwhelmingly in just a few days.

35.1.2.5.15. I voiced most of my concerns earlier. Otherwise, I would like to encourage a

global perspective. Are we seriously asking the globe to assign themselves to a group in order

to accomplish direct democracy? And then expect them to have autonomy? We need to learn

how to represent ourselves and teach others how to do this also. There are many other

concerns, the main one is that GA itself needs more work. Let’s spend our time perfecting

what we already have specifically by going back to the original description of the GA model,

which has not been followed here. Thank you.

35.1.2.5.16. I would like to propose that this group engages the proper legal and PR

representation to speak and direct the group forward.

35.1.2.5.17. I really respect the work of the structure working group. I really believe though

that we also need to discuss that the Spokes model implicitly also determines that the

function of the GA will necessarily be changed. I would suggest that with the proposal of the

spokes, discussions are held about the purpose of the GA, which in my view should be more

political and the spokes, for example, should be about enabling decisions made on the GA.

We are a political body. Let that voice be heard at the spokes and everywhere else.

F: We are done with hearing from those who blocked. I just want to remind everyone before I

turn it back to the working structure group that direct democracy is hard work, and a work in

progress. It’s almost 12:00 am. This is amazing.

F: In the same vein, direct democracy is a difficult process that we are all learning. It has

been brought to facilitation’s attention that what just happened was a lot of negativity. And to

be fair, I’m going to leave it to you, there was a suggestion that we should open the floor very

briefly for those who want to endorse this proposal. Can we get a temperature check on how

this GA feels? Ultimately it is your decision and the power that is given to facilitation comes

only through you. If you want to modify this process, please make your feelings known.

F: Just a reminder: if people would like to speak in favor of the proposal, we could open it up

for five minutes. Ten minutes. How do people feel about that?

35.1.2.6. Structure WG: Thanks for your suggestions. Obviously we don’t want to go

forward right now with this many serious concerns. We have a lot of trepidation that this will

be endless. We have hope, however, in the process of democracy. We need you to stick with

us though and commit to coming back. Please stick with this. All of you in working groups,

keep coming to the GA. We want to take your suggestions and host teach-ins for the next 5

days. At 2:00 in the afternoon. And if people come to us with concerns, and need to add an

additional time, we’d be happy to do it. You can find us at 2:00 pm at the other occupation

sight at 60 wall st, 2:00 pm. Our hope would then be to come back on Wednesday to the GA.

Between now and then, we will add the two friendly amendments and we will also try to look

into the budgetary amendments. So the proposal on Wednesday might look slightly different.

Is that ok? We will try to do it by the end of the weekend so you can see the proposal in the

next 3 days. Our hope is that people who have serious concerns can come to us with

constructive ideas because we can use help. How does that sound?

It would also be great for you to come to those workshops so you can teach workshops and

get this idea of SC’s understood by many more. And if you have an alternative idea, you are

welcome to work on your own proposal. This is just our proposal.

35.1.2.6.1. How do you propose if you come back next Wednesday and there’s a critical

mass of new faces saying we haven’t seen this before, how are you going to hold the line?

Response: You guys will hold the line! So get educated! Those of you who had blocks, we

would love to get your email addresses if you’re comfortable, so that we can all dialogue.

PoI: As a point of information, there are many people here who have been voicing that this

has been approachable and accessible up until this point. Those voices are not necessarily

listened to or trusted. What’s to say the same thing won’t happen next week?

I think I want to, as facilitation, get another temperature check from you if you would like to

hear from some people in support of this proposal. I say this because we’re not going to vote

on it. It’s clear. And we have a path forwards. But it may make sense for those who wish to

speak to have 10 minutes to do so. How do you feel about that? [A fair number of agree

fingers]

Structure WG: If you want to send us information, we can post on the site, you can email.

F:I know we’re fatigued and I think this is an amazing conversation. We still have other items

on the agenda, so this is the part that we’ve been talking about. There’s a process that we

adore, that’s empowering to everyone. But it’s becoming a bit unworkable.

PoC: I don’t feel like it’s the place of the facilitator to speak in favor of the proposal. PoC: I wasn’t speaking in favor of the proposal, I’m trying to move this forward. This is a movement, and it’s a movement that’s growing. We’re here to move things forward. Please keep in mind we do not just have one more proposal. We have a number of budgetary proposals remaining on the agenda for tonight. They are time sensitive, so they must happen tonight. We have about four. If you want to email the structure group, the email address is: owsstructure@gmail.com F: Part of the concern that we have is we’re not supposed to be loud. We have quiet hours for the neighbors around us and it starts at 11:00 pm and we’re in violation of that almost an hour. And there are children here who are probably trying to sleep. So the question is, as a body, what should we do? PoC: My group divine feminine was supposed to meet at 10:00 pm. That didn’t happen. If people interested in that discussion group could meet me now at the cube, we could decide a time to meet tomorrow. I’m concerned because they keep getting derailed by long GA’s. 35.1.2.7. Proposal Tabled 35.1.3. Outreach Proposal

35.1.3.1. I’m with Outreach and we have an organizer’s brunch on Sunday. We need funding for food. 1,000 dollars. We also have printing needs. Everyone has printing needs. We would like to open an account at Apple. It’s a local business down the street. If we open up an account there, we will have easy access to printed material. 50,000 flyers a week. We would need $2000 a week to start up the account. We have an organizer’s brunch on Sunday, which we need food for. And we need to order the food tomorrow morning. So we need $1,000 to do so. That is from finance, and has been written off. 35.1.3.2. Clarifying Questions

35.1.3.2.1. What is it? Response: It’s a community organizer’s brunch. We’re organizing different community leaders to get involved as a whole in the Occupy Wall Street movement. We’re providing a forum for them to get together and speak about their issues. 35.1.3.2.2. How did you determine the amount of funding you need? And have you got a response from community leaders that you wish to discuss with? How do you know how many will be in attendance? Response: We’ve sent out an RSVP and we have about 200 people confirmed to come. The list is on ga.loudfeed.org. This is the second one. But that also has to do with our printing budget because if we had that, we could have flyers to inform everyone about upcoming events. 35.1.3.2.3. Second part of my question: $2,000 for paper? Response: Yes. F: I’m now closing stack for clarifying questions. 35.1.3.2.4. Explain how this went through finance? Response: We presented it to finance and they’ve ok’d it. F: Stack is now closed for concerns. How do we feel about this proposal? Do people feel comfortable to move towards consensus? 35.1.3.2.5. 35.3.5 Q: Can you give us about 10 examples of these groups who are coming? Response: No, I can’t. It’s a very long list and I wasn’t directly involved with organizing the brunch. I’m here as a messenger from outreach. If you want the list, you can email us at ows.outreach@gmail.com. Response: There is one group who is here. My name is Eddy, I’m part of OWS, I’m also part of a campaign called Police reform organizing project. We’re combating systemic NYPD

abuses. F: I would like to get a temperature check about the proposal? Can we move to consensus? Consensus: Are there any blocks?

35.1.3.3. We have consensus. ACHIEVED. 35.1.4. Occupy Central Park Proposal

35.1.4.1 Hey everyone! I’m here representing Occupy Central Park. It will be a three-day gathering, 11/11/11. I am here because we need funding to make stickers. We have the design ready, but need $2,000 to make 92,000 stickers. It’s a lot but we need it. We’ll send them all around the world. The faster we have them, the more people will know, and the bigger and better it will be. 35.1.4.2. Clarifying Questions

35.1.4.2.1. Why three days? Response: It will be like a fair where people get together to exchange ideas about building a better future. It will also protect us from the cops and would not be a good winter home. We are thinking about the long-term and we will talk about that. 35.1.4.2.2. We’d like to know if this is civil disobedience. Response: We are the people and we are not getting a permit. It’s a peoples’ park, meant and built for that. It’s the only place in the city where a large amount of people can gather. 35.1.4.2.3. Are you committing civil disobedience by staying overnight? Please make sure folks know. Response: We are breaking the law and we will be telling people the risks. We’re hoping lots of folks will show up, and our message will show the cops that we are trying to gather peacefully and in an orderly way. 35.1.4.2.4. Why do you believe that printing 92,000 stickers is the most effective way of getting the word out about this event? Response: We are using all available resources. The internet is free. The stickers are high quality, waterproof, and a one-time expense. We want to have as many as possible so we don’t have to order them again. 35.1.4.2.5. Is this a whole different occupation, or a project of this one? Response: It’s a next step forward. We feel the park is at max capacity. New people can’t join our family and create unnecessary chaos in trying to get things done. That’s why this is a three-day event, with folks from all around the country and the world. 35.1.4.2.6. What are the stickers made of? Response: Vinyl. I am not a sticker genius, but they are waterproof and tough. 35.1.4.2.7. 92,000 is a lot of stickers. Response: We are using every medium possible to get our message out there. Stickers are very efficient because they are like flyers that people keep around and keep the message flowing. This event will take place in a few weeks, but is in its baby stages. Stickers are an efficient way to communicate. 35.1.4.2.8. To move to central park is huge and excellent, and I think in fairness to all the new people, a lot of whom have not been here… People who came here knew they could sleep here and not be arrested. You should think about saying that staying in central park may get you arrested. Response: That’s why we want to make this known as widely as possible, so people know the risks and we know what actions the cops are likely to take. We are going to send info to papers, etc., saying we know its illegal but we believe we have the right. 35.1.4.2.9. I just hope that after you have worked that out, you put on the stickers the final

decision, so people who find the stickers will not have followed the whole decision making process. Response: It’s pretty simple. Occupy Central Park, arts festival, 11/11/11, occupycentralpark.org 35.1.4.2.10. Since it won’t be on the sticker, make it prominent on the website. Response: We hear your concern and we will do that. 35.1.4.2.11. There are way too few people here to make decisions on this topic, especially because it can wait. It’s important but it can wait. Response: We’ve been waiting 5 days, and if people don’t want to stay here, I can’t force them. F: We need to move forward. I have repeatedly asked to be mindful of folks who still want to hear. 35.1.4.2.12. It’s very important to understand that we cannot change the government overnight, or the nature of OWS. Until there is an ethical solution to the sticker problem (oil) let’s let the stickers pass. It’s a movement, but I can understand as an artist that every material I use is toxic, including oil paints. 35.1.4.2.13. There is a great alternative to using stickers that anyone can do, called wheat paste, many people use it, its awesome, you can make it in the kitchen. Response: The thing is, we are using wheat paste, but would need 30,000 wheat pasters. F: Temp check: we are trying to get $2000 to get 92,000 waterproof occupy central park stickers. Mixed. We’re very split, about a third each way. 35.1.4.3. Concerns

F: The people that don’t like it, can you please say your concerns? If I were to spend $1000, would that be ok? There is room for friendly amendments 35.1.4.3.1. I would suggest that folks who don’t know the process, is not an artist, doesn’t know how to make stickers, define this project. If you don’t understand what this project is and don’t understand what it is to create the stickers, why are you speaking? 35.1.4.4. Friendly Amendments

F: Amendments please? 35.1.4.4.1. Move forward with stickers. 35.1.4.4.2. Simply that we drastically curb the amount of stickers. Only because I feel that 92,000 is an astronomical amount of stickers, and $2000 is a lot of money. Response: The only reason we had thought of making so many was so we wouldn’t have to order again. But if you guys are fine with just doing $1000, I would be fine. 35.1.4.4.3. I’d like to have a group look into an alternative way of sending stickers, not in the real world, through email blasts, things like that. Response: We are working on every possible way to get this event out physically and virally. 35.1.4.4.4. An alternative to leaving something in the world, physically environmentally Response: We are not putting them on nature, but on things that destroy the environment. We will be conscious to not destroy private property, or things that we would disturb. It’s the best way to get the message out there, put the message on laptops or guitars, not just graffiti. 35.1.4.4.5. I am a hiker and backpacker, subscribe to the principle of leave no trace. Response: If you want to have no trace… F: This gentleman has a proposal, let’s move on. 35.1.4.4.6. This coat was discarded. My shoes were purchased. Before I went to art school, I ran a nuclear reactor. Before that, I designed buildings. I care about how things are put into the world. I’d like to see us clean up graffiti stickers, before, during and after this event, to offset graffiti stickers.

Response: Accepted. 35.1.4.5. Our original proposal was to get $2,000 worth of stickers made, 92000 stickers, we have cut that in half. We will add the sticker offset, tell people to be conscious about what they do with them, but I can’t control anyone’s choice. We will do sticker removal. F: Temp Check: good Test for Consensus: block. 35.1.4.6. Blocks

F: We hear this person, explain the block. A block is made in extreme circumstances, and is serious. Once this person explains the block, the presenter will address, then we will see if we have consensus. 35.1.4.6.1. Leaving litter is counter-productive and gets in the way of our message. Response: We feel that it is most important to get folks to this event, so we can fix the world, by having these events. We’ve heard an explanation F: Consensus: 9/10 over a block. Often the person who’s compelled to block, makes that choice, knowing that they may have to leave the movement. However, we can move to modified consensus, or a 9/10 vote. The block retains its dignity, but we reach an action item.

35.1.4.7. PROPOSAL PASSED AT 9/10 If you guys are concerned or have ideas, come to the meeting at 7:30 pm at 60 Wall Street. Everyone is welcome. 35.1.5. Arts and Culture Proposal

35.1.5.1 Thank you for staying. You will be very happy you did. I’m the master of degrees, an unemployed superhero. I fight for justice. It’s a long, tiring fight. Let’s find those moments in which to rejoice, celebrate. On behalf of Arts and Culture, I will tell you of a secret plan. NYC has the largest public Halloween parade. We came up with a plan to hijack it. Then the organizers got wind, and invited us. We are now an official part of the largest Halloween parade in the world. We have 8 days to put on an amazing demo of what this movement is made of. Corporate zombies, puppets, bands. What we’re lacking are the funds. We want to do a really good job. Last year, 60,000 people were present, so this year, the whole world is watching. We want $3,000, plus what we’ve raised, in order to pull this off. 35.1.5.2. Clarifying Questions

35.1.5.2.1. Can you please outline what you will be spending money on? Response: There are 10 large puppets, banners, materials, for all groups that want to participate. We also want funds for costumes and more. We want to plan for a best-case scenario just in case everybody shows up. 35.1.5.2.2. I like your idea. It’s great. I’d like to promote it. What’s the link? Response: occupyhalloween.org Facebook it, tweet it, tell your friends. 35.1.5.2.3. Our kickstarter fund raised $650 for puppets. 35.1.5.2.4. Is there any organization that has registered itself as a nonprofit? I ask because there’s an organization called Materials for the Arts. They have a warehouse. They would donate large amounts of materials. Response: We’ve been there, we like it. Interruption from Occupier. F: I apologize for straying from process, trying to to balance process with other needs and act in solidarity. 35.1.5.2.5. I’m Lauren. I’m with sustainability. Where are you getting the fabric, etc., and what’s happening afterwards? We want to reduce things from the waste stream. ‘

Response: After I got involved with Arts and Culture, I got involved in the project. I will reuse the costumes. The stuff we’re making will last, not go to landfill. The puppets will last though many actions. Response: We are creating our own section of the parade with our own stuff. We’re inviting bands and other groups. The invite is extended to everyone. 35.1.5.2.6. On the creative side, are you taking ideas of what kind of act you will do? Response: There are two events currently planned. One is the evening parade. People can come with whatever they want, but we want folks to think of this as a message opportunity. The morning event is in formation, and might be a direct action. We’re thinking superheroes vs. Wall Street at a location we don’t want to announce yet. You’re invited as a hero or villain. F: No concerns. Temp Check: Good 35.1.5.3. Consensus: Achieved.

35.2. Announcements

35.2.1. Hello, sorry to take your time. We got back from Stop Stop and Frisk. Thirty-three people arrested, 31 released. Two still being held for political reasons. One is a member of people’s patrol, which patrols the police to try to stop them from performing illegal actions. They were trying to do this, he was arrested, and has not been released. The other was a speaker, who said that his mother taught him to fear the police. He teaches kids, tells them to be aware of things. There’s a movement to end Stop Stop and Frisk. There will be a planning meeting at St Mary’s church, 186th Street. Tomorrow there may be a march in the morning to Center precinct where those men are being held. 35.2.2. Sorry, one last announcement (I’ve been waiting six hours…). Charlie Rangel is a congressional representative who came down here and said he supported OWS. Then he went to Washington DC and voted for a trade bill that would make it illegal to regulate Wall Street. We’re having an action Tuesday, meeting here at the red thing at 10:45 am, going to his office in Harlem. The state office building at 163 West 125th St. The march is to show that he does NOT represent the 99%! F: Adjourned! (Meeting adjourned at 2:20AM)

**NYCGA Minutes 10/23/2011**

Posted October 23rd, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 37

Meeting Date/Time: 10/23/2011 / 7pm EST

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators (F): Daniele, Leo, Christina, Larry

Process Review/Opening Comments: Facilitators are not leaders, they are only here to help facilitate the process of the meeting. They are always looking for new facilitators, and especially encourage anyone from an underrepresented minority to join them. Review of hand signals and definitions. We take progressive stack. This means that speakers who do not usually get the chance to be heard If anyone can interpret in sign language, please come up.

AGENDA 37.1. Working Group Report Backs 37.2. Agenda Items (Discussion of Statement from Visions and Goals Working Group)

F: This may sound like a lot of rules, what we are trying to do with the GA is to create a space where every voice can be heard. At this point we will proceed with the GA. We will start with working group report backs. This is a time for working groups to report back on progress they’ve made, discussions they’re having, and projects they’re working on. The next item is a breakout discussion for the working group Visions and Goals. Finally, we will have time for announcements where individuals can come up and give info on things such as future events. Announcements are not the time for personal opinions. After GA is over we will open up the space for soap box which anyone can give a mic check and express all the personal opinions they want. So stack is now open for report back with Christina.

37.1. Working Group Report Backs

37.1.1. Hi I’m Kelly. I’m from the working group called Principals and Solidarity Consolidation. My purpose is to briefly inform you of the document that has been in the works since the 2nd day of the occupation. On the 2nd day, facilitation proposed we break out into groups. At that time there were 5 to a group, 10 of them, all of them were tasked with writing a short list of reasons why they were here and provide solid ground on which to stand. After this task was completed, working groups reported back. There was another group that formed called Consolidation. We took this info and found like themes and looked at the multiple perspectives and we synthesized them into a document. We brought this document

to the GA and broke out into group. Groups wrote comments. We took those papers back and

synthesized them into another draft. THIS draft. … Our group has grown and so has the

content we’ve been receiving. We are overwhelmed. I am here tonight to introduce this

document. This is a living document and is not completed. This was consensed upon on

September 23rd. It is online. On the agenda, we are going to have a break out to complete the

document…Look online at the document, and if you’re curious about this process and the

future of where we’re going talk to me after the GA. Lastly, we have multiple drafts that we

will distribute tomorrow or set up on a table tomorrow where they will be accessible or you

can find it online at nycga.net/resources/principles-of-solidarity. Talk to me afterwards.

Thanks, Kelly.

37.1.2. I’m from Arts and Culture. We came up with an idea to occupy open mics and on

Tuesday nights at the theater under St Marks is Penny’s open mic. We should go there and do

whatever you want. Sing, dance, comedy, theater, tell stories. Get the message out. We

should have a space arranged by tomorrow. We have been invited to participate in the

Halloween parade. We had plans to occupy it but they found out and invited us. If you want

to find out more go to occupyhalloween.org. Thank you.

37.1.3. Hello my name is Carn, with the Alternative Banking working group. Our goal is to

explore, and if we can, establish an alternative banking system. We have been meeting by

email. We are now migrating to the nycga.net site so all of our announcements and papers

will be there. Tomorrow, we will put up the minutes from our last meeting where we

concluded we would focus on: formulating necessary reform and imagining ….and if

necessary implementing a much better banking system….We welcome everyone. Please

come join our group.

37.1.4. Hi my name is Laura, and I’m also English but were not related. As part of the

working group we want to form the Occupy Wall St Women’s circle. Structures that have

dominated our world for centuries are beginning to crumble…This is not a space to express

our pain but a place to create and collaborate. To allow a new positive vision of the world. If

you want to be involved come and see me at the red structure between 9 and 9:30 or

whenever the GA is over. Or listen out for future announcements.

Point of Information (PoI): there is a women’s group of women occupying Wall St. I think

right now they meet Sundays and Mondays at 60 Wall St. Check info.

37.1.5. I love what that women just said, women have a lot to offer. My name is Ashley and

I’m a member of WOW, which stands for Women Occupying Wall St.

I’m Alexis we meet on Sundays at 4pm. We start at the red structure and go elsewhere. We

meet at Monday at 4pm. You can also find us at nycga.net look for the group WOW. A

couple things we’re working on is ironing out our mission statements. We are planning… to

highlight hardships that women face due to economic inequalities. At 9:30 we will be here

after the GA.

37.1.6. I’m Anthony with Direct Action. Direct Action meets at 2 weekdays in the cemetery

at the church. We function on a decentralized structure. If you have ideas you can bring them

and we’ll talk. Direct Action will like to suggest we don’t chant “whose streets? Our streets”

on the sidewalk. If you’re going to chant you should be in the streets. Also, we would like to

remind you we support a diversity of tactics.

37.1.7. Hi, I’m with Community Relations. Our mission is to promote positive relations with local businesses, employees, residents and tourists and try to represent their concerns to the GA. We do not negotiate or make promises.

F: I just want to remind people that this is a space for conversations that are relevant to the entire GA. If you have specific question for a working group I’d encourage you to talk directly to them afterwards. Do we have clarifying question?

Clarifying question: is it true that this is a political-less movement and therefore needs to include the drummers?

F: I think this can be addressed outside of the GA.

Response: I have a direct response: we have drummers in the Community Relations work group. I believe you are one.

Clarifying question: just a quick one, are they angry or are they tolerating us well?

Response: There was a community board meeting a few days ago where many residents voiced their support and some voiced concerns with two issues. One was sanitation. People have been urinating and defecating in the neighborhood. Another was the drumming. The community board was under the impression drumming would be limited to 2 hours a day and that has not been the case.

37.1.8. Hello everyone I’m Ted with Light Source. Light Source is a low profit entity creating tools for the movement. First project is to create the largest conversation on November 11 2011. We are united a bunch of open source… all people’s assemblies to participate regarding open sources for the future. The largest conversation in human history. Meet me, red cube after GA. Lots of fun.

Clarifying question: I have 2 concerns, one that can be addressed and one that cannot. First, Ted is sponsored by IBM. Second, what is low profit?

Response: I can answer both questions, there’s a point of information though.

PoI: the first question was not a question.

Response: I can answer that concern.

F: Just quickly to be clean on the process, we usually do not have time for clarifying questions or concerns during working group report backs. That’s our bad as facilitators and it’s important that these that have been aired are dealt with quickly.

Response: Low profit allows a company to be not for profit and for profit at the same time by recycling their profits into community projects. You aim for zero profits. Come meet me at the cube.

37.2. AGENDA ITEMS

37.2.1. Hi, a bunch of us have been working on creating an open dialogue at the GA among the OWS community and the rest of the world to develop visions and goals for the OWS movement. Today we’re going to go over what we have been discussing. Some history: this doc has been drafted with over 200 people’s input. This has come about from the demand for demands. There are no demands in this, that didn’t really fly. So what we have is something we’d like to give to you in the form of a break out session and have a dialogue and then incorporate it into this fine doc. What we have here is a very consolidated version of that document. We could read it out. And we will give it out in break out groups. So the concept of break out groups is that you can have a more fluid discussion. One person will take notes, we are providing blank paper with points on them that relate to the doc so your discussion can be further organized.

Right now the facilitators will help us break out into groups, 15-20 people per. This is obviously an inexact science. For now please find a group and we’ll get to you with these documents. We’ll let you speak in that group for 20 minutes and then we’ll ask that a representative from each group come up and gives a report of what you discussed…. Speak aggressively, make your voices heard. We encourage you to go around your groups and say your name and try to focus on these goals and get something for each goal.

BREAK

37.2.2. Group Discussion Points

37.2.2.1. Sara: Hi, I’m Sara. Our group had 2 concerns. One, we were confused about the vision versus demands. What is the purpose of this document? And who is its audience? Second, we were concerned about the language. It was difficult to understand. We felt overwhelmed. We want it to be focused, passionate, and easy to understand. On the process we wanted to have read the document beforehand. It is so wordy. It was difficult to understand and to reflect on in such a short time.

37.2.2.3. Craig: hi, this document is not accessible to everyone. It’s written in language that is hard to understand….Point 2, too similar to point 1 and needs more specification. Point 3: too similar to 1 and 2. Point 4: we need to foster digital relationships.

37.2.2.4. Hannah: would like to see a document like this that takes as a starting point the idea of personal reasonability. That’s first. Second, our group expressed discomfort with the implication that technology can solve all of our problems. Third, our group is concerned about multiple documents with overlapping agendas. For example what is the relation with this document and the declarations? Is there a way to create a consolidated document? Also we are concerned with the overly academic tone of the document. Next, while as our group understands this is a shortened version of the document, we felt divorced from actions and specific visions, this can feel empty… Many other movements have run into the same barriers. Capitalism, market, the economy, we imagine these to be the focus of our movement.

37.2.2.5. Christian: to be simple we just had an additional vision to add. The vision would be the need to explicitly call out an end to patriarchal racist classism.

37.2.2.6. Boots: our group discussed ways to better develop the consensus based process just like break out groups like this. We also want simpler language. It’s getting cold. We also

better consolidate online spaces and the public private spaces like the atrium and Trump Tower.

37.2.2.7. Larisa: we have specific points. 1: we wanted to clarify democracy versus consensus based… By striking democracy for decision making. 2: we wanted to add studying current and historical context to this point. 3: we like harmony, we don’t understand it though. 4: we want to separate emotional spaces to be above everything. For physical spaces we want to emphasis utilizing public spaces. For all FLO: these are redundant and need more workshopping.

37.2.2.8. Eric: our group looked at each point one by one to see if we agree overall with its message and tried to find issues or ways we could clarify each point. 1: we felt that the world and its occupations are looking to OSW as a president and are highly connection by the internet…2: we were not sure what harmony and nature meant. There were some concerns that it might mean a complete dedication to lack of industrialization and technology. 3: we agreed there should be no centralized financial system. We should also look to new forms of exchange… 6: we felt that we should decentralize control of media. Local ownership of media but not at expense of global connection. 7: need definition. 8: Historically blind. Needs definitions.

37.2.2.9. Dorje: 1: a nationwide gathering of bodies. Online forum like a wiki would be the most important. 3: most important was to promote the value of economic equality. 4: we should establish peace and green economy as subjects in new educations. Also to teach direct democracy. 5: we thought we definitely need to note this. But our leaders won’t let us do this. We need something like state power for our movement. Among the original points that we came up with was that we need to return land to wronged indigenous communities.

37.2.2.10. Patrick: overall points: some of these could be consolidated. Fourth grade language only. Some were more policy, others were cultural principals. Policy was stronger… 1: more pragmatic. 2: how do we balance progress with responsible practices? We thought about disincentives when pass environmental… We wondered about 0 growth economy. 3: mixed. 4: not mixed and the focus would remain on education. 5 we like. 6: we liked. 7: real vague. 8: focus on nonviolence was better and clearer. Peace spread outward from the individual. 9: some is human nature and may not be eliminated. Force should be on eliminating it from government. The use of non-negative language would be better. Adding the idea of celebrating. 10: similar to 9, but the respect for…differences is useful to note. 11: added by us: electoral reform tied into a lot of points and should be noted.

37.2.2.11. Laura: 1: some voiced concern that this contradicts our … movement to decentralize power. We loved point 2. 6: some were concerned with the word “truth.” Should be replaced with the idea that media should represent a diversity of interpretations and we should have more media accountability. 7: we wondered who defined human rights. 8: we wondered about self-defense? Is this ok? How do we address violence from the state? 9: we should replace “past” with “past, present and future.” 10: confusion. Are we hoping to promote harmony btw existing value system or supersede them? Also this document does not address the problem of representation.

37.3. Announcements F: We are now going to do announcements.

37.3.1. Rachel with Arts and Culture: I’ve been working with a large group of artists who erected large safe signage for all major working groups. We were given a donation for this purpose. The project was a rush request and we have logistical problems. The banners are under redesign. The materials are around the park. We’d like to ask that the materials be returned to all the working groups.

37.3.2. Audrey: I’m part of a group called Anti-Racism Allies. Soon we’ll come to you with more info about what we do. In the means time we are hosting along with the People of Color working group a program on Tuesday called “the full 99 percent.” We will have 2 facilitators, both women of color, to come and host discussions starting a 1pm this Tuesday. The first discussion will be multiracial. The second discussion will be for folk who identify as white and who want to talk about the privileges they hold in the space. The final gathering will be multiracial again and will be a cultural share. It is 1pm to 9:30pm all day.

37.3.3. Catherine: first, Legal meets tomorrow at 6pm at the legal table. Second, we are starting a community watch to help make people in the park to feel safer. People who are interested in helping out should meet at the medic tent at 10pm to touch base with others who will be keeping an eye on things.

37.3.4. The Divine Feminine discussion group meets basically now at 9:30 on Sundays by the red cube but since WOW, a very related group, is going to meet basically now at the red structure we’re going to combine. These groups exist so we can empower ourselves. Also the Structure working group is holding teach-ins on the spokes council model at the Atrium daily 2pm every Wednesday. 60 Wall St.

37.3.5. Alexis: there’s a new group, tentatively called Occupy the SEC. There is a new proposed regulation on the Volcker Rule. There is period of public comments where only the banks have been commenting. The period ends January 13th. A group wants to discuss making individual comments about the Volcker Rule. We would not represent OWS. If you are interested it’s a 300 page document. But we welcome you to join us in perusing through it. Email us at occupythesec@gmail.com.

37.3.6. John: Hi, I’m from Stop Stop and Frisk. This past Friday myself and 34 others were arrested in an act of civil disobedience. Many OWS supporters were involved. Today we had a meeting about our next action.…Tomorrow night at 9pm we will be having a meeting under red thing about our next action. Please be there. Thanks

37.3.7. Elanna: Hi, I’m from a new group called Summer of Solutions. This group responds to the challenges that brought us here by creating tangible common based solution to build a just and sustainable economy in NYC. We will plan and implement solutions to be launched summer 2012 partnering with community organizations, urban farms, energy efficient co-ops, youth summer camps. We’re having a vision session on Wednesday at 6pm in the atrium of 60 Wall St. Please email nycsummerofsolutions@gmail.com

37.3.8. Josh: Hi I am a reporter with Mother Jones magazine. We are a national progressive political magazine. I am writing a book about OWS. If you’ve never been an activist until

you discovered OWS, especially if you lost your job or suffered some economic hardship, I want to hear from you. Email me at jharkinson@motherjones.com.

37.3.9. Serena: I have an announcement about healthcare. On Wednesday October 26th we are having a march against the health car industry and the insurance industry. At 4:30pm we are marching around 1 liberty plaza., across the street. We will then march to Blue Cross Blue Shield 5th avenue and 16th St. Then at 6pm to St Vincent’s.

37.3.10. Abe: I found a red notebook next to the church, does anyone know someone who lost it?

37.3.11. Adam: with Trade Justice. Today the action against Charlie Rangel on Tuesday was endorsed by the Harlem Tenants Council and Harlem Fight Back. And Rev. Earl Copercamp also … now have a new flyer… Charles Rangel sold us out to Wall Street by supporting the Korea and Panama free trade agreement. He’s also contributing to the massive expansion of factory farms.

37.3.12. Brent: I’m with Living Theater. We will be performing a protest piece called “7 Meditations on Political Sadomasochism” at Harold square at 5pm on Saturday Oct 29th. And every Saturday after that until they start listening!

37.3.13. Jason: I’m from Outdoor survival. This is for occupiers specifically. Tomorrow at 11am at the red cube we will be giving demonstrations in turning tarps into water safe shelters.

37.3.14. Camille: we have been working on a 3-day festival in Central Park on 11/11/11. Just came from a meeting. We need to get more numbers involved. We are meeting tomorrow at 3pm at 60 Wall St. Look for the Occupy Central Park signs. We really need people who have been involved with working groups here.

F: Adjourned

**NYCGA Minutes 10/24/2011**

Posted October 24th, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 38

Meeting Date/Time: 10/24/2011 / 7pm EST

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators (F): Naiva Star

F: Good evening! We are the facilitating team and we welcome you to this General Assembly on October 24th, 2011.

My name is Naiva Star (?) I will be Co Facilitating.

For our General Assembly we use progressive stack; that means we’ll be prioritizing voices of traditionally marginalized backgrounds. For today’s Assembly we are honored to have someone doing sign language. So please keep this area clear so that those who are hearing impaired can see. Facilitation WG meets every day at 4pm at 60 Wall St. Come visit us. Join us. The General Assembly has three parts. Part One is the agenda. Part 2 is Working Group report backs. (We ask WG report-backs to keep to 2 min.) Part 3 is for announcements. (Please keep it to one min.)

F: We have hand signals we want to teach you. Hands up fingers wiggling means I agree! I feel good! \* hands straight forward, fingers wiggling, means i’m on the fence. \* hands down, fingers wiggling means i disagree, i don’t feel so good. \* this is a C for clarifying questions, i don’t understand. Need clarification. Can’t always call on these, keep it relevant. \* one finder is point of information – I have a fact, can clarify. \* hands in a triangle means Point of Process it means that there is something happening right now or that doesn’t comport with the way this process is supposed to go. \* hands turning, get to the point. We understand. You’re using too many words. \* Arms up forming an X, this a block – i have serious moral ethical or safety objections to the proposal being discussed. so when we look for consensus at the end of the discussion, we will ask if anyone blocks – it’s very serious, not if you just don’t like it.

AGENDA

38.1. Agenda Items

38.2. Working Group Report Backs

38.3. Announcements

38.1. Agenda Items

38.1.1. Pulse/Direct Action/Community Board Proposal

F: First up on agenda is the drum circle. this is a co-proposal, from the Pulse Working Group, DA direct action and community relations WG.

38.1.1.1. We met today at the end of the drum circle and came up with a concrete proposal: the Pulse WG would like two, two hour blocks: noon-2pm and 4-6pm. So there has been a lot of animosity between all camps, we want to use this to move things forward so we can continue to build this revolution that’s going on right now.

F: Opening stack for Clarifying Questions. If you have a Clarifying Question please come give your name to the Stack taker. mic check.

38.1.1.2. Clarifying Questions

38.1.1.2.1. I think that the local residents should also be giving their consensus regarding drumming. Just because we think certain things are ok we have to take into consideration those who live in this community… whatever we decide should be proposed to the local community at the community board meeting.”

F: That was a great point, just to clarify…right now we are looking for questions about the proposal for people who don’t understand.

PoI: The community board is meeting tomorrow, if we pass this proposal tonight we can propose to community board tomorrow!

38.1.1.2.2. Brandon: As a member of Pulse, I’d like to know more about how Pulse plans to enforce these rules. As a member of many groups and member of Pulse, I feel like some people, or some communities in other words – I think as an individual – that something is wrong…

F: It’s important when we do peoples mic that everyone participate so we ALL CAN HEAR. (agreed!)

38.1.1.2.3. Alice What is the current drumming schedule & how was it negotiated (or not) with the community/neighbors?

Response: John from Pulse: Originally we were drumming here ten hrs a day – we were requested to cut it down – to 4 hours – so now we want approval from the community to continue – this is a public park – we can do whatever we want. We want to make noise but we want to respect you – but we want respect too. Drumming pulls people off the street and gets people to hold up signs – we ask you to give us 4 hrs to keep the heartbeat going. The community & the community board dictates the revolution if you let them decide.

F: Just a reminder, we’re still just asking questions to clarify the proposal.

F: Stack is closed for Clarifying Questions.

38.1.1.2.4. Anthony – It seems that the drums want to drum a lot. We can’t make anyone do anything – so this is a good faith agreement…?

Response: Pulse: My name is Gene (?) – with Pulse – I am with the drums 24 hrs a day – at night after sessions I run lines through them – drumming hrs are between 12-2 and 4-6 – if you hear drumming at another time, it’s someone else who brought their own drums in to do their own thing.

38.1.1.2.5. Linda – I have a Clarifying Question. How is it that one group can claim to be my heartbeat? When I first came here, it was not from the drumming – this revolution is comprised of all of us. No group is more important than the other.

Point of Process (PoP): This only for questions, not statements!

Response: Pulse: We are there to tell people this is not drumming time – enforce it ourselves — make signs with posted drumming hours.

F: Opening stack for concerns. If you have concerns about this proposal – get on stack.

38.1.1.2.6. First, David – My concern is about the school across the street from the drums. I believe the issue is that drumming is happening while school is in session – that is a public school – they are the 99% not 1%.

Response: Pulse: The local community board originally asked us to limit drumming to only 11am – 5pm. (During school hours) They must have already considered the issue of the school.

38.1.1.2.7. Ashley: The proposal is for 12-2 and 4-6. That’s generally lunchtime, and after school time. Young children don’t go to bed till 7 or 8 – this is a reasonable proposal – I feel that we are scapegoating the drummers – the drilling (from construction) is much louder. And you know the media is making big deal about it. (Our disagreement about the drums, etc.)

38.1.1.2.8. Dan: Hi everyone – my concern is that on Saturday – the drumming went till 11pm… Or 10pm…

38.1.1.2.9. I have a concern – Why can they not just beat the drums?

F: That is not a concern.

F: We have no one else on stack with concerns at this time – we’d like to move forward for a consensus – do we have any blocks to this proposal – oops – I forgot the process…we will open the stack for friendly amendments.

38.1.1.2.10. I would like to suggest that the back area be a performance area – it would be open to all – drummers, singers, etc. This would alleviate some of the noise that people

think– poetry is not that loud, so this can take place down there. (On the Broadway side of the park)

When I have watched — and so you know, I can’t stand drumming – But I have seen what type of crowds they bring in – bigger than this General Assembly. Let me mind you – I can’t stand drumming.

38.1.1.3. Friendly Amendments

38.1.1.3.1. Proposed Friendly Amendment: Hannah-I’d like to propose that community relations make a point of reaching out to the school across the street – in the spirit of mediation – ask for their cooperation as well.

Response: Pulse: We’re sorry we didn’t accept or reject the last amendment…. As part of the ongoing negotiations – between the community & the drummers, we are working to be able to share the space for other musical activities – the drummers fully support musical expression and freedom of musical expression.

Gene I’m with pulse – around 11am a group of kindergartners from the local school came over and started their own drum circle – in the news we hear about schools losing funding for arts in schools.”

38.1.1.3.2. Ashley: A friendly amendment – The General Assembly needs to educate themselves on 1st amendment – also consider how much money it brings in – plus, indigenous cultures use drums to protest.

F: That is a suggestion – not an amendment.

38.1.1.3.3. Proposed Friendly Amendment: Bernadine: I’ve been paying attention to the drumming the entire time I’ve been here, I’m in communication with someone who lives in the community & is on the community board – this board is considerate – I think you should increase the amount of time on the weekend – this proposal is so way generous.

Response: Pulse: As part of the ongoing negotiations with the drummers – we are working on such a proposal – this proposal is not the “end all be all” of the drumming issue. This is just for right now to repair relations.

38.1.1.3.4. Proposed Friendly Amendment: Fred – I would like to propose that the initial drumming period be extended hour – it would still be within the window of time offered by the community.

Response: Pulse: We feel that the drummers are happy — the drummers are making concessions to a four hour schedule – there are many of us who would like to see the drummers drum more – the problem is that we want to show sign of good faith – please support this proposal.

38.1.1.3.5. Proposed Friendly Amendment: I feel and I support that four hours is not enough and unfair to ask from the drummers – because the drummers DO bring people here. I agree that hours for the weekends for the drummers should be a little bit longer – because it’s the weekend.

38.1.1.3.6. Also to add about negotiations, at 2:20 every day you’re free to join Pulse at their Working Group meeting at 60 Wall Street to continue…

F: At this time we have no more friendly amendments. NO friendly amendments have been accepted – the initial proposal remains – Pulse will restate the proposal and ask for consensus.

38.1.1.4. Pulse: The pulse Working Group wants 2 two hour drumming blocks 12-2 and 4-6. These guidelines will be posted & enforced by Pulse, direct action, etc. Pulse would also like to be on the agenda this Wednesday to express concerns.

F: Do we have any blocks? May I remind you that a block means that you have moral and/or ethical concerns with this proposal.

38.1.1.5. No Blocks: Consensus.

(Lots of hands in the air – fingers wiggling. Yay!)

F: Moving forward on the agenda, Next proposal is from SIS Working Group.

38.1.2. Shipping, Inventory & Storage (SIS) Proposal

38.1.2.1. Cory: I’m with SIS, which is Shipping, Inventory & Storage – We handle the many many, many boxes that are coming thru from UPS and are in charge of receiving our donations. UPS has been wonderful with their services, however we are growing. We keep growing. So SIS is proposing that we compensate UPS for their efforts and continue good relations with OWS. Currently there is about 50 boxes a day that are received by UPS – this literally destroys this small local business.

So in an effort to compensate them fairly and to continue our good relations we propose a $500 per month agreement with UPS as compensation for their services. Normally for the amount of mail that we are receiving, they want to charge in the upward thousand dollars… however they are working with us because they are in support of the OWS movement.

F: Are there any Clarifying Questions?

38.1.2.2. Clarifying Questions

38.1.2.2.1. Kelly – I think you guys are doing a great job – have you had to pay UPS thus far? What is or has been that amount? Will there be a signed document with UPS specifying we be obligated to maintain that contract?

Response: SIS-“The existing deal – initially we purchased a standard P.O. box – that was $40 month. There are fees for corporate P.O. boxes – that’s what we’ve become in terms of inventory… oops I apologize horrendous thing to call us. (Corporate!) A standard corporate P.O. box is $750 month. UPS is not asking for that. Part of the negotiation with UPS is our ability to renegotiate when we drop below 50 boxes a day – which I hope we never do.”

38.1.2.2.2. Phil- Is this agreement with UPS incorporated or is it with an independent enterprise?

Response: SIS: This is a negotiation with a small store – UPS would rather they not deal with us – they are a small store with a small staff.

38.1.2.2.3. Jesse: – The previous question rendered mine redundant.

38.1.2.2.4. Anthony- What happens if we don’t choose to give them $500/month?

Response: SIS: I have a concern about damaging our relationship with UPS – This P.O. Box address, is a highly publicized address – I would prefer we not have to change it – people send things here and we don’t want to change it. UPS has been willing to negotiate – this is the fee – this proposal has already been postponed for over a week – I strongly urge we not put UPS in the position to consider ending our contract…

38.1.2.2.5. Kimberly- Some people donate food, some donate clothes, some donate time – I think this is UPS donating time – so I think – or don’t you think that us giving away money that someone isn’t asking for is a little bit too much?

Response: SIS- UPS has asked us for this money. As their donation, they are knocking $250 off the price.

38.1.2.2.6. Mike- I was wondering if you considered using the USPS?

Response: SIS- Again, we’re concerned about changing this address that is so widely publicized. If we choose to terminate our relationship with UPS, we’ll just have to negotiate with someone else.

F: Stack for Clarifying Question is closed. Two left.

38.1.2.2.7. Stacy- My question is, I was here when this proposal was first proposed and I recall it being said that $500 was the lowest corporate account, because I had asked if that could be negotiated lower… So how come now you’re saying $750 is lowest and that it was negotiated down to $500?

Response: SIS- She’s correct. We tried to renegotiate – then UPS gave us their actual prices – if we drop below 50 boxes, they’ll come down lower – I will submit their price chart to the information desk.

F: No more Clarifying Questions, Open stack for concerns.

38.1.2.3. Concerns

38.1.2.3.1. Concern: Aton– My UPS guy gets a tip from me when he delivers a package… I’m sure he has family depend on that money. Can we compensate individuals who do the actual grunt work?

Response: SIS- Are you speaking of UPS or SIS? Because SIS is compensated with everything here –

38.1.2..3.1. (Continued) “I meant comp UPS guys.”

Response: Yes this is a means to comp UPS.

F: next on stack

38.1.2.3.2. This may be a strange concern but I’m more concerned about the dialogue, why are we stockpiling things when other occupations need them –

Response: SIS STRONGLY AGREES with you! It can be discussed at SIS meetings, but not right now!

38.1.2.3.3. Kelly- Sorry to be a pain in the ass. I have a concern about allocating $500 every month which is dependent on us having a certain amount of donated money – I’m skeptical of corporate contracts.

Response: SIS- This is not a corporate contract – it’s a friendly negotiation with the local UPS owner.

Response: Hi, I’m Casey – I signed for the original mailbox, for the UPS P.O. Box – and under that contract we paid $39 a month for the box and for package delivery. Part of the contract is that they can choose to increase the amount we pay dependent on how many packages we receive – there was no specific amounts, we have increased in packages since then, but there’s been no increase in the amount we pay, I anticipate the next contract will be the same.

38.1.2.3.4. Danny-Who will be signing the new contract and how will we insure the bill be paid

Response: Casey- “It will still be in my name.

F: at this time – there are no more people on stack for concerns.

F: We move to friendly amendments – mic check. The human mic has been getting a little quiet – please everyone participate! First, Kimberly.

38.1.2.4. Friendly Amendments

38.1.2.4.1. Proposed Friendly Amendment: Kimberly-You have to be very clear when you come in front of the General Assembly – one person says $39, one says $40. Last week you say $500, this week you say $750… How about we pay $500 every other month – so we can get this thing passed – then you could revisit the monthly fee.

Response: SIS- UPS remains unpaid… The longer we negotiate, the longer the more we risk damaging this very important relationship. We feel it’s a fair proposal – we are damaging the resources of this local business.

38.1.2.4.2. Dale- I was just wondering if we could at least check at the post office if it might be significantly cheaper.

F: Reminder – this is for friendly amendments.

Response: SIS: We encourage you to come to the SIS meetings. To reiterate – all things can always be reconsidered. But for now, lets work with what we have – this address is out there – I am afraid to change it.

F: There’s been a question directed to SIS. Are they open to friendly amendments? If they can’t renegotiate & there’s no room for amendments, we can stop there.

Response: SIS- We are open to amendments – not to changing the offer – if the amendment is added that we continue to look for other boxes, we will fulfill that amendment.

38.1.2.4.3. Melanie-My friendly amendment is that Casey does not take all this on his shoulders. Don’t we have a 501 that could be the signatory?

Response: SIS- We can discuss that with finance. We can discuss who signs the contract. But it would help to have a concrete proposal — To clarify – I think we need to make this decision as soon as humanly possible.

38.1.2.4.4. FA: I’m wondering if it’s possible that we could see that you will continue to look for other boxes – if they are significantly cheaper and more convenient – that we will go with that option.

38.1.2.4.5. FA: I propose a friendly amendment – tip the guy who delivers the boxes!

Response: SIS-WE pick them up and deliver ourselves!! That’s what SIS does!!

F: Last friendly amendment

38.1.2.4.6. FA: I propose that we accept this amendment, by asking UPS to reward the local franchise – to compensate them – making everyone whole in this situation.

Response: SIS- We will consider it.

F: At this time we’re done with friendly amendments. Temperature Check

38.1.2.5. The Proposal: SIS is requesting $500 a month to pay for fees for the UPS P.O. Box that we are currently using. This fee is all-inclusive and includes an option to renegotiate once our daily intake falls below 50 pkgs per day. We will continue to seek out better boxes, and switch if appropriate.”

F: Any Blocks to this proposal?

F: Although we have a process – I have been hearing a lot of lagging questions on one topic – We are unclear on length of contract.

Response: SIS-6 months

F: With that added clarification… are there any blocks?

38.1.2.6. Consensus.

Response: SIS says thank you

38.1.3. Peace Council Proposal

F: Next, a proposal from the Peace Counsel. Peace Council, where are you?? mic check. Peace council? Are you present? Moving on.

38.2. Working Group Report Backs

F: Opening stack to Working Group report backs – 2 min. limit – get on stack.

38.2.1. Hello my name is James – I’m a medical student – here to announce – allied for the 99% – We will have a peaceful protest at 3pm on Wednesday, if you cannot make that time, join us at 5th Ave. & 16th st. at 5:30 pm. We will end the March at St. Vincent’s community hospital at 12th St. & 7th Ave. The march is in support of OWS – 3pm look for the white coats & clenched fists…”

(Commotion behind me – didn’t catch it all)

F: Next we have Nicole from Safer Spaces.

38.2.2. Hi I’m Nicole from Safer Spaces – is working to make OWS an anti-oppressive space for everyone. Especially people who have been traditionally marginalized, including people of color, women, trans gender, disabled. There have been several incidents, oppressive comments – made known to Safer Spaces – we are working with security, mental health, mediation – If you’d like to know more, meet by the pink blanket after GA – Tonight we’re having a Safer Spaces Sleepover! For those of you who haven’t felt comfortable to sleep overnight (at the park), tonight is the night! After General Assembly by the pink blanket!

F: Next – Direct Action

38.2.3. Hi I’m Zack! I’m with Direct Action! We would like to make Oct. 29th a Day of Occupy the Hood – the official march of that day Starts at noon – in South Jamaica Queens liberty Ave. & \_\_ blvd. We are meeting at 10 having a subway party on the J to Queens.

(Missed some info…)

F: Next -Facilitation

38.2.4. I’m Angelina from Facilitation – the Working Group is working on a proposal that we will present to General Assembly tomorrow night. That we make a 24 hr. feedback period for proposals. During this period, anyone can review the proposal on the website or here – and comment with Clarifying Question, Concern or Friendly Amendments – this would change the General Assembly process – it would provide opportunity for feedback – before the proposal goes to General Assembly – so you’ll have more time to think about it before General Assembly – also the presenters will present stronger clearer proposal from the feedback.

F: Alternative Economy

38.2.5. Hi guys – I’m Dale Alternative Economy – We started a sub groups dedicated to starting a working coop – we need someone who has experience with offset printing press, just come to the table that is right over there, this side of the kitchen. On Sunday we are meeting at 5:30pm at the Atrium.

F: Next Occupy Halloween –

38.2.6. Everyone wearing a costume is invited to the World’s Largest Halloween Day Parade – we encourage to organize costumes for your group– 1pm Battery Park rehearsal – need volunteers for a staged Super Hero vs. Wall Street showdown – Monday morning at 10am. More information on any of this at www.occupyhalloween.org or email occupyhalloween@gmail.com

F: Next, Town Planning

38.2.7. I am going to take you back to Week One and say Thank You for honoring one of the consensus we did that week – that nobody puts anything or walks in the flower beds! Thank you to everyone who has cooperated while I tell this to the new people – Don’t put anything in or walk in the flower beds!

F: Next up, Principles of Solidarity

38.2.8. Peace family my name is Luke – we are working on Principles of Solidarity – that means how we treat each other – so it’s very important were trying to make the process even more inclusive. Hopefully this week we’ll be able to have working groups, breakout groups, to further establish how to take good care of each other and have solid ground to stand on as we move forward. If you are interested, we’ll be talking for the next 30 minutes by the People’s Library.

F: Next Vision & Goals Visions & Goals… is V&G around?

F: Moving on to Principles of Solidarity

38.2.9. Hi everyone my name is Tamar (?)- I’m working with the Prison & Detention solidarity group. We meet Tues. at 7pm. Tomorrow we’ll be at 60 Wall Street writing letters & sending copies of the Occupied Wall Street Journal to those who are incarcerated – share your messages with them and let’s bring their messages to us.

F: Women Occupy Wall Street

38.2.10. There seems to be a misunderstanding, the Women’s Caucus is not same as Women Occupy Wall Street. WOW is a safe place for female identified individuals – meet red structure after the General Assembly. Thank you.

F: Next & Last, Divine Feminine

38.2.11. Devine Feminine is a group for female identified & female bodied people. Meet at the red cube at 10pm for a meeting tonight, there you can decide if you want to join the Safer Spaces Sleepover.

F: Just wanted you to know – that facilitation and you and you and you – we mess up names, get things wrong, we’re doing our best, and appreciate your patience — thank you!

F: Thank You!

38.2.12. Facilitator Working Group meets every day at 4pm at 60 Wall Street

F: One more addition to Working Group report backs before general announcements…

38.2.13. Yosara – I attended what the group believes to be WoW – there seems to be some misunderstanding that still needs to be clarified – as to whether or not WoW and Women’s Caucus is one in the same or not – the WoW meeting decided through process of consensus they would be limited to those who are female bodied and or female identified. 2nd agenda item we addressed, we’re getting together a sub committee for a Feminist Woman Day of Action. This would include some prominent speakers – if you’d like to be in that sub committee, and you identify as a female contact wowcaucus@gmail.com. The next WOW and/or Women’s Caucus meeting will be at the red cube at 4pm.

Q: (So are they together? Or separate? I am still confused.)

F: Moving to announcements – 1 min announcements –

38.3. Announcements

38.3.1. Hi. I’m not formally here to report back from Visions & Goals Working Group – we had a contentious meeting today of when the heck we’re going to meet – it took all day! So if you’re interested in Visions & Goals we meet at 60 Wall Street on Monday, Wed. & Friday at 5:30pm. Also Thursday and Saturday and Sundays at 12 noon.

38.3.2. Rick – I put together a booklet called Revolution Made Easy – 4 Steps To World Domination. It explains how we can leverage this movement to have everything we want – in short when we do it to work on one issue that supports all the issues we want – constitutional amendment that says corporations are not people and money is not free speech – move forward to change the way we run elections, such as instant run off voting etc and then we will have in place the people we need as our politicians beholden to people and not corporation and we’ll make all the other changes we want!

F: This is the end of General Assembly we’re all tired – keep your announcements to one minute. Can we move in a little? I’m lonely.

38.3.3. Cindy – Good evening, my name is Cindy. I am a small business owner. This is Jasmine my friend. We have a new Working Group called Small Businesses & Entrepreneurs Supporting OWS. We will be meeting tomorrow, Tues. at 5pm, at Charlottes Place, 109 Greenwich Street behind Trinity Place. The middle class is the merchant class. We must end

the power & corruption of the corporate elite. Small Businesses & Entrepreneurs create jobs…come talk to us under big sculpture. We are working on an article with the WSJ with an economist.

38.3.4. Aton– I’m an anarchist. I speak for myself. I’m gathering together people who love this system who love this General Assembly and are in opposition to the spokes council proposal – any loving and loyal people – we hope for a stronger and better and unified community that serves everyone’s needs. Reach me on the web \_\_?.net or under the sculpture.

F: Last call – for announcements

(Word of possible rain is spreading)

38.3.5. Linda – Hello I’m a Montessori trained teacher – Maria Montessori intended for her methods be available to children from disadvantaged backgrounds – if they have nothing else, they should at least have a feeling of self-worth and freedom. Public School Reform Working Group will be meeting every Sunday at 3pm at the People’s Library. Every child deserves the best start in life. Education Reform Working Group Sunday at the Peoples Library at 3pm.

F: Stack is closed, five more announcements

38.3.6. Dallas – Last week Michael Moore was here. He suggested we have a movie night – and he offered to make popcorn! He will be here Wednesday night showing “Capitalism: A Love Story”& “V for Vendetta”– and he is making popcorn.

38.3.7. Some of you may have noticed unsavory behavior in the park – theft, drug use & assault are among these behaviors. Behaviors that are threatening our movement. We propose a Peace Council, a Community Watch – all of us, all eyes all over this park. We are doing a training on this – 6pm on Thursday at 60 Wall Street. Thank you! Come along and join this initiative.

38.3.8. Doris – Hi. I’ve noticed there’s lots of Working Groups – that’s great – it’s one world in which many worlds fit – lots of groups about resistance & reform. I’d like to suggest another group about alternatives – specifically a group of organizers of a free society, a society we embody here, everywhere. Let’s meet on Wednesday at 2pm by that tree, behind that guy with the cool hat. Wednesday, 2pm Free Society Working Group.

38.3.9. Jonathan – We have a new Working Group – called the Fight (?) Working Group – about boosting morale. We’re meeting Wednesday; it’ll be our 1st meeting – underneath this very ugly red structure. It’s not ugly. 3pm. I’m sorry I forgot I got excited – I forgot to give new name of Working Group – red circle and line thru it. (huh?)

F: Last announcement

38.3.10. Peter – I’m sick & can’t speak loud. I’m a modernist person. Born here. And I wrote a book about the Bush Administration and I didn’t think it was possible that something like this could happen? In honor of a small contribution to this movement – starting the \_\_observatory – I’ll make available to you – 2000 yrs. thinking about this movement…

(It was really hard to understand what the last person, Peter was talking about…)

F: At this time, General Assembly on this kind of cool October 24th day in the year 2011 – we are adjourned!

**NYCGA Minutes 10/25/2011**

Posted October 25th, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 39

Meeting Date/Time: 10/25/2011 / 7pm EST

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators (F): Saresh, Marissa

*[Editor’s Note: I’m not sure, but I think that these minutes stop prior to the end of the actual GA. It cuts off during Working Group Report Backs and there is no section for announcements. If anyone has further notes taken at this GA, please let us know at owsminutes@gmail.com.]*

Stack: Peter, Time: Christina

Process Review/Opening Comments: if all of you could sit down, we can see everyone,and hear what you have to say. We have five items on our agenda tonight. Our first item is process about how to participate in the general assembly. How many of you are new tonight. (clapping) This is you probably saw, I really like. This is I don’t like this, this is I really don’t like it. This is a process point. If you have a question or a concern about how we are doing process, throw up your process sign. To get on stack, raise your hand. Our stack takers will take down your info and make sure you have a chance to speak. The facilitator acts as a moderator of discussion. Anyone can be a facilitator. We meet every day at 4pm. Come join the facilitation team. One more process point. This is a block, a block is a very serious safety or ethical concern. If you block, then you mean that you will leave the group if that proposal goes forward. You can redress concerns without blocking. We use consensus. We try to get agreement from the group here if we can’t get agreement then we go to 9/10′s majority voting

AGENDA

39.1. Agenda Items (Occupy Oakland Statement of Solidarity,

39.2. Working Group Report Backs

39.1. Agenda Itesm

39.1.1. Occupy Oakland Statement of Solidarity

39.1.1.1. First item, is occupy oakland. We are asking to draft a statement of solidarity from our comrades in Oakland who were violently evicted this morning. Is Oakland in the house!?

(cheers) We are asking for this assembly to come to consensus on endorsing the following statement: “This morning, Occupy Oakland was attacked by hundreds of riot police. They used rubber bullets, tear gas, flash grenades, and sound cannons. The police forcefully arrested peaceful occupiers from the encampment located in a plaza that the occupiers named after Oscar Grant. Many have been injured. The camp is in a state of total destruction. Among the wreckage, were medical facilities, supplies, community kitchen that fed hundreds, and the new homes of scores of occupiers, many whom were previously homeless. Peaceful attempts to reclaim the occupation have been met with force and intimidation. The GA of OWS stands in full solidarity with OO and condemn the violence of the Oakland police department and the brutal eviction of the camp. We call for the immediate release of all detainees. And for Oakland DA to immediately drop all charges against occupiers. We call to the mainstream media to acknowledge and report accurately and objectively the extreme violence, disproportionate use of force, by which the clandestine eviction was prosecuted. We acknowledge that the actions of the Oakland PD reflect a cowardly attempt to dismantle the strength and power of OO, one of the largest encampments in the movement. We will not accept this police brutality.

(strong agreement!)

39.1.1.2. Oakland, has one more announcement. Oakland PD is holding people for more than 24 hours. This is illegal. NLG is filing a lawsuit against Oakland and Alameda County to stop them from incarcerating demonstrators in inhuman conditions.

F: Are there any questions or concerns about the statement of solidarity with Occupy Oakland?

39.1.1.3. Clarifying Questions

39.1.1.3.1. Were these statements written by NYC or Oakland? Response: By NYC in solidarity

39.1.1.3.2. Police can hold you for 72 hours? Response: Sorry they will not be released without bail before Thursday, which will exceed 72 hours.

F: Any other questions or concerns about these statements?

39.1.1.4. Concerns

39.1.1.4.1. Justifying concern – that the word prosecute is not appropriate for its use

Response: We would be happy to amend or edit that word.

39.1.1.4.2. There were two statements, are we “consensing” on both or one. Response: We are consensing on both.

F: Temp check? (positive)

39.1.1.5. Consensus!

39.1.2. Fire Extinguisher Proposal

F: Proposal to purchase fire extinguishers so that we are safe from the fire marshals. Who is making the proposal, are they here? F: We are now talking about fire extinguishers, come to the front! We will now side check this item til the end of the agenda

39.1.3. Information Working Group Proposal 39.1.3.1. Hi I’m Scott from info. We need computers! Two net books to be exact, along with cables to lock them to a desk, the price of which is $686. The reason we want new net books is that we already had 2 donated computers that died quickly, and due to the high use of these computers, we feel its responsible to get warranties, which is included in the price of these computers.

F: Are there any clarifying questions?

39.1.3.2. Clarifying Questions

39.1.3.2.1. How much do you want to spend? Response: $686

F: Any more clarifying questions?

39.1.3.2.2. Do we as a group have any insurance policies to …? Response: OWS is an organization with a fiscal sponsor to keep track of all this but we do not have an insurance policy because we were worried about the constant influx of new people whose items we’d be insuring or not insuring, it was difficult to keep track. So that’s why we don’t have insurance polices

39.1.3.2.3. I applaud what u are trying to do but to try to be making this type of decision making may take our eyes off the prize. We have friends with deep pockets. Whenever these needs come up, expenditures may be 500 or 1000, we just say go?

Response: I am stepping out of my facilitator hat and putting myself on stack. I am also part of the Structure working group. We have been trying to address the problem you are describing. For now this is how we have to operate.

Response: We have put out the word of this need which is how we got the original computers but so far we have not been approached and offered new computers nor have we been approached for more donated computers

F: I’m closing stack. Stack is closed. Temperature check? (very positive) Any concerns? Any blocks?

39.1.3.3. Consensus!

39.1.3.3.1. Are we putting it online to ask for these computers? Response: Yes

39.1.4. Community Watch Emergency Proposal

39.1.4.1. They keep us safe at night, mediate potential conflicts. Community watch is safer spaces, mental help which is now support, mediation, medics, and de-escalation/security. During the night, there are a lot of activities that are not supporting our movement. So we decided to take care of business, and we invite all of you to participate in the night watch. You can sign up at empathybooth@gmail.com or go to the empathy booth. We would like fifteen walkie talkies so that people who may want to sleep and still be available if needed for direct action or support. $800 would cover our expenses.

F: Are there any clarifying questions?

39.1.4.2. Clarifying Questions

39.1.4.2.1. What kind of walkie talkies are these? How many? What is the maximum range? Response: Motorola, I don’t know their range, fifteen walkie talkies. They are like $50 apiece. Suggested by security.

39.1.4.2.2. I have a question about how the GA holds its meeting. Would this be more beneficial to conduct the GA in the middle of the park because people are not able to participate based on the influx of people who can’t be here.

Response: Thank you but this is not on this agenda item.

F: Back to clarifying questions.

39.1.4.2.3. Can you give us some idea what these inappropriate behaviors are at night. Response: Sexual assault, regular assault, theft, drug dealing.

39.1.4.2.4. Why 15? Response: We want a number of people to be in the process from safer spaces, mediation, medics, security, mental health (which is now support)

F: We are sensing that people can’t hear very well. Can I get volunteers to be human mikes. This means that you turn back to try an project what we are saying so we can all hear better.

39.1.4.2.5. I heard that there was collected $300,000. Is that for all occupations or OWS Response: That amount is for this occupation. There is enough to cover these expenses. In the future we hope to have a better system for financial transparency…come back on Friday!

F: I was just volunteering to assist in the volume. Mic Check!!!!!!!

39.1.4.2.6. Hi I’m Murdoch. I’m with sanitation. Sanitation patrols all these areas constantly. The things that you mentioned are things that we see often. I think it would be a good idea to include sanitation in the walkie talkies because we are out at night and we are often assisting in the mediation reporting to security and just general help of mental and physical wellbeing.

Sanitation has been involved with seven meetings that has resulted in community watch, I think it’s a great idea for sanitation to have walkie talkies too. So we will need seventeen walkies

39.1.4.2.7. I understand that we need walkie talkies but over the last few nights. I’m just wondering if having too many will lead to extras being lost or stolen?

Response: The number of walkie talkies, some of them will go to bed with people who will be woken up if necessary.

39.1.4.2.8. How does community watch discipline appropriate behavior?

Response: We have a five tier system. Peace council that’s comprised of EMT’s, social workers, mediators, who consult together, using this five tier system. We generally like to engage and connect….

Point of Process

39.1.4.2.9. I would like to know if there is a process for accountability for the walkie talkies as well as a process to make sure that they are charged. Do we have enough walkie talkies to make sure they remain charged as needed? Response: That’s a great suggestion, we will do that.

39.1.4.2.10. Does it make sense financially to insure the walkie talkies and computers used by OWS as a whole and if so, how much would it cost? Response: That’s a good suggestion but a separate proposal. Now we are deciding whether to allocate $920 for seventeen walkie talkies

39.1.4.2.11. Is the idea that even if people go to bed, should a problem arrive will you have a force of 17 people descend on whatever problem occurs? Seventeen walkie talkies on a one block area seems like a lot. Would you accept fewer? Response: No. This is what we need.

F: Every night, they are doing the work. Dealing with serious conflicts. They are saying that they need seventeen walkie talkies. We as a GA have approved much higher amounts. Just saying.

39.1.4.2.12. Based on what happened in Oakland the walkie-talkies would be necessary. Revolves around contingency about how to alert sleeping occupants. Response: My understanding is that facilitators….

F: I was a bit biased. I’m sorry. Every night, we have these proposals for working groups about their day to day operations and they probably have a better understanding about what they need.

Final comments and concerns before I close stack. What I’d like to do from now on is to have everyone who is interested in speaking raise and keep their hand raised.

F: I’m sorry , we all make a little mistakes as we often do this as Marissa has done and we agree that facilitators should not weigh in with opinions.

F: I just want to be clear that I’m not speaking for or against the proposal, I was clarifying the nature of the proposal…that was the intent. I’m sorry.

F: You’re are doing a good job! (applause) We would like to close stack, stack is now closed. Temperature check.

PoP: Many of the questions haven’t been answered by the person who brought the proposal. Do they want a chance to answer? Response: I’m ok

F: Any further concerns? Temperature check. (strong approval) Blocks?

39.1.4.3. Consensus!

F: Just a reminder, some of tend to speak a lot, some of don’t speak a lot. A lot of this has to do with our level of privilege. Be aware of this, if you are speaking a lot you may want to step back, if you are not speaking, try to step up. Thats all. Thank you.

39.1.5 Direct Action Proposal

39.1.5.1. Direct Action has an action this Saturday in Jamaica Queens. Hi I’m Alex. This saturday oct 29th we will be joining occupy the hood in south Jamaica Queens to stand in solidarity with those who have experienced foreclosure and eviction. That is 40,000 of us in NYC alone. The majority of them live in Jamaica, Queens. We need metro cards to bring ppl form Liberty to Queens. We are asking for $2000, that’s 400 people. We will have a subway party on the way there to show the people that have experienced foreclosure that they are not alone and it is not ok what the banks are doing.

F: Stack for clarifying questions.

39.1.5.2. Clarifying Questions

39.1.5.2.1. I am uncomfortable with the wording of party, wouldn’t it be more appropriate if we occupy the subway on the way there?

39.1.5.2.2. I have a proposal, I think its a seasonable proposal. Instead of taking 400 people from here to Jamaica, you better go to Jamaica and take 40,000 here. Why do you have to take these people there?

Response: We are trying to build a global movement here. This is one base we have created here of resources and people willing to help each other, but still if you look around the crowd, the crowd doesn’t exactly reflect the diversity that is NYC. We are going there to show our brothers and sisters who do not feel welcome here that we will stand with them on their issues. It’s necessary! (clapping)

39.1.5.2.3. Is the $2000 for transportation and if so have you looked at other alternatives such as busses?

Response: The buses would take 3-4 times as long as is, it will take an hour to get to queens from here. The metro cards will be distributed inside the station by me and the other DA people who are organizing the march, so there will be no chance of losing them, but yes we have looked at other options.

39.1.5.2.4. How much money do we have in total? Response: Just to say, this question gets asked a lot, almost four times s night, so I’d appreciate it if people listen. What do have I heard, $300000 but its more than enough to cover. We need transparency financially.

F: Reopen stack for another round of questions.

Point of Information (PoI): I just want to make a point of information. Buses cost the same amount as taking the subway.

39.1.5.2.5. As a resident of Jamaica I am particularly glad with this proposal. Foreclosure in Jamaica has been a problem for a number of years, part of building this movement I’m glad to see has been about going out to other areas and solidifying ourselves with other struggles.

39.1.5.2.6. I am from PA, it’s my first day here, I would just like to comment. Our country was founded in the spirit of opposition to despotism. My soul is overjoyed to see this movement resonate with the greatest men and women in history. Congratulations. (clapping)

PoP: That was beautiful but not related. After we get to the agenda we will have an opportunity to speak.

39.1.5.2.7. I think this is a great proposal aside from using the subway, hopefully we can all agree that it is a great proposal. Have you considered contacting local coach drivers, taxi drivers, and spending the money in Jamaica who will benefit more than the MTA? Response: We are really busy. Those who spend all day organizing this, organizing actions, coordinating with each other, arguing about how to do stuff. I don’t have time to do that, if I did I would. The subway is easier. We only had two days, it’s on Saturday.

39.1.5.2.8. What about potentially renting busses instead of the subway would that be cheaper and actually create a shuttle all day between there and here so people can go from here to there and from there to here.

Response: That’s a good idea, you should do that! This is my proposal and I’m not focusing on that.

39.1.5.2.9. Have you double checked the MTA service advisories? The weekends are horrible, it might be a shuttle bus. Response: The J train is running on Saturday.

39.1.5.2.10. How do you know there will be 400 people going, not more or less? Response: $2000 covers 400 people, we thought thats what would be reasonable to ask the community for our efforts in Jamaica.

PoI: I live in Jamaica, and the F is the best train.

39.1.5.2.11. Where is the rally being held? I would recommend…… Response: The march is at Liberty Ave Guy R brewer BLVD, York College

39.1.5.2.12. Outreach? Response: The outreach table is right over there!

F: Stack closed. Concerns?

39.1.5.3. Concerns

39.1.5.3.1. My one concern is the lack of preparation. I don’t accept I didn’t have time as a reason for proposals. I agree that we should bring the people here instead of being a warehouse of people who goes everywhere else. We are occupying Wall Street. But I bet Wall Street feels comfortable if we are everywhere else. Response: In order to make Wall Street uncomfortable, they have their fingers all over the city. We need to build links of communication across the Boroughs, the rivers, across the socio-economic divide. We need to become stronger because they are stronger because they talk to each other more than we talk to each other. We need to put this effort out! (clapping)

39.1.5.3.2. I am Queen mother doctor Blakely. I came to Wall Street to support the people when they were very young doing this. What I asked them to do for me as an elder, don’t forget my ancestors were the first commodities sold on Wall Street. We are dealing with predatory lending, and I’m asking you come to the court on Oct 27th at 11 at the Supreme Court at 60 Center Street. We love you young people and continue the liberation struggle for all human kind. I thank you and bless you, stay on the path. Room 321. Judge is Milton Tainly. Come one and all.

F: We will have time for announcements at the end of the agenda. Please keep the questions actually concerns about this proposal.

39.1.5.3.3. My proposal is that the action group is ok is to say we should try to find a charter bus that will be a shuttle between here and Jamaica for cheaper than 400 tickets, if we can’t, then we will buy the metro cards.

39.1.5.3.4. As a New Yorker, I know for a fact, that the subway is also cheaper and quicker. I think it’s a great idea.

POP and POI: The proposal, pertains strictly of the expenditure of $2000 for metro fair. Any other suggestions or ideas should be brought to the DA WORKING GROUP. This conversation, while classic and amusing, is not to happen now please.

F: With that in mind, the last two questions.

39.1.5.3.5. What time are people meeting on Saturday in Jamaica? Response: Leaving here at 10, meeting there at 12.

39.1.5.3.6. I would like to know, when and where you are provide a sign-up sheet and if you think this is more of an announcement. Response: There will be a sign up sheet at info and outreach. It’s not an announcement, it’s a proposal. Lots of people expressed interest in going and don’t have money to go.

F: Temperature check (positive). A reminder that announcements are at the end. Can I ask again for a temperature check. It looks like we have a point of process.

PoP: My understanding is that there would be room for amendments to the proposal.

F: I open the floor for a friendly amendment. The person making the proposal must agree to whether it is friendly or not.

39.1.5.4. Friendly Amendments

39.1.5.4.1. (couldn’t hear) Response: Metro is the cheapest way to get 400 people to Jamaica.

F: Remember, friendly amendments only.

39.1.5.4.2. My friendly amendment would be to have a signup sheet for the people and then we base the funds on how many people sign up.

Response: I just don’t think that’s necessary. If the metro cards aren’t used they will be used the next day for another action that is outreach and community building based. But there will be a sign up sheet at info and outreach and if 400 people don’t sign up, we will hold direct action with me and twenty-five other people accountable.

F: Any blocks? No blocks!

39.1.5.5. Consensus!!!!

39.1.6. Sustainability Proposal

PoP: Quick question whats on the agenda?

F: Last item on the agenda, then we will open the floor for working group report backs.

39.1.6.1. Proposal: Hi I’m George from sustainability. You may have seen us around, we are doing things to make our community less wasteful and more energy efficient and environmentally conscious. My proposal is for a bicycle generator system that me and my colleagues are working on at the… (guy yelling where is my forty acres and my mule repeatedly) We apologize we are having some technical difficulties. The proposal is for a bicycle generating system that myself and sustainability and a bicycle co-op Times up will build for the park to power all appliances. For this, I am asking for a significant sum of money. Electrical equipment is expensive. I also want to say, it’s not perfectly sustainable, but it’s better than using gas generators which are using oil from Canada and places that are very polluting. I am asking for $8,000. This will include bike parts, ten bike stands, for ten bike generators, charge controllers, and batteries. T The batteries are the capacity that will provide energy to the park. Our legs are the power. I hope you will accept this proposal and I love you very much.

F: Stack for things that are relevant and clarifying questions. I would like to remind you we are running low on time. Keep questions short and incredibly relevant. Looks like we have a PoI.

PoI: I’m Sarah from Sustainability, I believe it’s important to note that our plan has the capacity to provide twice the amount of power we are currently using here. Our proposal is designed to grow as we grow. Thank you.

39.1.6.2. Clarifying Questions

39.1.6.2.1. Is this in addition to the bio-d generators we already passed a proposal for last week and is it necessary energy? Response: It is an addition to the bio-diesel generators. We feel that using bicycles are cleaner than bio-d generators. In addition, we need both because the bio-d will be more effective for powering heat because it is inefficient to use batteries to be heating the camp. Another benefit on the topic of heat is that when it gets cold at night and in the winter, we will be able to exercise.

39.1.6.2.2. Do you have enough room for ten bikes? Response: I am proposing ten bikes and we will try to arrange them in a way that takes up the least amount of space. That being said, we are open to ideas to scale our bicycle generation according to the needs of both space and energy equally.

39.1.6.2.3. What’s the estimated wattage per bicycle? Response: The motors are rated at 600 watts, however, our legs are not powerful enough to produce that much. Average person can produce 80 watts.

39.1.6.2.4. How long will it take to get the system ready?

PoP: You need to get on stack

39.1.6.2.5. How much pedaling is needed to power your system throughout the day?

Response: Based on our calculations, the load use of the park, we consume approximate three kilo-watts of an energy at media, one kilowatt at the other end. How much pedaling? We are ordering the batteries and I need to look at the specs to give you a precise figure, but, we have sized it so that it is realistic that during the course of the day where we have very enthusiastic riders, including tourists we need to put to work (cheering) to power the system. I would like to add that sustainability will have volunteers around and the clock monitoring the station and people will be encouraged to pedal as much as they consume, and lots of people will pick up the slack.

39.1.6.2.6. Our view, is saving us money. Have you calculate how much money you will save us? Response: I have to say, I don’t have exact numbers. However, I imagine that the amount of money we are spending on gas at $4 dollars a gallon that is going to the wrong people is a lot of money.

F: Any other final concerns?

39.1.6.2.6. When will this system be complete? Response: We will be working everyday on the bikes and I will try to break out at least five within two weeks. I would prefer to have the whole system running within two weeks.

39.1.6.2.7. Would you be open to having other expert help you in Philadelphia? Response: Yes please, we already have help from an organization called Pedal Power New York that does this kind of thing and they are very enthusiastic about all types of input for both mechanical and electrical challenges.

39.1.6.2.8. Price? Response: $8000 for bikes and battery banks

39.1.6.2.9. What about using batteries in cold weather? Response: e have to think about

39.1.6.2.10. My concern is that the proposal is not very clear about the numbers and the consumption other than we need 10 bikes and $8000. Everything else is vague. It doesn’t seem ready.

Response: This criticism is valid to be made, I am student, I have an entry level certification. I am not a professional, however we do have electricians and mechanics who can back us up and read the proposal and agreed that this can and should be done.

F: We are now going to take a straw poll (medium). Blocks?

PoP: You forgot friendly amendments.

F: We will now open the floor for friendly amendments. The proposers have to agree that these are friendly.

39.1.6.3. Friendly Amendments

39.1.6.3.1. The sustainability committee would like to remit to $5000 for five bikes. What is expensive is mainly the battery bank, so what matters to power the park is to have a large capacity. So I would like to reverse that to $5000.

F: Just to clarify, the sustainability group has amended their own proposal to be for $5000. Do we have other friendly amendments?

39.1.6.3.2. Two small things, we mentioned that the motors could output 600 watts, and we can put out 80. Would you amend the proposal to look for smaller motors in exchange for larger motors. Also, would you use some of the funds to buy weather protection for the bikes, motors, and batteries.

Response: Yes to the first, and the second is included in the proposal

39.1.6.3.3. Can you run a generator into the battery bank? Response: Yes but it would be much more efficient to run the generator to the inverter and directly to whatever is being used

39.1.6.3.4. Would you consider meeting with backup engineers, putting together a very solid and technical presentation about the cold issues, and then coming again before the GA with the idea that proposal could be tabled until proven feasible?

Facilitation: So right now we have an even more amended proposal, we are taking concerns about this amended proposal. Marissa: (conversation about the process)

Sustainability: At this time, we should restate the proposal as amended. To restate, I think I would like the GA to vote on the proposal that we had proposed before with the amendment that if we come to the GA again to build the larger system I first described, and that engineers have looked at, that our system would be subject to review by everyone and its sufficiency and success.

F: Opening the floor for clarifying questions and to speed the process along, any concerns. Temperature check (positive) Any blocks?

39.1.6.4. Consensus!

F: Just a reminder, clarifying questions are part of the proposal process. I know some people have been using this (c signal) as a clarifying question. This is not part of the consensus process, it is used to jump stack. If you have something to say, just raise your hand to get on stack.

I have to apologize, I lied. There are actually two additional things on the agenda but they are very exciting.

39.1.7. Finance and Security Proposal

39.1.7.1. We represent finance and security. Security is involved with don king right now. We had an emergency call from security about an emergency visit from the FD. We bought fire extinguishers before this potential inspection for safety from fire. And security wants to establish a fire brigade and fire watch team. The cost of the fire extinguishers was 3750. This includes extra losses by theft.

F: Opening stack

39.1.7.2. Clarifying Questions

39.1.7.2.1. Where will these be located? Response: Located based on the consultants we brought in

39.1.7.2.2. How many extinguishers? Response: Twenty-six, based on the requirements that they set forth.

39.1.7.2.3. The arithmetic does not add up Response: I’m finance. We need a specific ratio of rife extinguisher to number of individuals in the park. Check with firefighter Paul. Just so everyone knows, there is a fluctuating population in the park.

F: Close stack? Any clarifying questions? If no more questions, I would like to open the floor for concerns. Any concerns? It looks like there are not concerns? I was wrong.

39.1.7.3. Concerns

39.1.7.3.1. I have a concern about the theft issues especially as we get more expensive and cool equipment. I would urge you to spend real time figuring how to protect our gear.

39.1.7.3.2. I have a concern that fire extinguishers won’t work in the cold. Response: Yes they work in the cold

F: I’m now closing the floor for concern, any final concerns?

39.1.7.3.3. A 1000 dollar fire extinguisher should work in hell! Response: They are $140 dollars a unit.

39.1.7.3.4. ABC fire extinguishers cost about $25 or $30. Response: We had to go with what they spec’ed out.

39.1.7.3.5. I know better!

Response: I am concerned about that last concern that was voiced!

F: Again I would like to open the floor for real for final concerns.

39.1.7.3.7. According to Amazon, fire extinguishers cost 30 dollars. Did you pre-purchase fire extinguishers at $130 when they actually cost $30?

Response: Outdoor use of water is a concern. We need extinguishers that are ABC certified. The tarps are made of oil products, and therefore we need ABC specs. Anyone concerned can join the fire brigade working group.

39.1.7.3.8. I would bet, that are talking about different volumes, and the fire extinguishers they got are bigger. I am quite familiar with fire extinguisher ratings and codes requiring their placement. These are very inflated numbers. The gentleman who quoted Amazon is much more on target.

F: Right now, we are closing stack. Straw poll. (medium response, slightly more positive)

PoP: Please could you clarify what is considered an ethical block, for example, is spending too much money unethical?

F: So a block is traditionally a very serious concern about safety and ethical issues. spending a lot of money could be considered an ethical concern.

F: We will now open the floor for friendly amendments.

39.1.7.4. Friendly Amendments

39.1.7.4.1. Maybe we could agree to approve up to the amount this gentlemen came with, people with better ideas or information should talk to him away from here to come up with a cheaper price.

Response: Friendly amendment approved.

F: How do people feel about amended proposal? (straw poll approval) Blocks?

39.1.7.5. Consensus!

F: Last item, this time for real, is a proposal from Facilitation to do something with the obvious. Mic Check!

39.1.8. Facilitating Working Group Proposal

Announcement: I’m from Oakland, I just found out, that Oscar Grant Plaza has been reoccupied! (cheers)

39.1.8.1. Hi I’m Leo from facilitation working group. We have a proposal that we think will make the GA more efficient. The proposal is the Facilitation Working Group make these proposals accessible online and here at the park 24 hours before they are brought to the GA. This crowd sourcing period will enable participants of the GA to give feedback before GA and will enable the presenters of the proposal to refine that proposal before it ever reaches GA. Every day at 4pm the facilitation working group will accept drafts of proposals from working groups. They will be posted online at nycga.net and on site at the facilitation table which is west of the info table. Participants of GA can give feedback such as concerns and clarifying questions and friendly amendments online and onsite in the comment section on the page of the draft. After this 24 hour period, the working group presenting the proposal will have the responsibility to reflect on this feedback. After this 24 hour period, we think they will present at GA a clearer and stronger proposal. We also understand that as a working group we have autonomy to improve the GA because that’s our responsibility. But this process is your process and the more you own this process, the more you participate. The more efficiently and more thought thorough, it will proceed.

F: We are now taking stack for clarifying questions.

39.1.8.2. Clarifying Questions

39.1.8.2.1. Would you be open to an exception for agenda items or proposals that the GA agrees constitute true emergency such as immediate safety concerns?

Response: Thank you, that’s part of our proposal. Facilitation has a working definition of an emergency proposal which is one that responds to an external immediate deadline that wasn’t previously noted. It is up to the FWG and the GA to agree to adhere to emergency proposals.

39.1.8.2.2. Will posting the proposal online be a requirement to bring it up here?

Response: If the GA comes to consensus that this is part of our process then it will be required to post it 24 hours before.

39.1.8.2.3. I thought I heard that Facilitation would post it to the internet Response: That’s right, the working group brings it to our 4pm meeting at 60 Wall Street every day, the difference is instead of going to GA that night, we post it online and onsite for 24 hours before GA. It’s our responsibility to post it there.

39.1.8.2.4. Does that mean there will be one day of this tried? Response: SIS the working group has agreed to be the guinea pig for this process, so they will post a proposal tonight for tomorrows GA.

F: For those of you who think this process takes too long, keep in mind there are hundreds of thousands of opinions like mine that are not heard because I work in the evening and can’t usually attend GA.

39.1.8.3. Concerns

F: Concerns?

39.1.8.3.1. What contingencies will be in place for timely issues that must be addressed in less time than 24 hours Response: As I said we have a working definition of an emergency proposal.

39.1.8.3.2. Perhaps this proposal should go under this process and come out tomorrow? Response: This proposal did undergo this process. It was announced during announcements last night and was at facilitation table all day.

F: Also another reminder, if you haven’t spoke yet, please speak up. Lots of dudes speaking.

F: Temperature check. (very good) Blocks?

39.1.8.4. Consensus!!

39.2. Working Group Report Backs

PoP: Please remind people they should keep report backs to 2 minutes

39.2.1. Direct Action: Hi I’m Josh with DA. We would like to report that due to construction at trinity graveyard, tomorrows DA meeting will be held at 52 Broadway. It’s a training meeting and will last a little longer. The rest of the week our meetings will be held at 60 Wall Street at 2pm.

37.2.2 Legal: My name is Susan from NLG and I’m here to report that we schedule an arrestee meeting for two days. First is Sunday at 6:30pm at Judson church, 55 Washington Square south. Attorneys and arrestees can discuss legal options and we will do intake for those that have been called in. Friday, November 4th at 540 at Judson church. More info once it’s posted at nycga.net Spread the word!

37.2.3 Arts and Culture: Hi I’m James. Three announcements. We have orange buckets with cement and PVC pipes to build signs for working groups. If you want one contact Rachel: rachelhiggi@gmail.com. We also built an art space and we have art supplies with paper markers crayons if you wanna use it it’s in the bucket next to the screen printers setup. Also, we are invited to the village Halloween parade. If you want to become involved, email arts\_culture@nycga.net. We are building puppets and costumes and want everyone to participate.

37.2.4 Hi I’m Tim with working group for political and electoral reform. We are currently working on three projects. First, a proposal for electoral reform to open the political system to those outside the corporate owned parties of Wall Street. Second, we are working on a voting

experiment to scientifically compare alternatively voting methods with the most common methods used today. Thired, we are working on a viral campaign for a constitutional convention to overturn citizens united and to abolish corporate personhood. To find out more, please join us at nycga.net.

**NYCGA Minutes 10/26/2011**

Posted October 26th, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 40

Meeting Date/Time: 10/26/2011 / 7pm EST

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators (F): Facilitators: Leo, Danielle

Stack taker: Larry; Stack greeter: Reza; Time keeper: Alejandro; Minute taker: Carrie

Process Review/Opening Comments: We’d like say we’d like to make this GA go as fast as possible. We will explain why shortly. But it’s something coming from Direct Action. We abide by two important principles. The first is that we take progressive stack. This means the stack taker will reorder the list of people who want to speak by prioritizing traditionally marginalized voices. The second principle is a self-imposed principle called step-up, step-back. Take note of the privilege in your life and if you have been traditionally encouraged to make your voice heard in society, we invite you to step back, and if you have been traditionally discouraged from making your voice heard, we invite you to step up.

Review of hand signals: Fingers up, wiggling means “I feel good.” Hands horizontal, fingers wiggling, means “I feel okay.” Hands down, fingers wiggling, means “I do not feel good.” A “C” means point of clarification, when you have a question that pertains to what’s being said. Finger pointed up means point of information, that you have pertinent info about what’s being said. Finger up, pumping, means speak up. A triangle means point of process, when there’s something conflicting in the process and it needs attention. A block signal, an X with your arms is very serious. Use during a proposal when you have moral ethical or safety issue with what’s being proposed. You are also able to stand down if your block is something you’re willing to forgo to allow the process to continue. Fingers rolling means wrap it up. Use this with compassion.

AGENDA

40.1. Agenda Items (Principles of Solidarity Consolidation WG Breakout Discussion, Direct Action Emergency Proposal, Occupy Central Park Emergency Proposal) 40.2. Announcements

40.1. Agenda Items

40.1.1. A proposal from the Shipping, Inventory & Storage working group

40.1.1.1. In case you haven’t heard, people from across the world are big fans of ours. We receive hundreds of packages every day. As we work hard to sort and deliver all of the shipments, we are working equally hard to organize the storage space for working group surplus. It is a large task. And there is a lot of stuff. Before we can have the conversation about what to do with our surplus, it is important to know exactly what we have. That is the “I” is SIS: Inventory. There have already been many generous donations of shelves. This is helping us turn unruly piles of supplies into a coherent stockroom. Tonight we are asking for $2,500 to purchase more shelves

[Full proposal here: http://www.nycga.net/2011/10/25/draft-proposal-for-wednesday-1026-general-assembly-shippinginventorystorage-s-i-s/. ]

We will wait to purchase these shelves until Friday. If we can find a better deal before Friday, we can always use more than 20 shelves. This would not only facilitate an efficient and accurate inventory, it will also create a more useful storage space for all working groups.

F: Opening stack for clarifying questions.

40.1.1.2. Clarifying Questions

F: Closing stack

40.1.1.2.1. What kind of shelves are you looking for?

Response: We are looking for good shelves, cost-effective shelves. We have been donated shelves before that are easy to assemble. We like them because they are eco-friendly and cheap.

Point of Process (POP): Can you tell us the other agenda items, so we can all go to the Occupy Oakland march?

Point of Information (POI): We aim to end this meeting by 9 so we can all go to the march.

F: Stack is open for concerns.

F: Closing stack. Temperature check? It looks like we’re building toward consensus. Any blocks?

Point of clarification (POC): Where are these shelves going to be placed?

Response: We intend to purchase them on Friday and have them in place on Saturday so we can do inventory. The storage facility is at 52 Broadway, generously donated by the United Federation of Teachers.

POC: Why the Fed of Teachers? Why can’t they donate shelves?

Response: They’ve donated a lot.

F: Final temperature check: Good 40.1.1.3. Consensus.

Emergency Announcement: Report-back from the Direct Action meeting about what happened in Oakland. If 100-plus cities get together and occupy their spaces in solidarity with us, we need to stand up for them when one of them goes down. So at 9 we’re going to meet here and we’re going to have a low-risk-arrest march going via the sidewalk. Other groups who may risk arrest will be walking through other marches. At 9 you’ll be updated. This is at the same exact time as Oakland will be marching, and DC will be marching.

40.1.2. Principles of Solidarity Consolidation breakout groups

40.1.2.1. I’m Kelly with the Principles of Solidarity Consolidation working group. This doc was first generated on the second day of the occupation. It’s gone through three different breakout group sessions. It’s been drafted by you, the GA. The last draft was on Sept. 23 It hasn’t moved in a while. We’d like to request your input, thoughts, and great minds to be added to this document. I know it’s a shorter general assembly and there’s a big focus on other occupations, and that’s what we need to be focused now. But we also need to focus on what holds us together here. I’m going to distribute this document to the crowd now. And perhaps groups can be formed around those with the document. Breakout groups are usually followed by report-backs from those groups. Because we’re on a time crunch, we are not going to have group report-backs. After a 10-minute discussion with your groups, representatives from those groups should come to me with their drafts with all of your amazing input. We will then synthesize it and propose this again at a GA and perhaps a spokes council, if that gets passed on Friday, to come back here and look at it again.

F: At this point, we’re going to have a short breakout group discussion about a document. POP: Maybe ten minutes isn’t enough?

Response: I’m aware of that but I have to work within the constrictions of the GA tonight. If we do it tomorrow, there will probably be more emergency proposals, as there have been all week. This is the third time I’ve been to Facilitation to get this on the agenda this week.

F: Let’s take these ten minutes and figure out another way afterwards to give more feedback and take more time with this document. Specifically, there’s room on the website to give feedback on documents.

Response: There’s also an alternate draft of this document that will be posted for comments and suggestions as well, online. I’m sorry for the short time. I just really want to get something from all of you.

F: Breakout groups. I ask that you don’t move too much so we can get together again quickly. 10 minutes starts now.

[Breakout groups discuss for ten minutes]

F: This was obviously not enough time. We’ll have more time some other time. The next step is the Principles of Solidarity working group will put this document on the NYCGA website. You’ll be able to comment and respond to comments as much as you want. Thanks for this timely conversation. Please pass forward the sheets to Kelly.

40.1.3. Direct Action emergency proposal: Solidarity for Occupy Oakland

40.1.3.1. For medical and legal funds. The Oakland occupation was evicted yesterday morning very violently by 500 riot police with rubber bullets and tear gas. Yesterday night they marched to reoccupy and were met with ten rounds of tear gas. The footage depicts what looks like a war zone. Of the injuries reported, there’s an Iraq war veteran who is currently unconscious in critical condition, shot in the head with a rubber bullet. Another vet is still in the hospital with a head injury from a tear gas canister. Twelve people have injuries from the police that haven’t gotten checked out because they were in jail. There have been more than 180 arrests. Twelve people are still in jail for $10,000 bail, being charged with remaining at a riot scene. Two other people have larger bails—one an 18-year-old arrested beside her mom, who is being held on $12,000 bail. A man beaten by the police is being charged with assault on an officer and is being held on $30,000 bail. Bonding out the fifteen people would amount to $16,200. The remaining funds will be used for medical bills, which will in no way amount to that much.

This money will also go for legal because tonight, at a 6pm march, they will try to reoccupy. The NLG does not provide money for bail or medical expenses, therefore the responsibility is on the movement. Occupy Oakland has been the most economically and racially diverse occupation in the U.S. Thus it comes as no surprise that they were the first of this scale to be violently evicted. If we want to make any claim toward being a movement inclusive of everyone, it is crucial to show material solidarity with Oakland. The violent decimation and consequent violent attacks on Oakland will set a precedent for how occupations across the country will be dealt with. Both Atlanta and Denver were moved on last night. If we want people to resist this oppression, we need to support their resistance. Occupy Oakland, has no material support and collected money dollar by dollar [unintelligible] … their support got him bonded out. It is in this spirit of mutual aid and solidarity that we ask for $20,000 for our fellow occupiers on the West Coast. It is only together that we can keep this thing going.

F: Opening stack for clarifying questions. This is a very specific proposal and we ask your questions and concerns be specific to this proposal. You can find more info about these events elsewhere. Right now we consider this proposal.

40.1.3.2. Clarifying Questions

40.1.3.2.1. This is a very short question, and might be met with POP. Is there any way Chicago can get any of this money? Because they’ve been struggling a month.

Response: The Direct Action working group is drafting a proposal to send funds to Chicago, Atlanta, and Baltimore.

40.1.3.2.2. Robert: Two questions: Are you beginning a Kickstarter fund? And when the legal process is done, is the bond is returned?

Response: We are in the process of establishing a Kickstarter fund for each of the occupations who were raided. This proposal is to make the funds available to the occupation. The bond, if it is 10%, is not returned. If you pay the whole thing, it is returned. The $16,200 is the total amount of bond. The total amount of bail is more than $100,000.

40.1.3.2.3. Aton: I’m concerned there will be even greater demands for money for bond after tonight. And is that really enough money?

F: Right now stack is only open for clarifying questions.

40.1.3.2.4. Georgia: How much time do we have to give this money?

Response: As soon as possible!

40.1.3.2.5. Can it might be a little bit more precise?

Response: People have been in jail since yesterday. As far as I’m concerned, that’s too damn long.

40.1.3.2.6. Tanye: Is the money going towards medical expenses for not just the Oakland occupation, but other occupations that were involved in skirmishes as well? It’s also the case Chicago is in dire need, so are the funds going to be directed only to Oakland or the general occupation of the various regions around the nation? Are we establishing a precedent that demands a larger structure to address?

POP: Can we please keep these questions and concerns specifically regarding the proposal, only about Oakland? Acknowledging these other questions are for other proposal that are currently being developed. Oakland only!

40.1.3.2.6. Ben: Who’s collecting the contributions here tonight?

Response: They have a PayPal.

40.1.3.2.7. Bernadette: Is this going to establish a precedent for other occupies to ask for bail and medical expenses if they have terrible things happen?

Response: We hope that it does set a precedent.

F: Opening stack for concerns.

40.1.3.3. Concerns

40.1.3.3.1. The amount of money is inadequate considering the number of arrests that may occur by the time the money arrives.

Response: We are too. $ 20,000 is the amount we talked about with Oakland today. Perhaps if we have a consensus to raise the amount, we would do that temperature check.

POP: Please let the facilitators run the meeting.

40.1.3.3.2. Seth: There will be more arrests in the future and if we set a precedent of tying up large amount of funds, this could also be used as an excuse for the police to hold more people.

Response: That’s the risk we have to take. OWS has $500,000. We have to recognize we have a greater capacity to fundraise than the other occupations. We need to take this responsibility seriously.

40.1.3.3.3. Kelly: All the money we give them will go to fuel the prison-industrial complex, the cops, and leave them with little resources when they are out of jail.

Response: This is a proposal for legal and medical funds. If that’s a concern, we can either raise the amount at this meeting or bring it to another GA to rebuild their camp next meeting.

40.1.3.3.4. Ryan: I would like a member of the Finance team to educate everyone on where this money would fit into the budget. That way everyone can make informed decisions.

F: Is there a member of Finance here? While we look for them, let’s finish stack.

40.1.3.3.5. Sarah: I have a comment on the concern that giving bail money to people will encourage police to hold people longer. If we don’t get the bail money, there will be less people on the streets, which is what the police state wants. We should do what is right and worry about what the oppressors want.

40.1.3.3.6. Ben: Since I gather that concern is the appropriate time to make an amendment and I gather there is concern shared that this isn’t enough money, let’s make it a concrete proposal to amend the proposal we’re discussing to give them $40,000.

F: Friendly amendments. It sounds like we already have one. Do we have others besides increasing the amount of money?

F: Finance is here.

40.1.3.3.7. Pete from Finance: I was not consulted about this. We’ve been bleeding money in the past month. Realistically, in the last two weeks we’ve spent about $60,000. Now, that’s a lot of money. What we have on hand is not that much. We’ve been preparing a financial statement. It will be out very soon. [murmurs and remarks from crowd]

40.3.18 F: Please let’s keep our energy cool. We have a tough decision to make. Let’s keep it love.

40.1.3.3.7. (Continued) Pete from Finance: Who here is at their first GA? [some claps] We basically have about $175,000 in our bank account. We have more money pending. That money has not yet cleared. At the rate we’re going, this is a very large chunk of our money. I’m in solidarity with the other occupations, but the reality is, we need to start a fund to help the other occupations but we should start doing that by opening other channels of contributions. The money we have has been raised to run the operations here in this park. It costs us a lot of money and at the rate we’ve been going I have serious doubts we’ll be able to make it through December. Our expenses have been growing. So has the number of people. These are connected. [These figures are unofficial].

F: To remind everyone, we are trying to keep this GA short for the 9 pm march. I f I may, let’s bring this proposal to friendly amendments while keeping in mind this time limit on the GA.

POI: On this subject [unintelligible] see us as their enemy. It’s a common tactic and they’re very smart. Only they do it one step at a time, so just caution us to be wise with our finances. Also, this is the center of the occupation and the whole nation and the world looks to this occupation for strength and inspiration, so we must be strong here.

F: Three friendly amendments. Closing stack on FAs.

40.1.3.4. Friendly Amendments

40.1.3.4.1. I understand that OWS cannot afford to fund every town that gets shut down, however this is a particularly violent act and because we are an example, we should look at that and turn it around by giving them a helping hand. My amendment is that for particularly violent acts, that we release funds like this one. It cannot be every time a camp gets shut down.

40.1.3.4.2. Phil: In addition to the funds we send to Occupy Oakland I propose we send 100 tents, which we have available, because all of their tents were destroyed and the resources we have, including our money, does not belong to us! It belongs to the movement and the movement needs it!

Response: It is not our decision whether this is a precedent. We accept the tents proposal.

F: Reminder, amendments must be deemed friendly by the proposers.

POP: Can we do two waves of the people’s mic? MIC CHECK.

40.1.3.4.3. Andy: I believe there was a major block that was not acknowledged. No blame. Some people here a little while ago made a disparaging remark about the police.

POP: Right now, we need to finish with friendly amendments.

40.1.3.4.4. Sharon: I propose that we send Oakland $40,000 now, then open a channel for raising funds for other occupations.

F: The specific amount of money seems from people’s hand signals to run the danger of derailing this proposal. I’d like to get a temperature check on any increase in money beyond $20,000. [Negative.]

Direct Action: Judging from the hand signals, we’d like to stay with our initial proposal of $20,000.

POP: I’m confused. When we have such a difficult decision, why don’t we do consensus first of all for the initial proposal, and then for the other proposals? Also, why the facilitator becomes the voice of our emotion as a gathering of thousands of people?

F: If you’d like to join Facilitation, we could use the help.

F: We have an existing process and this delay is a violation of it.

F: I’d like to remind everyone this is our GA. We’re trying to come together as one body. There are many voices. It’s necessary to be respectful.

40.1.3.4.5. Katie: If we agree to set the initial amount proposed this time, I think we should make an amendment that would actually be dedicated to forming a group that would raise funds for people who get arrested in the future. There’s a lot of sympathy across the country and world for everything that happened in Oakland.

POI: It was recently reported by Finance that we have $160,000 available. We also have an additional $340,000 that is pending.

Response: In response to your friendly amendment, they already said they were forming that group. We will join it.

40.1.3.4.6. Mike: I propose that the funds unlocked be available for shipping costs for the tents and other supplies.

Response: We accept the amendment.

F: That’s the end of friendly amendments. Temperature check on this proposal: We propose that $20,000 plus 100 tents plus shipping costs be sent to our fellow occupiers in Oakland. We are approaching consensus. We have one POP.

POP: The contribution that this camp is making to Oakland, are other camps contributing as well?

F: POP: That’s not a POP. Please come and ask the working group later.

F: Do we have any blocks? We have two blocks. Just to remind everyone, a block does not mean that you disagree with the proposal. A block means you have a severe ethical moral or safety concern with the proposal.

40.1.3.5. Blocks

40.1.3.5.1. The reason why I blocked it, is Finance is right. We cannot afford to keep on giving money when people ask. Also, we’re spending way too much money. We need to maintain this occupation as much as possible.

POI: It wasn’t my understanding that Finance said we shouldn’t send them the money. They just reported how much we have and how much we’ve spent.

F: We’re gonna hear the other block and then consider them both.

40.1.3.5.2. I’ve been here since day one. So I take blocks very seriously. I have multiple reasons for my block. When I came to hear the proposal I asked the proposers if they cleared it or at least run it by Finance. I asked in my concerns for a Finance member to give us information about the current situation. I got the impression that when this proposal was run by Finance, they were told it was not a good idea. And now if you recall, it was brought as an emergency agenda item. That doesn’t sit right with me. The other item, moral and ethical

reason, is that if we start giving out money to other occupations, it becomes hierarchical, when we become the purse strings of the movement.

Response: One point of misinformation that was just said, is that we did not talk to Finance. Last night we talked to Finance. They did not tell us the budget of this occupation. They did tell us it was a bad idea. But we decided to take it to the GA because that is not transparent to keep that information clotted there. This is an emergency proposal, again, because people are broken and jailed in Oakland and we as a movement are trying to help them.

POI: Emergency proposals, especially for large sums, is that if Finance is consulted prior to presenting it to the GA, it is very important that is included in the proposal.

POC: For the Finance group, do they know and are they aware that this money that they control is individual money coming from individuals to help not only this occupation but other occupations?

F: POC is information, not opinion.

POI: The strength of this occupation is totally dependent upon the strength of other occupations. These are connected, related occupations.

POP: That’s not a point of information.

POI: I suggest we let Facilitation actually facilitate. If they cut you off, it’s not disrespect, just sticking to the process.

F: I want to ask if the blockers hold their blocks. Does she hold her block? Yes, she does.

40.1.3.5.2.1. I would like to ask Victoria, who educated me about my block, to speak. if she won’t, I’ll hold my block.

40.1.3.5.2.2. Victoria: Last night, I was approached by the people making this proposal and I was present for their discussion with Finance. Finance explained why this would not be a good idea, at which point I volunteered to find a way legally, that we could expedite this process and get Oakland the funds for bail before Thursday. Ideally, this would have involved setting up a Kickstarter that should have been made this morning and using all of our social media hour by hour to promote this Kickstarter. We have a history of raising funds very quickly. That was my proposal. It was my understanding that this Kickstarter would be brought to me this morning and released to the media around 10 am. I didn’t hear back from the proposers until around 5, when I heard that this hadn’t worked out and was being brought as an emergency proposal. This is a breach of process. I do think this money should find its way to Oakland quickly. I’d like to offer one last friendly amendment.

F: At this point, we need to ask if you hold your block for this proposal as it stands.

POC: When someone offers a block, they can also offer amendments.

40.1.3.5.3. Blocker 2: I would like Victoria to offer her amendment.

F: We’re gonna hear quickly this last friendly amendment.

40.1.3.5.4. Victoria: That we release these funds with a caveat that within the conference call between occupations, we begin discussion immediately for how to set up this national trust which would hold funds available to all occupations for legal aid and bail.

Response: We accept the amendment.

40.1.3.5.5. I withdraw my block.

[cheers]

Clarifying Question: Your proposal is to spend $20,000 to Oakland and then set up a fund?

Response: We accept.

F: The other blocker has her own friendly amendment that would remove her block.

40.1.3.5.3.1. (Blocker 1, continued) If Oakland’s occupation, their legal team, works with our legal team hand-in-hand together, I will remove my block.

Response: We accept.

F: Final temperature check: [overwhelmingly positive and cheers] 40.1.3.6. Consensus: $20,000 and 100 sleeping bags will be disbursed to Occupy Oakland, and a fund set up.

F: We’re moving on to another proposal. At 9 o’clock is the march. It is now 8:59. For the people who want to leave for this march, you should go. Let’s get through this proposal. [At this point many people leave to go join Occupy Oakland solidarity march.]

40.1.4. Occupy Central Park Emergency Proposal

40.1.4.1. We are currently in the process of planning Occupy Central Park, a one-day cultural event that will gather in Central Park on 11/11/11, the global day of solidarity. The event will not be a protest, but a people’s fair. We will have the chance to come together as the 100% to start building the foundation for this new, positive world which we dream of. We come here today to get the official support of OWS GA. So that we can make this as big and awesome as possible.

F: We’re gonna do the same process. Let’s make it quick if we can. Stack is open for clarifying questions.

40.1.4.2. Clarifying Questions

40.1.4.2.1. This will not be an overnight event?

Response: No.

F: Closing tack for clarifying questions. Opening stack for concerns.

40.1.4.3. Concerns

40.1.4.3.1. Why can’t we build a permanent settlement in Central Park?

POP: This is concerns about this specific proposal and that question can be addressed later.

F: Closing stack for concerns.

POP: I do have concerns about this proposal but I feel that Central Park shouldn’t be confined and we should take a slower movement towards it. This discussion is important and needs proper time. It’s not too close, there’s drums in the background, and we’re far from desperate. If we can decide what to do at this moment right now, I’d be more confident in m decision-making ability of my community.

Emergency announcement: Apparently Occupy LA is about to get evicted. Just heard this from someone I trust. It may not happen tonight.

F: We want to finish this as soon as possible. We have a direct response to this concern.

Response: This is just this one event, before something bigger we are planning in the spring.

F: Closing stack for concerns. Temperature check on this proposal … a few hands. I see a lot of people with hands up a few people horizontal and some people not doing anything. Are there any blocks to this proposal?

40.1.4.4. We have consensus on this proposal.

40.2. Announcements

F: We have two more things that will be critical announcements and then we will end GA.

40.2.1. Ben: I’m here from Food working group. You may have heard about some changes in the kitchen. I’m here to clarify what’s going on. The kitchen is not closing. Not even temporarily. We will continue to feed and sustain this movement every day of this occupation. For three days we’ll be feeding a simplified menu. We will serve the same simple meals to all occupiers and all members of working groups. This will be a time for reflection and building solidarity in our movement. We will continue our mission feed everyone in this park. We will distribute info about this action tomorrow and answer all your questions then, going camp to camp, working group to working group. Our mission in the kitchen is to create a revolutionary space for breaking bread and building community. Let’s do this together.

F: There are a number of people who want to make announcements. If you want to, come get on stack. If you want to join the march, go ahead.

40.2.2. There will be a forum for everyone’s voice to be heard, an open mic at Battery Park, Friday at 5:30. If you are musicians and have interest in starting a weekly open mic for OWS, go to Info tomorrow.

40.2.3. OccuStock Music and Performance Fest will be held in Providence, R.I. this Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. It will be at India Point Park from 4 to 11. Occupiers and sympathizers will be there. You can contact Occupy Providence at 203-918-5463.

40.2.4. The Spokes Council proposal from the Structure working group that will be decided upon on Friday in the GA will be available tonight on the NYCGA website (http://nycga.net/spokes-council) They will have minor changes sometime tomorrow—a few typos and maybe a diagram.

40.2.5. There are two new working groups forming. One is called Catalyst, for the organization and coordination nonprofit groups, to make sure similar NFPs work together. There will be another called Best Practices, to serve as best practices between working groups, including audit functions.

40.2.6. The Screen Guild is making T-shirts like this one over there. On Saturday we’ll be bringing a proposal to the GA to purchase blank T-shirts from a source that is sweatshop-labor free. There will be a proposal on the NYCGA site tomorrow. Please have a look. There’s a lot of different options we have about T-shirts. Please comment online.

Clarifying Question: E-mail address attached to this proposal?

Response: There’s already one on our working group page on the NYCGA.net (OWSscreenguild@gmail.com)

F: That’s the end of announcements. That’s the end of GA.

Adjourned 9:20.

**NYCGA Minutes 10/28/2011**

Posted October 28th, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 42

Meeting Date/Time: 10/28/2011 / 7pm EST

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators (F): Facilitators: Marina, Nelini

Process Review/Opening Comments: We have hand signals we want to teach you. Hands up fingers wiggling means I agree! I feel good! \* hands straight forward, fingers wiggling, means I’m on the fence. \* hands down, fingers wiggling means i disagree, i don’t feel so good. \* this is a C for clarifying questions, i don’t understand. Need clarification. Can’t always call on these, keep it relevant. \* one finder is point of information – I have a fact, can clarify. \* hands in a triangle means Point of Process it means that there is something happening right now or that doesn’t comport with the way this process is supposed to go. \* hands turning, get to the point. We understand. you’re using too many words. \* Arms up forming an X, this a block – i have serious moral ethical or safety objections to the proposal being discussed. so when we look for consensus at the end of the discussion, we will ask if anyone blocks – it’s very serious, not if you just don’t like it.

AGENDA

42.1. Agenda Items (Open Source and Legal Proposal, Structure Proposal, and Occupy Melbourne Discussion)

42.2. Announcements

42.1. Agenda Items

42.1.1. As many of you know FDNY and NYPD took our generators we are working with legal to gain representation to issue a letter to get them back. I can’t speak further; I can come back and give you an update. Is that ok?

Point of Process (PoP): What’s your proposal?

Response: It was going to be to approve legal representation, but they’re not quite ready.

F: Open for concerns.

42.1.1.1. It was going to be a proposal to approve specific representation, but I have not coordinated with legal, but I am going to do that now.

F: Proposal will come back after structure.

F: We have the structure working group for the fifth time.

42.1.2. Structure Working Group Proposal

42.1.2.1. Structure: first, congratulations on what this movement is today. It’s national and international and it all started here. The GA has been the heart of this process. This is a place for everyone to have a voice. We are now facing a problem. Many of you are having difficulty plugging in. Structure is proposing Spokes Council. This has been a long process. We’ve received great feedback. Especially since last Friday. This is the latest version, with a few major differences: #1 No clusters, they lead to confusion. #2 We will change working groups and thematic groups to operations and movements. #3 The GA can dissolve the Spokes Council. The GA has the power to make movement wide financial decisions, like Oakland. Tonight we give you the latest version. Spokes Council model is a draft. Widely used by many movements, and we are lucky to have members of these movements with us tonight.

42.1.2.1.1. Lisa: For the last thirty years, I’ve worked for many movements that used the Spokes Council model. The anti-nuclear movement, which shut down nuclear plants, and none have built since the 70s. This is how ACT UP organized to bring justice to people with AIDS. Throughout the 1980s, using the spokes council model, 100,000s stopped the US invasion of Nicaragua using the spokes council model.

42.1.2.1.2. We’re talking about spokes council for operations and movements. If it’s successful we will consider using the spokes council model for action and using affinity groups. Many are active as individuals; this is a way to organize effectively using direct democracy. I know you have a lot of questions, but I urge you to move to consensus for this movement.

F: This is what we are going to do. (In Spanish then English): We’re going to break into groups of ten to discuss and come up with questions. Groups can raise hands and someone from structure will come and clarify. Then we will come back together to see if we can reach consensus. EACH GROUP has a scribe who will turn their questions in to structure who will confer for 10 minutes and return to answer the questions to the group as a whole.

[Twenty minute discussion followed by time for the structure working group to discuss the questions brought forward by the GA]

F: … and they will then answer the questions in one group to the whole, so keep talking, except for your scribe who should come here to Structure. If anyone else has questions for your group please bring it up to the Structure working group, because it is a way to get all the questions addressed so individual questions don’t have to be addressed later.

F: We have another announcement. Evan from Open Source come meet Legal if you haven’t already for the second proposal. Thank you.

8:23 pm

F: Mic check-mic check. The Structure group has responses to all of the questions, are we ready? Also can we please sit down again so everyone can see and let’s give some twinkle fingers for critical mass.

42.1.2.2. Structure: Hello everyone, thank you for all of your questions.

42.1.2.3. Clarifying Questions (raised during group discussions and given to Structure to read and answer)

42.1.2.3.1. Will distribution of resources begin honest fair and transparent?

Response: So in the proposal it states the spokes council must produce a budget and minutes, which will be posted on nycga.net.

PoP: Where and when will the first meeting be?

Response: spokes council must announce where and when it meets on nycga.net tentatively the first meeting will be this Monday of Tuesday if it passes tonight. Also, the locations and times will be available at Info for the first meeting the location is still undetermined because we are searching for a space large enough and the reason Monday night is not finalized is because it’s Halloween. It does state in the proposal that all meetings must be in an indoor space that is highly publicized with amplification so we can all hear each other better, and live stream!

42.1.2.3.2. The next question is about a delay in the agenda, I think. I’ll try to answer it. The spokes council agenda could be set before or during the spokes council meeting?

Response: That is not addressed in the proposal, but it could be an amendment later on. Just like just a few nights ago the GA decided that all proposals like this one have to be submitted to facilitation at least twenty-four hours in advance.

42.1.2.3.3. Question is to clarify the difference between operations and movements

Response: Operations groups are much more to do with the actual logistical and budgetary decisions and workings of this occupation, the OWS occupations movement groups are much more involved with broader issues that effect that broader occupy moment and the visions for us all. An example of an operations groups is food or sanitations, media, they either provide services right here in the occupation or support the occupation directly. An example of a movement group might be visions and goals, which has a much broader focus, or Think Tank, ect

42.1.2.3.4. Question is about an organized block in dissolving the spokes council.

Response: To clarify the GA has the power to dissolve the SC with a week’s notice. A block which we already use here is for a very serious safety or ethical concern. If you block you are recognizing the decision would not be good for the group as whole.

Entire GA: What does democracy look like? This is what democracy looks like! (in response to a group trying to disrupt)

Response: (continued) I think the question also had to do with people showing up to prevent a 9/10th consensus on dissolving the spokes council. This is possible. It’s also possible on any decision in the GA. These important logistical decisions and financial decisions that affect us here can’t be blocked by organized groups who just show up to stall our movement and stop our GA form making decisions that affect us.

42.1.2.3.5. In the proposal the spokes council has the ability to decide what operations groups and caucuses will be a part of the spokes council.

Response: Keep in mind that the spokes council is comprised of operations groups and caucuses. So the people who already know each other and know who each other works will decide which groups go together. Additionally for a group to be kicked out for being seriously obstructive or for violating solidarity obviously relies on our principles of solidarity which has to do with our broader movement.

42.1.2.3.6. The next question was to clarify if caucuses are included in the spokes council?

Response: They certainly are, it’s written in the proposal, the reason I did not mention it earlier, my bad, I was clarifying a change. Last week we had Working Groups, Thematic Groups and Caucuses now we have Operations groups, Movements Groups and Caucuses. Since caucuses didn’t change i didn’t mention it verbally, but it’s in the proposal.

42.1.2.3.7. Question is about whether spokes can be recalled mid SC meeting?

Response: Yes they could because you are sitting together in your operations group you could decide why spoke who is speaking isn’t reflecting your feelings or concerns, the operations groups and caucuses would come to consensus on removing he spoke mid meeting. That could happen.

42.1.2.3.8. Clarify how finical decisions are made for Zuccotti Park and for the movement as a whole?

Response: So to restate all financial decisions that affect OWS, different from Occupy Brooklyn or Occupy Oakland are handled in the spokes council. all financial decisions that affect the moment as a whole, like sending support to other occupations or receiving support from other occupations are handled by the GA.

42.1.2.3.9. There was a question about how we define operational groups?

Response: So in the proposal it states the spokes council have the ability to ask operations groups to leave if they are continually disruptive and going against the guiding principles of solidarity that we decide in GA. GA gives political guidelines for the spokes council and how we operate. Spokes council is a large body of all operations groups, causes and occupiers which are defined as an operations drops would interpret the GA def. of what is obstructive or what doesn’t follow the principles of solidarity, so we’d be making this decision together.

42.1.2.3.10. Relationship between SC and GA, with regard to transparency

Response: The SC has to report back to the GA with regard to meeting minutes and budgets. Meeting minutes and budgets of the SC will also be posted on NYCGA.net.

42.1.2.3.11. Whether or not decisions made by SC could be overruled by GA?

Response: Difficult question because the GA and SC serve different functions, one is not a higher body than the other, so the GA would not be able to overrule the decisions of the SC and the SC will not be able to overrule the decisions of the GA. One is logistical and financially based here in this particular occupation and one is much more broad and movement wide.

42.1.2.3.12. The next question and I think the last question is about why SC’s aren’t meeting the weekends, the question was about how to be inclusive of people who work or have limited time to dedicate to the moment?

(mic check)

Response: In this proposal we are suggesting that the SC meet Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7pm so that people who work during the day can participate, we wanted the GA to happen Tuesday, Thursday and the weekend so that people who work during the week can participate in both SC and the GA and so that people who come in to visit on the weekend can participate on the GA but won’t get bogged down by operations decisions, so like tourists who want to see what we are all about can participate in the GA but are not going to participate in the SC.

F: Two things, on the process in case you missed it, this is the fifth time we are discussing this proposal, it has changed because the structure group has had meetings and discussion every day for two weeks to try to address all questions and concerns. Just to clarify how we got here. What we would like to do as facilitators is ask to respect the process. We are going to ask for a straw poll, it’s not a vote, but it to get a sense where each of us going or feeling about the proposal , so we are going to ask if people feel good about the proposal (many hands). Now look at the group to get an idea of how we feel. Now we are going ask if people don’t feel good to raise your hands (fewer hands).

F: Now we are going to move forward to a consensus process, and to clarify we tried to get all the questions through the groups, if you have a question that must be clarified that wasn’t please raise your hands. Stack takers are coming!! If you have a question, raise your hand.

F: We are closing stack very soon.

F: Mic check. When we do stack we use progressive stack who means those voices are historically marginalized communities; we try to prioritize so we get a mix of people. Right side stack.

42.1.2.4. Clarifying Questions (this time asked by individuals)

42.1.2.4.1. I have more of a concern than a clarifying question. My understanding was that we move from clarify questions to concerns, my concern is that although I’m very happy with

this proposal it did occur to me from the discussion that there is not a mechanism to deal with potential conflict between the SC and the GA. although the GA can dissolve the SC I imagine that is an extreme situation. We need to develop a procedure to deal with disagreements between the two bodies.

F: Stack is closed on this side. Structure will respond to the concern.

Response: We recognize that could be potential for conflict and that is not adequately dressed, I would love it if you came to our next structure meeting so we can come back with another proposal, an amendment to this proposal to address that concern

42.1.2.4.2. Lisa: my concern is that a lot of people have not been aware that this has been discussed online and that are getting here without knowing there has been a process already in place to discuss the spokes council.

Response: Structure response: I personally live in this park my computer is at my parent’s home in Syracuse. My only internet access is at Staples and Burger King so I’m hardly in the website and really don’t know how to use it and like everyone else have trouble getting information of meeting times and places. SC will help rescue all operations groups are there and accounted for. Even though we’ve been at 60 Wall Street all week and we’ve had four GA’s about this, there’s not many better ways to get the information out.

42.1.2.4.3. Sage: just for the record I want this to go through, like all of you I was sold when the experienced voice spoke about this. Community meetings are usually described people are fighting for their ability to survive the winter, people are fighting for access to funds, people are fighting for the ability to sleep in one spot so because they are passionate are they going to be deemed as unsolidarity people? I have experience that, people down this hill have experience that. Dissent is patriotic so I just want passion and powerful disagreement to be respect in these meetings. And I don’t want people to cry out that this isn’t a safe space.

Response: Thank you Sage, nothing in this proposal is about removing people from this park.

F: We have a brief soldiery statement from Australia and simultaneous action at 9, they are watching, they want to hear us.

Mic check

From Australia: Occupy Melbourne! Occupy together! Occupy Melbourne! Occupy together! Occupy Melbourne! Occupy together! Occupy Melbourne! Occupy together!

F: So we have two more questions, then consensus process.

42.1.2.4.4. Daniel: I have one question, just to clarify the process for groups coming to consensus or blocking in the proposal. It’s a little vague where it says that groups bring proposals and blocks and a whole.

Response: So in the SC you have operations groups and caucuses. They decide amount themselves using consensus process how they want to voice their sentiments in the SC. The spoke reflects those sentiments, so that’s what it means by the group deciding. And also it

would carry over with the same modified consensus that we currently have in the GA, so a 9/10s consensus if there isn’t perfect consensus.

42.1.2.4.5. Fritz: Since and explicit power of the SC is to exclude WG’s my initial concern is about what will be in the initial groups joining the SC was never properly addressed. Also since the GA is more about inclusiveness, I think the SC should raise their own funds for their own exclusive organizations.

Response: So both the SC and the GA are inclusive and open for participation. The SC does have the power to exclude groups that continually disrupt and go against the guiding principles of solidarity. The intention is to ensure that all the groups present can get work down and continue move forward and also the budgetary converse given to the SC only effect the operations here. So if someone is donating to Zuccitti Park and they want that to be used for these operations it makes sense that it is decided by operations groups and not movement who do not had finical obligations here. And to reiterate the principles of solidarity are not determined by the SC but by the GA.

The first meeting of the SC will be comprised of all the existing operation groups and causes should apply to operations groups and give a mission of the kinds of work they do when they meet and how people can get involved. And they give this info at the first SC meeting and we all decide if they are an operations group or a moment group and we come to consensus together.

F: There is one more comment and I want a temperature check. Do we want then to move towards a test for consensus? Stack is closed after this last question and concern.

PoP: In consensus process it’s very important how the question is formed, and what the default when there is disagreement. It’s necessary for the group to come to consensus.

F: The group has to come to consensus to block or 9/10ths consensus to block, this prevents a few people from obstructing the process if they cannot get others in the working group to recognize their serious ethical or safety concurs.

Structure: If you wanted to amend that you could do that within the structure we are proposing. This is a living document. There will be many tweaks made by all of those in the SC.

F: We didn’t know as facilitation that three more people are on stack. We’ll take those three and then move to consensus process. Anthony, Sam and finish up with Dorge.

42.1.2.4.6. Anthony: this process has been going on for a long time, many meetings. In the beginning it was my understanding as it is today thought it’s buried under four pages. The only thing we are empowering the SC with is financial decision making abilities the rest of the powers of the SC come from the individual working groups that participate in the SC.

Response: We already have close to seventy working groups and causes. They are doing a lot of work autonomously. The SC enables them to communicate and coordinate better than they already are. It also enables them to make collective decisions about finances that are related to the operations of OWS. The GA will still make some financial decisions, if it’s for the whole movement.

42.1.2.4.7. There has been a request to clarify.

Response: This is a living document and if you want to help amend it you can join the structure working group I’m really excited because after this week of teach-ins and discussion the structure group is join got get very big and we will keep working on this and other decisions

42.1.2.4.8. Sam: my question is what is the role of the Structure working group in the SC and who facilitates the council meetings.

Response: The Facilitation WG would become an operations group and they would be part of the SC. The Structure WG would do the same. We would have to propose our description just like any other group. Why we are about when are where we meet and how people can get involved. So all the other working groups will decide if we can become part of the SC. The SC will be facilitated by the Facilitation working group, if it’s accepted by the SC.

42.1.2.4.9. Dorge: in my understanding that consensus must be reached to dissolve any decision, therefore if some kind of people’s assembly cannot dissolve specific decision of either SC or GA than what we will have democracy purely it could evolve into a spokes council-ocracy.

Response: Interesting term. So the spokes council is constituted of operations groups and caucuses and the occupiers . Occupies are an pertains group is operations groups. So anyone who lives, or works here can participate in any meeting. The SC only governs this space, people who lives here or works her. So i don’t see how it is excluding anyone who is working or living here.

Dorge: I did not understand that any occupier is part of the Occupiers working group.

F: Temperature check: people want to test for consensus. Since we have gone though many discussions, and because this is a living document we are going to ask to only take blocking concerns, you feel that the proposal stated will seriously undermine the movement. For example if the proposal was to start a fire in the middle of the park someone could block it because it would mess up the movement. We are asking for those types of blocks.

Structure: This is open for continuous discussion. If you don’t love it we can keep talking. But for now the proposal is to see how it would work.

F: Blocking Concerns, if you have a blocking concern raise your hand so I can get your name, thank you and remember progressive stack, so this will translate into progressive block taking.

42.1.2.5. Blocks

42.1.2.5.1. Hi everyone, I will be speaking for my sister who lost her voice. My concern is about the proposal the definition that is stated regarding the behavior and such of the serious violations of the GA principles of solidarity. The group must produce a written statement how people can be involved, my concern there are not rules that describe what this new group or whatever they call themselves, they need to state exactly what they consider as violations.

Response: The principles of solidarity are always being added to by the GA, it’s a living document so as the GA continues to change so does the SC. We do not outline this proposal exactly what would have to open for someone to violate the guiding principles of solidarity. We want to leave that up to the operations groups and caches to decide. We didn’t feel it was our place to get into those kinds of entails. We felt it would give us too much power.

F: Did that address your block? Do you still hold that block?

42.1.2.5.2. Aton: I support the previous block. It takes the GAs power and places it the hands of the SC, small groups will have disproportionate power. The GA has the power to dissolve the SC, which is unlikely….(hard to hear)

Response: Thank you for that statement. We are not taking power away from the GA and placing it in the hands of the SC. What we are doing is evaluating what kinds of power each body should have so the SC will be comprised of people who have a stake in this occupation while the GA will be comprised of stakeholders in the movement. So if you are part of the greater movement and want to be a part of the political dialogue to bring things to the GA, because the GA doesn’t have to spend its time discussing our laundry bills or sustainable trashcans or every night’s meeting request for funds over $100.

F: Do you still keep your block? Yes.

PoP: Daniel: We have moved straight from questions to blocks, we have skipped concerns and friendly amendments have we not?

F: Unfortunately people came when it was time for questions and stated concerns. We were rolling along what was happening. We are a lot so we didn’t ask for them. Also as facilitators and a team of facilitators and there are eight of us, we are observing with temperature checks and the vibe to test for consensus.

PoP (continued): Daniel: are you positive that if you were to ask for concurs after receiving a positive temp check that no one would have a concern? And finally even if you took concerns, you didn’t take friendly amendments.

F: We broke in small groups, proposed this to the GA five times and took that into consideration and also to clarify this is not an action but a living document that’s open to change. It’s a different sort of proposal than a direct action. Do you have a concern? Yes… I think stack should be open for concerns in case anyone else has one.

Structure: This is the proposal has been here five times and we have already taken many friendly amendments. We took three major ones form last Friday and many minor ones form the Thursday before. We actually took some of your amendments throughout that process.

F: We would like to move to a vote, which is what we do if we can reach consensus.

PoP: Daniel: So you accept breaking process? The Facilitation does not set process.

F:If you have concerns you should raise your concerns, as the facilitators and the stake keepers, they have seen no other hand….

F: There is one more block at least. As proposals come to the GA with no friendly amendments added, it is to my knowledge the Structure group does not want to seek friendly amendments not, but in their next working group meeting. The last blocking concern.

42.1.2.4.3. Before I bring this concern I’m trying to understand that last comment, how do blocks brought now relate to friendly amendments brought tomorrow?

Response: The Structure working group is open the process of the SC is ever changing. By its nature it’s open to friendly amendments. The next meeting of the working group is Sunday at 6pm at 60 Wall Street. We usually meet at 6pm every night but to be honest with their process we are burnt out so we won’t meet every day, but we will post our meeting times and locations. We a will do a better job of communicating with everyone. Also in the process itself there is a section for decisions made by the SC. In that sections it states the spokes council can amend itself. So there is a question of process, sorting internal as to how the SC works. It can amend itself only in ways that don’t affect the GA.

F: For process, in the consensus process we continue to take concerns until we each consigns. In this case there are three blocks. Those three people maintain their blocks, because of the blocks and people are stingy with their blocks. Process then is to move to a vote. The reason to have concerns and to continue to have concerns is to reach an absolute consensus. We cannot reach absolute consensus without…

F: Please state your actual block.

42.1.2.5.4. I am concerned about a process excludes working groups from the process even if the SC deals only with administrative matters rallying to the park decisions have impact on groups doing work in the park that is not logically based but is about organizing about issues. Which is ultimately what we are here fight for social justice. I am concerned we are creating a system that puts administration above the about …I am an anarchist and I am concerned we are creating a hierarchical system.

Response: I am also concerned about the rise of bureaucracy. The process we are using now is incredibly bureaucratic, it micromanages WG’s to such an extent that it is ultimately undemocratic because it prevents people that directly connect to these groups from making decisions. We need to be self-governed.

42.1.2.5.5. I agree that it makes sense to have a body to address logistical decisions; my concern is the exclusion of that body of a very large segment of the groups doing working here. I do not see what the SC cannot include groups that are now apparently called movements.

F: We are going to take a temperature check for 9/10s vote. This does not close the debate but it allows us to move forward.

PoP: In the past with every decision the GA has made, the Facilitation team has asked anyone with a block if they have any friendly amendment that will alleviate their blocks. Because blocks are serious, its means you are willing to leave. I propose we ask for friendly amendments to appease those blocks before 9/10s vote.

F: We can ask those blockers to make suggestions but it is only the group proposing that can decide if it is friendly.

F: We will start with the first block, do you have any friendly amendments to remove your block?

42.1.2.6. Friendly Amendments

42.1.2.6.1. My FA is very simple, I want whatever the process about solidarity by removing the groups to state the laws or relations about the principles of solidarity and my second amendment is to clarify how they are going to manage the finances?

Response: There already is a finance working group, so that group just like all the other group, just like all the other groups would have to bring forward a description about what they do.

42.1.2.6.2. Is spokes council going to take away financial decision power from the current finance group, or will SC and fiancé both be responsible for finance decisions?

Response: What you just stated sounded more like a question rather an amendment, but I will answer your question. Someone from finance is here.

Bobby from Finance: we have no financial decision-making power In a little while we have this document we made, I’m going to describe it. If you ask for money you get it. If it’s really high it goes to GA and you get it.

Structure: The difference is that some financial decisions, those that include that day-to-day operations will be made by the SC. To clarify, the Finance working group will be accountable to the SC and to the GA instead of like right now where we are just accountable to the GA.

F: Does that appease your block?

Blocker: No.

F: The question and amendment proposed now, that they are good in faith, meaning that you are really trying to come to a conclusion right now, otherwise there are continuous meetings to discuss this.

F: EMT announcement: We need 10-15 people who have been trained pin de-escalation to meet at Comfort to help with an escalating situation.

42.1.2.6.3. I think it’s really important that the group making this proposal to commit to formulating and agreement to deal with balance of powers between SC and GA. While this formal promise is good, it is not enough. I think Aton raised important concerns. I have the greatest faith in the people who formulated this proposal, but history is related with tragedies that occur despite the set of intentions. I am very afraid that while this movement is on the right track now…. we might run into something they ran into during the French Revolution…(hard to hear)

F: So we lost a lot of people from the GA. We are all in this together, we are making revolution happen. So let’s be peaceful in this process. It’s always difficult when we cannot reach total consensus. and that is why we have the 9/10ths voter we can go to when we can reach it. Since this is the fifth discussion on this proposal and any people have left. we want to go now to a vote. To make it clear some with blocks are still staying with their blocks. What that means is friendly amendments will not change the face that we will not reach full consensus. When we cannot reach full consensus, we move to a vote. This proposal is still open and ever changing.

F: I know that we had a friendly amendment over here.

42.1.2.6.4. In respect to the overall will of the group lll drop this block but it should be recognized that the role of moment groups are left extremely vague and left underpowered. As this proposal moves forward this concerns needs to be address explicitly within the structure of the proposal.

F: We still have more than two blocks. With that in mind we’d like to move to a vote. Those people who still have friendly amendments should bring them to the Structure who continues to say that it’s open for friendly amendments all the time.

42.1.2.6.5. Daniel: I have a friendly amendment that pertains to my block.

F: If there are more than two blocks we can’t reach consensus. In the process you take friendly amendments so people withdraw their block and we can reach consensus. We cannot reach consensus here, but we might get 90%. The facilitator’s process opens conversation when there is block. When that block remains the conversation stops. As facilitators you inspire us to keep the conversation going. There are three people who are frustrated, there are hundreds who are frustrated and want to vote. As facilitators we need to go with the vast majority when we can reach consensus. We are calling for vote: all those in favor of a flexible SC document that will be put in place this week. It might be easier to start with those opposed, all those opposed.

F: The number opposed is fourteen. The numbers in favor please raise your hands. As people’s hands are raised I want to recognize someone had a block. When the vote is over we will give him voice to his block out of respect, but we will continue with the vote.

(~10 minutes for Counting Votes, Stack Takers counted raised hands)

F: As a point of information and in Oakland they had a vote for the SC and for the strike it was a little awkward. In San Francisco they have a SC, from what I hear it was challenging. Democracy is not always easy. The beautiful thing is that there are so many different people here. Can we have a moment of silence so people can count?

42.1.2.7. The numbers are seventeen against, 284 in favor. (Many cheers!)

F: The next point on the agenda is the proposal. Before it goes the person who had a block and concern, I thought it was someone who hadn’t spoke.

42.1.3. Legal Proposal

F: The next proposal is Evan. Can we please sit down so we can continue the rest of the GA, also there is a whole bunch of space up front. We have a proposal, a second proposal.

PoP: I think we should acknowledge how difficult it is to facilitate these deeply democratic meetings. Thank you facilitators.

42.1.3.1. My proposal is that the OWS Legal working group be empowered to consult and work with the National Lawyers Guild NYC chapter in an effort to get out generators back. The first step is that the laws are going to write a letter to FDNY and the city asking to return our generators and tell us the reasons they were taken in the first place. No lawsuits will be filed without consensus from the GA as per the proposal as by the GA 10/20/2011. We will provide an update to the GA tomorrow night. Everybody is working as fast as possible to get this resolved.

42.1.3.2. Clarifying Questions

F: First on deck is Frank.

42.1.3.2.1. Frank: it seems like anybody who had their generator stolen in the night by the police would have valid lawsuit against the city, and the best way to prevent that from happening again, would be to file a lawsuit and file and injunction against the action from happening again. so my question is if someone has this type of lawsuit do they need to come to the GA?

Response: Your question applies to a previous proposal; the GA came to consensus that any lawsuit against a person or the city must go through the GA. It’s in the minutes.

F: Stack is closed.

42.1.3.2.2. Was it initially, is it illegal to have generators in the park, and if so what legal action can we active?

Response: I am not qualified to answer that question. I am not an attorney. I suggest you join the Legal working group to answer that question.

F: Any more questions? Are there concerns? Last call for concerns, stack is closed. Do we have consensus? Are there blocks? No.

42.1.3.3. Consensus.

42.2. Announcements

F: We are done with the agenda. Please keep announcements to one minute. This has been a long GA and we want to respect everyone’s time.

F: Dance: jump up there is revolution is this town, jump up get down there is revolution in this town. Dancing!

F: Can everybody please sit down and I think our brother over here is first on announcements. Is either side ready to start the announcements? Last call for stack.

42.2.1. Brea: I’m Brea from Financial and I’m Bobby we are doing one of our first general report backs there are some people walking around with these documents we are going to read a brief statement and we will be around for questions. Today the OWS Financial working group on behalf of the OWS GA wants to release our financial details as part of our hope that we can be transparent and accessible. Our statements will be realized frequently and we want to hold open meetings for people to speak with Finance. We’d also like to say the GA is completely in charge of financial decisions. OWS has spent about $55,000. The single largest cost has been for food, medical care, and laundry at Zuccotti Park A total of about $22,000. The cost of communication systems is second at about $20,000. OWS has raised about $450,000 in public donations and has about $400,000 on hand! That’s our announcement.

42.2.2. Jack: Longshore union on the west coast, bringing solidarity greetings form the long shore workers and from Occupy Oakland. The GA in Oakland has decided to call for a general strike on Nov. 2nd. Longshore are attempting to shut down the ports. We will be calling on other workers in other ports to join us. At the same time that the occupation movement is taking place, there is major attack against workers in the ports. If the international shippers, who are lined to Wall Street lintiest attempt to break the long shore union on the west coast. We will call on port workers in this country to shut for a history strike. Victory to the working class, here and internationally, going with me in the long shore slogan, an injury to one is an injury to all.

42.2.3. LIza: I wanted to talk about the general strike in Oakland as the gentlemen said its Nov 2nd, three points that were presented for the general strike. 1. Complete Strike. 2. Walk outs. 3. Slow downs. i would like to purpose that the occupation here in NY declare their solidarity with the general strike not only for Oakland but for NY also, call for strike, call for slow down, call for walk outs on Nov 2.

PoI: Direct Action working group has an ongoing conversation regarding just that. At 2pm on Sunday we will meet at 60 Wall Street. There will be a breakout group to talk about Nov 2.

42.2.4. The students of CUNY and their allies will march tomorrow afternoon from Union Square to this park in solidarity with the global movement. We demand from the city and the state more money for higher education. Tell your family, friends and neighbors join CUNY on the march 1203 14th Street, Union Square. We have a permit from the city, they know we are coming because we want them to ensure our students safety in solidarity with CUNY on the march.

42.2.5. Hi everybody, I’m Lauren from the Sustainability working group. I have exciting news. We’ve been working very hard with the power constraints. We’ve been doing outreach to get bike power now, with previous approval from GA. Right now we are picking up five bike powered generators from Boston who donated them to us, they will be here late tonight and hopefully be fully operational tomorrow. Thank you Boston!!

42.2.6. Arts and culture announcements: On Halloween, we have been officially invited to participate in the largest Halloween parade in the world at 60 Wall Street at 1pm, so please come if you would like to participate in the parade. Thank you!

42.2.7. Manissa: Quick, POC working group Sundays at 3 in the Atrium.

42.2.8. On Sept 29th the GA came to consensus on the declaration of the occupation of New York City. You can find it under resources at NYCGA.net. Media has put together art work pamphlet collectors addition bring them on Monday and I would encourage every day to take a few and pass them out.

42.2.9. Verge: tomorrow Meditation working group has agreed to go to 60 Wall Street at 5:15 to help any individual. Politely request some kind of agenda to the SC about how and when all donated and or purchased food and drink supplies will be distributed to the community body. If anybody has an opinion about this request you are all invited to join Kitchen working group and Mediation tomorrow at 5:15, 60 Wall Street at Kitchen working groups meeting.

42.2.10. Nel with Wow (women occupying Wall Street): WoW is open to anybody who is female identified or female bodied Sunday at 4pm next meeting. We meet at the cube and then usually go to the atrium.

42.2.10. Tim: Hi everybody, I’m Tim. I’ve been live tweeting every GA since Oct 12th. I am getting wierded out by how many followers I have on twitter. I want to start a Live Tweet Team, I’ve worked with PR to sort of make it real, so we are going to have a meeting Sunday at 5 at 60 Wall Street if you want to help. I’d really love that. I’d like to take a day off. It’s really fun. you get all to a feedback from people all over the country. And trying to do it in their own communities and towns. (650 followers)

42.2.11. Ben: From arts and Culture. I’m working on OWS video game, I’ve been working on it for a few weeks now, but we still need people. We need action script programs 2d, sound designers and testers, if you are interested in helping. occupygames.org

42.2.12. I’ve been roaming for the last month or so documenting some of the wonderful and not so wonderful things here. for the most part i think you are visionary and salt of the each type people. i want to invite you to see what I’ve seen on a website side anthonyalmeidaphotographer.com.

42.2.13. Sussean I’m with Direct Action working group. We have few announcements. 1. We are going to be putting clipboard for people who want to participate in upcoming DA, email list to keep you guys updated on wants going on. 2. Much more exciting, OWS is marching in solidarity with the Occupy the Hood in Jamaica in Queens in order to reclaim vacant homes. Allowing the rightful owners back inside. We are leaving from Liberty Square at 10am tomorrow. We are taking the subway so we are providing passes for those who need be can’t afford them. Meet at the red structure. We will be passing out fliers with a map. Come see me. Last stop on the E.

42.2.14. Hi I’m Aaron: concerning the formation of a group that will focus on strategy and analysis and the indent analysis of the occupy moment locally and worldwide in order to prepare recommendations for use by participating working groups. we will meet at the atrium where there will be a rep available form 9am-9pm anyone interested should come. Anyone with experience in anything should come. Our direct thought tank to elaborate on issues that need development. Atrium 9am-9pm strategy and analysis

42.2.15. Adam: from the Trade Justice Working Group. We had an action a Charlie Rangels office to call him out for voting for Panama and Columbia Free Trade agreement he was on tv and had to answer questions and defend himself. Next week is day of solidarity and we are going Staten Island to visit Representative Grimm who voted for the Columbia Free Trade Agreement, which lead to the death of unionists we are bringing grim reapers. We are marching form the park and marching to ferry have a funeral procession. Tuesday at noon. we will have fliers tomorrow. If anyone wants to work on this we want it to be festive and elaborate. Talk to me later.

42.2.16. If you’ve been arrested participating in this occupation. we invite you to come to a meeting on Sunday 5306-630. We will be discussing legal political strategy. At 630 lawyers will show up. 55 Washington square south.

42.2.17. Hello my people, my name is Eddy. Sometimes the NYPD is not too friendly with us. We are looking to target the systemic practices and policies of the NYPD. They are racist, intimidating unconstitutional. this has been happening in many communities for decades. We don’t want Tony Baloney to get punished alone. We want to take this fight to Kelly, who is a front runner for the next election. We believe the battle is rotten. See me if you have a story we are collecting narratives for people who have been abused.

42.2.18. Sage: It’s important that you all stay here. Because of the large gathering there was a shadow, my friend who weighs 100 pounds got hit in the head with a bottle. It was fine until my friend got hit in the head with a bottle.Aat 11 there will be an “ohm” line that will say the sound ohm and walk around this park. I don’t believe in violence but I’m confident in the potency of love … we’ll reach in to the hearts of violence and remind them of those who are violent. If they choose to be offended and choose to leave I think it’s better than security forces. It’s easy to stand in from of a building when you know the people will not come out and rush you, but can you stand in front a table of drug deals and ohm them the fuck out. We’ll be there letting them know they can stay. Ohm is a universal symbol of light peace unity and love.

F: And on that note with peace in love in all of hearts that is the end of the General Assembly.

**NYCGA Minutes 10/29/2011**

Posted October 29th, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 43

Meeting Date/Time: 10/29/2011 / 7pm EST

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators (F): Co-facilitators: Christina & Mike

Stack-taker: John. Timekeeper: Brian.

AGENDA

43.1. Agenda Items (Proposal from Finance Working Group Regarding occupywallst.org)

43.2. Announcements

43.3. Working Group Report Backs

Summary:

Meeting was called to order at 7pm

Given the weather conditions: freezing rain and high winds, and the relatively small turnout the facilitators asked the Assembly for a temperature check on continuing with business.

A suggestion was made that given the modest quorum that proposals be tabled until Sunday’s GA and that time be given to announcements and working group report-backs.

There was not consensus for this.

The meeting’s agenda was established: The proposal would be heard, announcements would follow. Working group report-backs would follow announcements.

43.1. Agenda Items

The proposal from the “Internet” and “Finance” working groups regarding the transfer of the domain from the affinity group “OccupyWallSt.org” to the NYCGA was read.

There were several clarifying questions followed by concerns. Amongst the concerns were statements that only one of the principals in the efforts to settle this were in attendance. After

“friendly amendments” were proposed (& rejected) the Assembly was asked for consensus on the proposal. There were two blocks. The blocks were stated. The proposal was tabled by the individuals presenting the proposal since, as they said, “they did not want to see anyone leave the movement over this issue.” They agreed to return to Sunday’s GA after making an effort to bring individuals representing the other side of the question into mediation or to the GA itself.

The co-facilitators announced that minutes were not being taken by anyone from the “Minutes” working group. The facilitation team stated that they would make a record of the GA’s minutes together.

43.2. Announcements

Announcements were heard regarding scheduled actions and groups seeking involvement from the GA. An announcement was made of the danger of hypothermia from the cold to occupiers.

43.3. Working Group Report Backs

Working group report-backs consisted of a single report from Finance. The GA was closed by 7:50PM.

**NYCGA Minutes 10/30/2011**

Posted October 30th, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 44

Meeting Date/Time: 10/30/2011 / 7pm EST

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators (F): Kelly, Leo

Time Keeper: Daniel. Stack Taker: Isaiah. Stack Reader: Chris. Minutes: Stephanie, Diane and Paul

AGENDA

44.1. Agenda Items (Budget Proposal from The Political and Electoral Reform Working Group, Budget Proposal from the Screen Printing Working Group, Proposal from Demands Working Group, Breakout Discussion from the Theory and Practice Working Group, EMT Proposal from Direct Action) 44.2. Working Group Report Backs 44.3. Announcements

F: Welcome to GA! We’re going to start by introducing our facilitation team. We’ve worked hard in facilitation to know our process well and stick to it. We ask from the beginning that you trust us to hold the GA to the process that the GA has agreed upon. F: I’m Kelly, I’ll be co-facilitating this nice GA. F: I’m Leo and I will also be co-facilitating. F: I’m Daniel and I will be timekeeper tonight. People have one minute to speak. I’ll give you a sign for 30 seconds left and a sign when time is up. Thanks. Stack (S): I’m Isaiah. I will be the stack taker. I’d like to note that we will be using a progressive stack by which folks from marginalized communities may move up a step in stack, as well as those who have not spoken yet. This is not to remove anyone. No one will be removed from stack; this is to ensure that we can hear people’s voices. S: My name is Chris, I will be the stack reader. F: We already have a clarifying question. Clarifying Question: When was it decided that speaking time would go from two minutes to one minute? F: As facilitators, we think it’s our responsibility to keep this GA on process and proceeding in a timely manner. For a long time now, we’ve asked that you try to keep your statements or questions to one minute and working group report backs to two minutes. These time limits obviously flex, and it’s more a question of respect for everyone’s time here. There are a lot of people here, and a lot of people who will want to speak. Another principle that the GA abides

by, besides progressive stack, is Step Up Step Back. This is a self-imposed principle. We ask you to take note of the privilege in your life, and if you have been traditionally encouraged by society to have your voice heard, we invite you to step back and make room for others in this conversation. If you feel that you have been traditionally discouraged by society to make your voice heard, we ask you to step up and take your place in this GA. I’ll now announce the order of the agenda for tonight, and the time limits we hope we can keep each agenda item to. F: First will be a budget proposal from the Political and Electoral Reform working group. We will try to keep this agenda item to 15 minutes. Second is a budget proposal from the Screen Printing Guild working group. The time limit for this is twenty minutes. Third we will have a proposal from the Demands working group, which we will try to keep to thirty-five minutes. Fourth we will have a breakout group discussion from the Theory and Practice working group that we will try to keep to twenty-five minutes. Finally we have an emergency proposal from the Direct Action working group that we hope to keep to fifteen minutes. F: First, before we go through hand signals we use for this process, I’d like our wonderful minute takers to introduce themselves. I’m Stephanie, I’m Diane, and Paul is somewhere, and we’ll be taking minutes tonight.

F: [[Review of hand signals.]] Are there any people here with disabilities that cannot stand for the entire meeting? Can we make some room up front so they can sit down? There’s room up here. F: One thing to add about the hand signals. “C” has started to be used a lot. It runs the danger of being used to get around the process. Ideally if you have a clarifying question, you’ll get on stack to ask your question. We want to reduce the amount of back-and-forth conversations.

F: There will be time for working group report backs [WGRBs] and announcements. If you have WGRBs or Announcements we’ll ask you to get on stack then.

F: Political and Electoral Reform Proposal is the first agenda Item. Come on down.

44.1. Agenda Items

44.1.1. Political and Electoral Reform Working Group Proposal

44.1.1.1. Hello! We’re from the working group for Politics and Electoral Reform. We’re working on a number of projects. One of these is a voting project. We’ll compare alternative voting methods with the most common method used in this country today. It is widely understood that a number of alternative methods lead to more democratic outcomes than the system used today. The point of this experiment is to ask, is that true? We’re asking the people of the GA to support us in this experiment. We’re asking for funding in the amount of $538 to purchase an iPad that we would set up as a mobile voting booth to set up in the Plaza here for people to come and participate in the experiment. We’ve already gotten the help of a poll analyst, voting system design expert, ….to help with this experiment. So we’re asking the people of Liberty Plaza to help us put this experiment together. F: Opening stack for clarifying questions [CQs]. We have twelve minutes for questions.

44.1.1.2. Clarifying Questions

44.1.1.2.1. What is the experiment we speak of?

Response: The experiment will compare (sorry for the jargon), plurality voting with ranked voting, approval voting, and range voting.

44.1.1.2.2. I’m Debbie. Please explain the jargon in English.

Response: Plurality voting is the system we have today: pick one of the below. Ranked voting says rank your top three choices in order of preference. Approval voting says check all that you approve of. Range voting asks you to put a 1-5 approval for each candidate, similar to the way you would rate movies on a website, and such. F: We’d like to start closing stack on CQs. Please raise your hand and get on stack with Isaiah. 44.1.1.2.3. Tom: How long will the experiment run? Response: As long as we can keep it going. After we get the program up and running, we can also use the tablet to function as a mobile survey and polling apparatus in-house to poll people here and potentially confront mainstream and corporate media narratives being constructed about us. 44.1.1.2.4. Kim: Have you asked for a donation for either the iPad or monetary support? Response: We did that within our group, which is kind of a large group. A number of people offered donations but then rescinded them. 44.1.1.2.5. Christopher: Simply, how are you going to be using the data? For what purpose are these polls being done? Response: First purpose is a scientific study actually comparing these various methods with one another. There have been some experiments done, but they are limited to just two. We can add to the body of scientific literature of voting methods. We want to find out whether or not there are superior systems to the one we have. Our suspicion is that there are. F: Stack is now closed for questions. 44.1.1.2.6. Rudy: Can you please be more specific about what you will do with your findings? Response: They will be published directly on our group page. Anyone will be able to analyze them. We will synthesize and present them in a way that’s readable by anyone. 44.1.1.2.7. Have you searched for cheaper options than an iPad? For example, a used iPad or an iPad borrowed from someone of the movement? Response: We thought about a borrowed iPad, but we want the pad to be just for this purpose. We also asked for donations, but they were rescinded. The reason we need an iPad is because the programmer who is donating a lot of his time programs for iPads. A refurbished one is possible. Maybe that could be a friendly amendment. F: We have five minutes for this topic, and one final CQ. 44.1.1.2.8. Do you have a plan for security for the iPad, because we have a problem with certain things being taken from the camp?

Response: Volunteers from the group will be necessary to actually administer the polls. So it will be in our volunteers’ possession at all times.

F: We will now open stack for concerns. 44.1.1.3. Concerns

S: First on stack: Greg 44.1.1.3.1. Greg: How do you propose to control ballot box stuffing? In other words, somebody could vote twice if you don’t recognize their face or if different volunteers are holding the iPad at different times? Response: From our proposal submitted to Facilitation yesterday, an administrative protocol

is being devised by volunteers to make sure that members of the public to not vote more than once. Also we have a generous donation of India ink to dip fingers in to secure the vote as is done in voting systems all over the world.

44.1.1.3.2. Is this going to go for multiple days? Response: We will be devising multiple experiments over multiple days. India ink stays on for multiple days. F: I appreciate that these follow-up questions are important to the persons posing them. That being said, let’s try to keep questions and concerns to one statement so that we limit the back-and-forth. 44.1.1.3.3. Marissa: Hi, I actually do have a concern. We use consensus process. The methods they’re proposing are all voting systems, so it seems like this could be a way to circumvent the process of the GA. Also, the donations they received were rescinded, so what does this say about the support for this project? Also, I have a concern about how that information could be used? It could easily be used for existing political candidates and campaigns. Response: With respect to the GA: this is not about circumventing the GA, this is about testing alternative voting methods that could be used in our government. One of the methods we’re testing is actually a lot closer to consensus than plurality voting. It might show that approval voting for instance is a far superior method than plurality, which would be an argument in favor of consensus-based decision making. Second, about the iPads that were “rescinded,” it wasn’t really “rescinded” so much as it was basically two or three guys saying “I might know of someone who can lend us their iPad,” but then it didn’t happen. Number three, political candidates and campaigns. We are always being talked about in mainstream media, candidates are already polling us and publishing the results, that we have no control over. This could be an in-house polling and survey center that we have control over, that is fully transparent and open to everyone in the general public and Liberty Plaza, and unlike the general media, is fully transparent. F: Closing stack on concerns. ?: …democracy can be like two wolves and one sheep voting on what’s for dinner. Therefore, this process is only as good as what one is voting for. However, there are the internal principles that pertain to everyone that should not be voted on, in or out, because they are always in everyone’s best interest, for instance “do unto others as you want them to do to you.” F: Thank you. Stack is closed for concerns. We’ll now open stack for friendly amendments. My apologies. We still have people with concerns already on stack. I’ll try to do better to let folks know how many people are left on stack. 44.1.1.3.4. Henry: [not here] 44.1.1.3.5. Anthony: Since we work on a process of consensus, the whole concept of this proposal seems irrelevant to what we’re doing here. That is my concern. If you want a grant for this proposal there are plenty of organizations that support democratic voting.

F: We’re now opening for friendly amendments for this proposal. Raise your hand if you’d like to be put on stack.

F: Mic check! Are there any friendly amendments? Stack is now closed for friendly amendments. We have one friendly amendment. 44.1.1.4. Friendly Amendments

44.1.1.4.1. I’d like to propose that there be a time frame where the experiment will be concluded, to be determined by the committee that’s facilitating the experiment. It could be two or three months, but I believe it should be a definite stop date. Response: There will have to be, that way we can analyze results, and that is going to full group for discussion in devising the experiment.

F: We’d now like to take a temperature check how people feel about this proposal, and to see if we’re moving towards consensus. [[Temperature check mixed, a fair amount of positive hands.]] F: It looks as though we’re building towards consensus. We’d now like to call for any blocks. F: We have a CQ back here. CQ: Did we just do a full consensus check? F: We’re calling for any blocks. 44.1.1.5. Blocks

44.1.1.5.1. With all due respect, I don’t know whose credentials can verify that this is a good experiment. I’m not a scientist. Is there any way that you can satisfy this concern? F: Just to remind everybody, we’ve already closed stack on concerns. Maybe the presenter can respond to this concern, but going forward, let’s try to keep on process. Response: In working on this project, we have a professional programmer, a database expert, an expert in voting system design, and a professional polling systems analyst. When we publish our results, anybody will be able to see and analyze the data. F: Would we like to open up stack for five more minutes of concerns? [nobody does.] 44.1.1.6. There are no blocks, so we’ve reached consensus on this proposal.

Point of Process (PoP): Anthony: I was wondering how it looked in terms of up and down hands, I was near several down hands, but had a hard time seeing the other ones. I wanted to ask for separate checks on those. I also wanted to note that we don’t always have to reach consensus for every proposal, we can table them for further development. F: I appreciate that PoP. It is the facilitators’ responsibility to read the temperature check that we call for. There have been some calls to separate the temperature check so that we’re able to see each hand signal separately. The Facilitation working group has decided not to do that for the time being, but it is an ongoing conversation. We welcome you to our meetings to weigh in on that decision. But right now in the middle of GA is not the time to change the process by which we reach consensus. F: So with respecting the concerns and the PoPs we’ve just heard, we’d like to ask for another temperature check on this proposal. Will the proposers please restate the proposal? F: Just to inform everyone, we’re now fifteen minutes over the time we hoped that this issue would take. That’s not to say the time frames are set in stone. Just FYI. 44.1.1.7. The proposal is for $538 to get an iPad to serve as a mobile polling vote to conduct surveys and a scientific voting experiment in Liberty Plaza. F: Temperature check on this proposal? [Lots of positive, a few on the fence, a few down.] It doesn’t look like we’re reaching towards consensus. The proposers are interested if you have any friendly amendments to this proposal that might help us reaching consensus. Stack is now open for friendly amendments (FAs). 44.1.1.8. Friendly Amendments

44.1.1.8.1. My name is Woods. Perhaps to reach consensus, you would consider that when you’re done with your experiment, the iPad would become a communal iPad that other working groups could use after they bring their proposals to the GA, instead of only an iPad

for your working group. 44.1.1.8.2. I’d like to propose that you add to your study a consensus decision making portion. Be creative. Response: It’s my understanding there already is in the experiment. F: We’d like to close stack for FAs. 44.1.1.8.3. My FA was more or less the same as hers except I don’t recall your mentioning anything really like consensus being one of the experiments that you would include. Response: That’s approval voting. 44.1.1.8.4. I’d like to propose as FA to only go forward if an iPad is donated or bought for half the price as a used one. Response: A refurbished one? FA: Or used off the Internet or donated by a community member. Response: The problem is the programmer wants a warranty on it. We could get a refurbished one with a warranty, but it wouldn’t be half the price.

44.1.1.8.5. My FA is related to hers, to formulate the proposal as $538 or less. Response: That FA is accepted. We will try to find the cheapest one and give the rest of the money back into the general fund. F: We have three more FAs. 44.1.1.8.6. Tom: My FA is that I believe it would be much better than democracy to be voting on reasonable issues themselves rather than somebody else picking issues to be voted on, because when we go to vote we have a lot of questions that can’t be answered. F: Point of Process: This is not a FA, it’s a complaint. Tom: I said it’d be better. 44.1.1.8.7. I suggest that your group spend a week tabling and educating this community about the ideas behind your experiment, because it’s clear to me from this discussion that people need to learn more to see why it’s valuable to Occupy Wall Street. Response: The sooner we get it, the sooner we go through testing, the sooner it gets done, the sooner we can pass it on to another group. PoI: I just found an iPad refurbished at the Apple store for $299 +tax. [cheers] Response: We’ll take it! F: One more FA. Just to clarify, the current proposal as I understand it is for this iPad that’s refurbished and costs $299 +tax. 44.1.1.8.8. My question if you haven’t already considered it is to ensure that people feel welcome to let the working group know about obstacles to voting in their neighborhoods. Response: We talk about this in our group regularly. Awesome. F: We now have a new proposal with a FA of a $299 +tax price tag. We have one PoP. PoP: I’m sorry but I was on stack for a FA. You took my name. F: Speak! 44.1.1.8.9. My FA is very simple, seems like a very well-designed program, and I wonder if you have considered trying to raise money on kickstarter for this proposal? If you did that I bet you could raise $300 easily. If you don’t, maybe we can promise to make up what the difference is. Response: We’re not sure if we have the resources and time to do that, which is a whole other process. We thought that’s what the GA budget proposals are for. F: At this point we’re going to take a temperature check with the $299 + tax price tag. Temperature check on this proposal now? [mostly positive, still mixed] The reactions seem pretty mixed right now, so we will table the proposal. We are going to continue and move on to the next agenda item.

F: Mic check: people in the back finding it hard to hear, suggest people come to the front. 44.1.2. Screen Printing Guild Proposal

44.1.2.1. Hi, I’m Lisa from the Screen Printing Guild. We have been making t-shirts for the past three weeks. All the proceeds are going to the support of the camp. We have raised about $10,000, although we have been making t-shirts that people have been selling and pocketing the money and that cuts into what we can raise for OWS. So we want to buy some shirts, but we need to do it with materials we can be proud of. Sweatshop free! But, when you’re looking at t-shirts, there’s a lot of things to consider. There is the labor. Is it union? Is it fair wage? Is it USA? Is it fair wage in another country? There’s materials to consider. Is it organic cotton? Which means that labor wasn’t soaked in pesticides while they worked. Or there’s …post-consumer waste t-shirts, either post-consumer textiles cotton or recycled soda bottles.

So I’d like to get a temperature check on our options before I tell you the particulars of the budget. There’s one other thing to consider, there’s also fashion. Do we want to get nice t-shirts that people will actually wear? That would be my preference. F: Is it important that is be USA made? (temp check) F: We didn’t really open stack for questions yet, but we’ll do that now, if you’ve finished stating your proposal. 44.1.2.1.2. The proposal is for money, about $4,000 to buy about 500 t-shirts, depending on which — USA, union, post-consumer organic all cost different amounts, for example, non-organic….cost $5.38, USA made fitted organic are #7.38 each. That’s $3,318.

F: In the interest of time, and in the interest of the autonomy and empowerment of working groups, as facilitators we want to recommend that this GA come to consensus or not on giving them money, and empower the working group to make the decision on what kind of t-shirts to buy. Temperature check on this alteration. 44.1.2.1.3. Ok, on the NYCGA.net site, all these options are there, and there’s an ongoing discussion. Please join us there for an ongoing discussion about the materials. So the proposal now will be for 500 shirts to start and $4,090 would be the max amount for this 500. F: We’d now like to open stack for questions. We have ten more minutes scheduled for this topic. 44.1.2.2. Clarifying Questions

44.1.2.2.1. Hi. I think you need to specify to reach consensus, that the money that you get from the selling of the shirts will be of course, applied within the occupation, ‘cause otherwise it will look like merchandising. Response: That is absolutely what we are doing. All of the proceeds have been going here and will continue to go here. I did this proposal with the help of finance because we’ve been doing so well, bringing in donations. F: Stack is only for questions right now and then we’ll move into concerns. To be clear, we are opening stack for questions first and concerns second. We haven’t gotten to concerns yet. 44.1.2.2.2. My question, what ever happened to printing on clothes people are already wearing? Response: We love getting people to take off their clothes so we can print on them. We will continue to do this for free. It is really important that we are not running a souvenir shop. F: We’d like to close stack on CQs. 44.1.2.2.3. Have you considered asking for voluntary donations so that when someone gets a shirt they can get money and you can give that money to GA

Response: That’s what we’ve been doing. We’ve also been taking t-shirt donations. We got 400 t-shirts just today. 44.1.2.2.3. (Continued) In that case maybe you don’t need money for all the shirts. F: We’d like to keep back and forth down. And also regardless of the amount of money, they are requesting …for funds. 44.1.2.2.4. I’m not hearing any dollar amounts that reach as high as $4,090. So I’m going to act on the assumption, correct me if I’m wrong, that anything you spend if it comes in under $4,090 will got back to the occupation. Response: In the interest of not reading everything on my list, I went for the $4,000. $4,090 is for USA made recycled soda bottle t-shirts. F: We’re now opening stack for concerns. We have five and a half minutes left and then we’d like to move on to the next agenda item.

44.1.2.3. Concerns

44.1.2.3.1. My name is Hampton. I’m expressing concerns about this proposal about the t-shirts, regarding this capitalist business of making t-shirts and selling them. We are against Wall Street, we are against capitalism. We need to allocate our donations for our struggles against capitalism. That is why we are here. I strongly vote against this proposal. Alternatively, if we are to spend our money, I would like to save it for our political prisoners for continuing our struggles. F: We have a PoP. Normally a concern would be pertinent specifically to the question. To clarify the PoP. This is a proposal for using money in a specific way. If you have a proposal to use money in another way, that’s a separate conversation. 44.1.2.3.2. My concern is that people in GA don’t understand the amazing promo opportunity this is, because if people are wearing their shirts to the colleges and in the mall and on the street it will rally more support for our cause. So my suggestion is instead of nit-picking I’d like you to explain why this is an amazing promo opportunity for our cause. Response: I guess I didn’t presume to need to tell this crowd why it’s important to have your message out in the world. A lot of people have taken back t-shirts to their states and their countries and their churches and their schools, etc. So it’s a fundraiser but it’s also to get our message out. And we’re doing it for free most of the time because we want to circumvent the capitalist souvenir part of it. 44.1.2.3.3. I propose that sweatshirts and long-sleeve shirts be bought, as it is cold. Response: The problem with sweatshirts is that they cost more than $20 each from a sustainable source, and I was afraid to bring that large of an amount to this assembly the first time. We’d like to raise money with the t-shirts, which basically double their amount. 44.1.2.3.4. I was by the t-shirt area and there was lots of poison going into the air and I’m very concerned. That seemed to be what was going on. It seems to be, I was specifically concerned for the person spray painting, as this is poison. My second concern, is that all this talk about anger about other people making money off of t-shirts, seems to be just what the greedy corporations are doing. Response: The screen guild feels that it’s very shady for individual entrepreneurs to take bogus donations for blank t-shirts and pocket the money when it should be going to the general needs of this occupation. That’s really why we want to buy shirts. F: We are two minutes over time for this topic. We have one last concern 44.1.2.3.5. I think that if we want to turn Occupy Wall Street into a brand, then professionally printing t-shirts is the best way to do this, but if our concern is for individual entrepreneurs making money then we should make this a no kiosk zone to stop it. Response: We are graphic artists that have been printing. If we as a group want to print the t-

shirts professionally, that’s someone else’s proposal. I’ve been on site for three weeks doing it here, individually screening shirts to try to change the model of screening shirts with our logos. 44.1.2.3.6. Could I just say as well that if you want to propose the no-kiosk zone, to present that as a separate proposal on another day? F: Mic check! We have our first friendly amendment. We’d like to close stack on friendly amendments. 44.1.2.4. Friendly Amendments

44.1.2.4.1. To simplify this proposal, why don’t we try buying large amounts of fabric and printing patches that can be sewn onto any article of clothing desired. Response: We’ve already been doing that, it’s way easier to get donated sheets than donated t-shirts. 44.1.2.4.2. What if we adjust the price so that not much profit is made off of these shirts, in this way we can undercut the entrepreneurs and avoid capitalistic intention Response: Our problem with the entrepreneurs is that they are selling blank t-shirts, and they pocket the donations and then I screen the t-shirts, and then the occupy movement doesn’t get any donations. 44.1.2.4.3. My amendment is that you do teach-ins for a week about why …will help the cause immensely. Response: I think there are people who know more about this than I do, so I don’t feel comfortable lecturing about political graphics. But thank you. F: At this point, no more FAs. We will take a temperature check on this proposal. Please restate as concisely as possible the proposal. 44.1.2.5. The Screen Guild proposes to buy blank t-shirts to screen print OWS graphics. The dollar amount is $4,090 or less, depending on the type of t-shirt we buy. We are starting with 500 t-shirts, which we’ll probably go through in two days, but it’s a start and in the meantime we’d like everybody to check out our proposal online so that future proposals can have consensus on the type of t-shirts we buy. F: It looks like most people like this. We’d like to ask if there are any blocks to this proposal. [no blocks] 44.1.2.6. If there are no blocks then we have reached consensus! F: Real quick, just want to tell you all that facilitation is a rotating thing. And you’re all welcome and should take a turn as facilitation. There are daily meetings at 4;00PM at 60 wall street in the atrium, additionally every day there is facilitation at 5:00PM, to come. I don’t like doing this, ‘cause then I don’t have a say. Let’s remind ourselves to be compassionate with each other and respectful. We’re expressing our concerns, we are disagreeing with each other, but we are doing it in a way that is productive. 44.1.3. Demands Working Group Proposal

44.1.3.1. My name is Chevisa Woods, here with Demands working group. We are people who have come to OWS and who think that OWS, in addition to the great work we are already doing, should make some demands. We are presenting our first demand to the GA. And now to go through the process. This is a quote from Frederick Douglass: “Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did, and it never will.” First we have constructed a preamble: “We retain the right to make multiple and/or continuous demands of ourselves, our society, and our government, as there are numerous and varied problems to be addressed by our people’s movement. We reject the insinuation of connecting these demands to the support any political party. Demands are only one integral part of an already successful movement. Many of us wish to effect a dramatic transformation of our society and economy,

in order that the 99% can control their workplaces, local communities, and the environment. This is offered to the GA as an initial, transitional demand, in the hope that others will follow, so we can build alliances with the workers, the homeless, the unemployed, and the undocumented. We expect that as the movement grows, our demands will grow. Our movement is just beginning. The demands we make and will make are just one of the ways we will take collective control of our common world and our common future. The demand is titled: Jobs for ALL – A Massive Public Works and Public Service Program. We demand a massive, democratically controlled public works and public service program, with direct government employment to create 25 million new jobs at good union wages. This is to be paid for by new taxes on wealth and the income of the rich, financial transactions and corporate profits, and reinstatement of the Glass-Steagall Act, as well as by ending all US wars, disbanding US mercenaries, ending aid to authoritarian military regimes, and closing military bases. The new jobs will aim to radically expand access to affordable education, health care, housing, and mass transit, and will be open to all, regardless of immigration status or criminal record.”

F: MIC CHECK. There has been some controversy about bringing up the discussion of demands at all. Some have noted that they believe at one point the GA said there would not be demands. We have noted on the back of the sheets that two instances that proposals have been brought to the GA concerned with demands. The first was brought September 27th. It was tabled. On 10/16, there was a discussion about a release of a statement in response to demands and the New York Times, saying that the GA has not reached a consensus regarding demands or the preamble. And that the list of New York Times demands was never presented to the GA. The source is the NYCGA website. We hope that we now collectively and democratically can discuss this topic of demands. F: OPEN STACK for CQs. We first have a P of I. Demands validate the US government. Seeks the US government to allow us what are our rights. PoP: There will be time for concerns. We are now opening stack for questions first, followed by concerns. F: We have twenty-five minutes for this agenda item. This is obviously a discussion that will have a lot of input. Let’s remain respectful and remind ourselves that everyone will have an opportunity to speak. We have another PoI. Before she speaks, let’s clarify that a PoI is factual information that is directly relevant to this topic. PoI: On the back of the paper it says that on September 27 the issue of demands was tabled. This is true, however, it was tabled because there was a proposal brought forward that the Demands working group is not an actual working group and did not have the ability to bring demands to the GA. There is live documentation of this on the live stream PoP: I wanna make a recommendation to the Facilitation team. Conducting an open discussion like this with so many people and so many opinions all at the same time is going to be incredibly difficult, if not impossible, for everyone to feel like they’re heard. Can I recommend that we go into breakout groups…. F: Mic Check! That decision is up to the presenters of the proposal. Also, it is important to clarify that there is now a 24 hour proposal requirement for a proposal to be put to the GA. To clarify, there is a waiting period….Demands brought this to Facilitation yesterday about being on the agenda tonight. We have to respect that process that was taken on consensus in the Facilitation group. F: One more PoP: If it is true as Marissa said, if this group is not in fact a working group but an affinity group, and it has been decided that an affinity group is not allowed to present proposals to the GA, that is a breakdown of process….

F: To respond very quickly, I agree that the difference between working groups and affinity groups should be clarified, for right now, given the current state of the …we are going to go ahead with this agenda item. Response: We, the working group of Demands, are under the impression that we are a working group. 44.1.3.2. Clarifying Questions

44.1.3.2.1. My question is, who are we making these demands to? Response: We are making these demands to our government, not in the expectation that they will fulfill them easily or at their own volition. They can only possibly fulfill these demands if they are forced to by a mass movement involving all parts of our society! PoP: Responding to questions is a matter of responding to questions, not making a speech. I don’t even know what the answer to her question was. F: Let’s have a question, a PoP, and the presenters of the proposal responding. Yelling out disrupts the process and creates a sense of chaos for everybody. Moving on to the next CQ. 44.1.3.2.2. You are issuing a demand. The previous GA had previously consensed not to issue demands. Is it your intention to repeal this consensus? Response: As stated earlier and shown by the timeline that was taken off the NYCGA official website, we could not find a point where we had consensed upon not making demands. PoI: As part of the Facilitation working group that created a document of institutional memory, we acknowledge that it is not complete. There are moments on there where it says no minutes available. There is a call at the bottom of the document for anyone to come forward who has minutes. So while we’ve done our best with this document, we acknowledge that it is incomplete. If anyone has a record of past GAs and proposals that they have consensed upon, those records are valid and still need to come forward. This whole GA and the record of its decisions is a work in progress. PoI: We are currently creating a Youtube channel of all the past GAs. 44.1.3.2.3. I’m Eric. My question is this: Back in 1968, we and others occupied Columbia University. We had six demands. My question is this: From 1968, to the most recent movements in Egypt and Spain and Greece, has there been any movement that succeeded in creating social change that has not had demands? And therefore, do the makers of this motion feel as I do that this demand will win for us greater unity and greater support from the entire….? PoP: This gentleman’s question was not to clarify the proposal but to speak on behalf of the proposal. That’s not a clarifying question. Response: This proposal is absolutely about creating unity. I have attended a meeting of the NY Central Labor Council. Of the delegates in attendance, when I mentioned that OWS was considering a demand of this nature, they were highly enthusiastic, and agreed unanimously to support a march of hundreds of thousands around a demand for a public works program. F: Once more, we ask that responses to points of process or responses to CQs be limited to responses to those questions. We have ten minutes longer for this topic. Closing stack for CQs. PoI: According to my understanding, it’s problematic for a working group to speak to outside organizations and suggest that anything has been agreed upon by the GA that hasn’t been. It’s out of order. F: The presenters of the proposal…. Response: At this meeting, I specified that the Demands working group was considering, not the GA, which was information that was already publicly available. 44.1.3.2.4. I have a clarifying question Two weeks ago at the Demands working group, PoP was not followed, we were not allowed to…why if there was a block of 14 to 11 to not even

bring this to the GA, why is it here? Response: We had a meeting three or four days ago, a lot has been happening. We did open the demand up to amendments. We spent three hours amending the demand through a consensus process. The meeting he is referring to was a very difficult meeting and difficult to get anything done, that’s all I can say. PoI: I participated in this demands working group from the third meeting. Already at the third meeting a list of demands essentially identical to the paragraph you heard tonight was already approved by a quote unquote democratic process. We were not allowed to question….there was a block on bringing that list to the GA. F: We’ve got another PoI: For the record, I went to the last two meetings of the working group. Last meeting there were at least four alternate preamble proposals discussed. One of them was adopted with modified consensus. In addition there were no less than six or seven radical changes and amendments to the demands. The minutes are available for anyone to read on the Yahoo group of the Demands group. Demandsows Yahoo group, also on the website. PoI: I’m confused even if a few weeks ago there was a consensus not to have demands, isn’t everything we do a living document? F: PoP: That’s a great concern but not a point of information. F: PoP: It has been said many times that this one demand was allowed to be changed. However the last thing …tried to attend, tried to find this 6:00 meeting…were unable to find this meeting. At the meeting prior to that, there were no amendments possible, and this was available on live stream. F: His point is legitimate that we are not following procedure. That does not justify misusing points of process, or points of information. The only way that this difficult conversation can proceed is to follow process. I know we’ve got a lot of emotions about this issue, but hold on, we are doing our best. You have to too. PoI: I’ve facilitated the last Demands meeting. The only way we got anything passed even within Demands was with a modified consensus of three quarters. Demands has passed nothing with nine tenths consensus. F: (PoI is factual information that is directly responding to some issue at hand. I’m not saying that’s not a PoI but I’m also not sure it is. After CQs there will be time to express concerns.)

F: The proposers want to respond to that PoI really quickly.

Response: We had adopted a three fourths consensus after we did not have any process of modified consensus because at our first two meetings we reached unanimous consensus, which means we reached consensus beyond nine tenths. But regardless, this section of the discussion is supposed to be addressing questions about the proposal right now. F: We’ve already used up the hoped-for 35 minutes for this agenda item. As a facilitator, that is concerning. The time limits are not set in stone, but let’s bare it in mind. We still have over 10 people on stack for questions. I think we’ve only addressed one, and we haven’t even opened stack for concerns yet. F: We’re going to take one more PoP and then hear CQs that followed process by getting on stack. PoI: I was at the second meeting and what she just said was a lie [outbursts from all sides] F: PoP: This is a point of process, this is used when the process we follow in a GA has been side-tracked. These are all valid concerns and questions. We need to respect the process of stack. F: At this point we are going to hear another clarifying question. Can we make some space here for at least two members of Facilitation…

44.1.3.2.5. Is this one demand or multiple demands? I am concerned that some of the members or some of the people who are occupying and are part of this movement may disagree with some of the demands embedded in this single demand, and that may be a destructive force for the movement. Response: We have extensively discussed how the demand can be achieved. There is a single demand which would not be workable or progressive without the sub-points. F: We now have sixteen people on stack for CQs. Stack is now closed for CQs. 44.1.3.2.6. Although I agree we need a Demands group, my question is this: have you considered, by asking a criminal organization for jobs that they may very well give you jobs for nuclear plants, military establishments, GMOs,…? F: Mic check! PoP: Should we not, if we’re going to take extra time, decide how much time it’s going to be and take a temperature check? F: Good call. Perhaps we should do that. F: I appreciate that PoP but I still ask that you wait for us to acknowledge you. F: Let’s proceed with suggesting another twenty minutes on this agenda item. Once we reach twenty minutes we can reassess. Temperature check on twenty more minutes. [positive] 44.1.3.2.7. The demand reads: We demand “democratically controlled” etc. We do not acknowledge the legitimacy or democratic capabilities of any political party presently existing to carry out our demands. We trust only ourselves. F: There are now fifteen more CQs. Stack is closed on CQs. The person speaking lost her voice, so he’s going to speak for her. 44.1.3.2.8. I want to know why there is no explanation for how you considered achieving these demands? For example, I’m a teacher who would like to know how you propose to radically reform the education system? Response: We would like to further specify things that have been discussed, such as free public education, but we may not have time. We’re going to continue for now with another CQ. PoI: Specifics are available online. 44.1.3.2.9. It’s unclear to me what it means that this is a demand. We’re demanding from a government who you say we don’t think is legitimate to meet these demands. Are we demanding of ourselves, and if it’s the government, what are we going to do if they don’t do it? Are we going to leave if they do? What is this? Response: Perhaps one way we can answer this good question is this: Look around, this crowd is great but this is not the 99%. This is exclusivity, and the way this demand is phrased can reach out and expand this struggle to parts of NYC that know nothing about this movement because for some reason, for some it seems controversial to make a political point, which is, we demand of ourselves first of all, like we said in the preamble. Public education for example is something we’re fighting for in our movement, to make the movement broader, these demands can help us do this. Susan? [not here] PoP: I’d like to know why my question was dismissed earlier, because it was a question with an example, but related to the actual demand. Response: I don’t understand the CQ. F: Mic Check! If I may, I think she’s asking that the group makes a number of demands that require specification about how those demands would be met. Education is one example, but there are several others. 44.1.3.2.10. I’m not asking for demands, just for clarification on why we should pass anything without knowing how it is going to be achieved specifically first. Response: It will be achieved by a social movement. It is not the function of a social

movement to propose detailed administrative procedures at the outset, but to unify us around

something we need.

44.1.3.2.11. Could the presenters of this proposal clarify in what way it does not presuppose

the legitimacy of the institutions to which the demand is made? As far as i’m aware, all

revolutions started by making a demand to a state that could not fulfill them.

Response: The legitimacy of the government does not matter. We cannot ignore that it exists

and has a chokehold on us.

44.1.3.2.12. If you’re not expecting a response from the government and you’re not

articulating the specific needs, can you clarify the difference between current living

documents like the principles of solidarity and the declaration of the occupation, what’s the

difference between those and this demand?

Response: I’d like to answer that if I may. By making demands, we don’t send a message, in

my opinion, that we expect the government to fulfill them or respond to them. We make these

demands because they’re important to millions of Americans! For example, the issue of

health care, of imprisonment, of jobs, it’s something that unifies our struggle along with

everything else in this movement.

44.1.3.2.13. What’s the difference between what you’re proposing and the other documents I

mentioned?

Response: The difference between this is that there are specific issues that must be addressed

now, but the institutions that are destroying our people nationwide – I go from OWS to the

different communities of the city, especially communities of color. There are serious issues of

housing, health care, that are being…in Congress now, that will destroy all communities,

particularly communities of color and the poor. They will not join us until issues of poverty

are addressed,

F: Mic Check! Let’s all take a deep breath. We’re all doing good, we want to continue with

the process. Let’s also ask that everyone in front please sit down. We want to remain calm as

best we can. I also want to notify everyone that we have seven minutes left in the agreedupon

extended twenty minutes. We haven’t even come to close to answering all the CQs. We

have to consider the possibility that we will not reach consensus tonight. There are a lot of

possibilities for education…teach-ins that can continue this process.

F: The presenters hope to hear three questions at once, due to the time constraints for this

meeting. Many of the questions raised have similar concerns, and maybe this way we can

hear more and respond to more. From our perspective as Facilitators it’s the right of the

presenters of the proposal to decide how often they respond. We are going to proceed with

CQs. MIC CHECK.

44.1.3.2.14. The way the demand is phrased makes it seem as if a public jobs program is the

only demand, when in reality there are several. Have you considered keeping the unions and

the labor movement from taking over these demands? And, leaving out “ending wars”?

44.1.3.15. Stephanie: Is it your intention to the use the preamble, which gives essential

context to your demand, everywhere the demand is published, as much as you have control

over?

44.1.3.16. I would like to know if this one demand, which seems to be many demands, is

going to apply to just to NY or to all of America, because in my opinion if we are going to

make this demand as the central body of this movement it should apply to all of the US.

Response: (In reverse order): The GA would be endorsing this demand, and we would hope

to use this demand to influence other people’s opinions so it would be read widely, and the

GA can decide to make the demand official. On co-optation: I, and many of us, are very

concerned about co-optation, and that is precisely why we need demands. For example, If we

had this just as jobs program, Obama has a jobs program – but Obama cannot co-opt a

demand in this form. Additionally many people have brought up this issue of several demands. A gentleman over there brought up concerns about how jobs could be democratically dispersed. The language was trying to get at the problem of how to avoid co-option. Nevertheless we recognize our faults of being such a small group. We were hoping to dialogue with you guys to make it better. Mic check!

F: We now have about two minutes left in the 20 minute extension. We have not even gotten to concerns. As a facilitator it is my suggestion that we hear the rest of the CQs and then table this agenda item so that there’s more opportunity for more of this feedback in a way that’s more productive and more direct to the group. F: I would agree. However, I would like to be able to say that this conversation be able to continue next Saturday kind of like the situation with the spokes council so that we can engage in wider conversations, hear more concerns, talk about it more clearly, next Saturday. F: Next Saturday is very far off in NYCGA terms. There will be plenty of time in the next week to figure out when next this discussion occurs. But it absolutely can and should. F: There has been a request, and as Facilitation it is something that we typically do when there are a lot of thoughts on both sides in the GA. It’s a temperature check to see how people feel about this proposal. After questions, perhaps we should take a temperature check before saying we’re going to table the issue. Mic check! 44.1.3.2.15. My question is, and it’s a very simple question, when was Demands Group registered as an official NYGCA working group? The only reason I ask this is because I had a difficult time attending your meetings. There was no information at the Information desk. And I want to know also if your minutes are available on the NYGCA website. PoI: I believe that about a month and a half ago, not exactly sure of the date, I registered this working group with the proper forms that were given to me by Info, at the Info desk. I also forwarded the information in an email to Lea that same week to verify that she had received our forms. I never got an email back, but I was told by Information that we had been properly registered. F: We have two PoPs. Then we will continue to finish these CQs. PoP: I think it’s good to have this piece of information, but the previous question and the information has very little to do with the actual proposal. These questions, the validity of this group could be answered at Facilitation work group, and continuing to bring it up sounds like prejudice and derailment. PoP: Earlier it was said by someone that the document that was being presented was approved by ¾ majority. In that case, how is it order to have this proposal? F: Mic Check! There are obviously a lot of concerns with this working group’s meetings, but I reiterate that this is not the time to make those concerns heard. There is a proposal on the table, and it has already been agreed by this working group to table this proposal for further discussion. Let me ask that we finish the CQs. Once we do that, we will take a temperature check on whether or not to open stack for concerns. If people really want to continue this conversation here, we will of course have to respect the feeling of the entire GA. PoP: When, in your opinion, is an appropriate time to question the transparency of a group that is offering a proposal? F: That is not a PoP. The question is legitimate though. I invite this working group, this group, to be very open at the end of this agenda item, and going forward, with its meeting time and further opportunities for people to give feedback on this obviously contentious issue. F: I would also like to suggest that this issue of questioning this working group could be brought to the GA as an agenda item on a future day, because they brought this proposal to the GA, and it seems a lot of the people in the GA are unhappy with the proposal or in disagreement with this working group, so perhaps it would be an option to explore this

through the same avenue that this group is. F: Next up for CQ: Ashley 44.1.3.2.16. I wanted some clarity on the great Frederick Douglas quote that you guys presented with your proposal, which said that power concedes nothing without a demand, it never did and it never will. Was this included with the proposal because, while it’s great to have marches and get angry and get arrested, that closed mouths that do not ask for demands do not get fed? Are we hungry, or do we just want to throw temper tantrums? I think we need demands. Thank you. F: That was not a CQ. Next up: Betty [not here] Mic Check! F: That’s the end of CQs. They want to respond to the CQ, which is their right. [One more on stack.] 44.1.3.2.17. My question is, in what way does this demand address the issue of accountability from big businesses for the fiscal crisis of 2008, including the massive bonuses received by CEOS in that year? One of my issues that I brought to this occupation was a search for justice for economic crimes committed in recent years. Response: I will respond for this one. I too thought that the most important thing to bring up initially was corporate personhood and the lack of accountability corporations have of the power that influences our lives. However, contrary to some beliefs, we don’t all agree in the Demands working group. We had a lot of heated discussion, and I realized that that was important to my peers, but more important to them right now, first up, was jobs. It’s important to me too. So I listened, and we agreed to go this route. And now I hope, moving forward in meetings that you are all welcome to attend, we can discuss more and different demands. F: Mic Check! We’re going to have one more response from the presenters. After that we’re done with CQs. It’s their request that we take a temperature check on whether or not the GA wants to proceed with a ten minute concerns stack. That’s up to you, we’ll take a temperature check after this. 44.1.3.2.18. The question was posed, why was the Frederick Douglas quote used before the preamble? For those who know black history it’s very obvious that Frederick Douglas was a slave, and he didn’t have the opportunity to get angry and go on pretty little marches. His demand was for freedom, and he said “Agitate” even his deathbed. I can’t imagine agitation without demands. F: Mic Check! There was a woman here under the impression she was on stack, so let’s please hear her question. 44.1.3.2.19. My question is regarding the wording of the demands. You state that you want to tax the rich. Who are the rich? I believe we should be clearer. Response: I can respond to this. We had ample debate about what constitutes “the rich”. That term is what we agreed upon in our small group, once again hoping to come here and consult with a broader basis that would amend, tear up, fix, make it better, other representation of our collective ideals. F: Mic Check! We have now spent an hour on this agenda item. We have one P of I and then we will take a temperature check about extending this conversation for ten minutes. If it is clear that this GA wants to continue this conversation for ten more minutes even though they know that this proposal is already tabled for now, then we will do that, but we will not go beyond those ten minutes. PoI: To address his concerns, he said this proposal does not contain anything concerning the banks. That’s not true. It proposes that we reinstate the Glass-Steagall Act, which already exists in Congress, HR1489. It already has 49 co-sponsors. I know that people think Congress doesn’t work anymore, I understand that, but there are a few good people in there that are still

proposing legislation, and as FDR said to one of his constituents, make a movement, go out

there, and make me do what you want me to do!

F: To clarify, a PoI is not an opportunity to express your support for a proposal. That first half

was informative. The second half was not.

F: We are now taking a temperature check on whether or not to open stack for ten minutes on

concerns. The question is whether or not to continue this conversation now. [mixed, mostly

negative]

44.1.3.4. Keeping in mind this proposal is already tabled. The response is very mixed. The

presenters feel comfortable tabling this conversation until future notice. I invite everybody to

find out from them, online and at Info, when their meetings meet. They’re going to explain

right now, briefly, when their meetings meet, and then we’re going to move on to our final

agenda item.

Response: Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 7PM at 60 Wall St. And our minutes are

available online. We also have Yahoo groups open to all, OWSdemands. Mic check! Our

minutes are at the Demands Working Group logo on the NYCGA.NET website.

F: Thank you so much for your proposal and your patience.

F: Thank you for bearing with all of us, especially for Facilitation.

F: The last Agenda item is an emergency proposal from Direct Action. We will try to keep

this to fifteen minutes.

44.1.4. Direct Action Emergency Proposal

44.1.4.1. In light of the unexpected raids on five major occupations, this past week, Direct

Action is requesting $3,000 to purchase equipment for an emergency park defense strategy.

This will include creating multiple human lockdowns throughout the park. We believe that

this coordinated response will provide time for community support and a massive media

presence to gather, and that this will be sufficient to deter any police attempt at eviction. If

you would like to participate in the continued development of this emergency response plan,

we invite you to attend a Direct Action meeting weekdays at 2PM at the Trinity graveyard.

Thank you.

F: So let’s open stack for CQs. I’d like to thank our stack taker who is from Occupy DC!

44.1.4.2. Clarifying Question

44.1.4.2.1. Could you quickly give us a rundown or itemization on what exactly the $3,000

will be spent on?

Response: the $3,000 will be used for U-locks that will be used to secure people to each other

and stationary objects. The specifics of the plan, due to security culture, cannot be released

fully, but if you would like to know more, attend the Direct Action meeting.

44.1.4.2.2. [pass]

44.1.4.2.3. My question, but also a concern about that, on transparency. Can you show at

least what a U lock is?

Response: [example shown] This is an 11 grid U lock, it takes ten minutes to saw through this

with an industrial strength grinder. Each one costs $100.

F: We’d like to close stack for CQs.

44.1.4.2.4. Has this tactic been used before elsewhere, and can you describe how that went?

F: Stack is now closed for CQs.

Response: Locking down is a really old tactic. It’s used a lot. To go into every time it’s been

used requires us to stay here for a couple of weeks. This would be a hard lock, we can talk

more about what that is at Direct Action tomorrow if you want, where we discuss things like

tactics and their effectiveness. Or maybe after GA.

PoI: You can go to any website where people lock themselves in trees in Oregon any time in the last fifty years to see this tactic used by both single people and multiple people. 44.1.4.2.5. Do you have a plan for addressing the use of tear gas and other problems that might arise if you chain people together, and one suggestion is you get one of the unions representing EMTs and Paramedics, I’m representing one of them from Seattle today, to see if they would provide people to provide assistance to anyone who might be hurt on the spot. Response: That’s great. We’ve been thinking about that too. We don’t like to be pepper sprayed. The people who would be locking down would be making a choice to be subjected to that. So come to the Direct Action meeting to talk about the options or come see me to participate in the blockade training that Ruckus will be conducting on Thursday, time TBD. F: Now opening stack for concerns. 44.1.4.3. Concerns

44.1.4.3.1. Where is the DA meeting being held? 2PM in the Trinity graveyard. 44.1.4.3.2. For the U locks to cover a great distance, $3,000 accounts for 30 locks, correct? Response: This is a tactical: with cast iron pipe between 2 people, interlocking hands inside the pipe, potentially with handcuffs in between, these 30 people can cover a much greater distance. F: If you have suggestions for specific DA tactics, please go see them. I’m sure they’d love to hear from you. This is a time for concerns about this proposal. 44.1.4.3.3. Would the $3,000 have any funding for protection from pepper spray and tear gas? Response: The $3,000 wouldn’t be spent only on U locks. Obviously we need to prepare for things like pepper spray, and buy things for lock boxes like that gentleman suggested. If you’d like to be part of the park defense plan, which hopefully will have a budget of $3,000, we can discuss these things further! F: Stack is now open for friendly amendments. [none] F: Closing stack for FAs. F: Temperature check about this proposal. [lots of positive, a few middles] F: Are there any blocks to this proposal? [none] 44.1.4.4. Alright, we’ve reached consensus. [cheers!] F: Mic check! That’s the end of the agenda items for tonight. Next up, working group report backs. Please get on stack for WGRBs.

44.2. Working Group Report Backs

F: Mic check! So far, on stack, for WGRBs, I have Direct Action and Sustainability. Is there another group that would like to be on stack? 44.2.1. Direct Action has three marches to report. Tomorrow 11AM there will be a march to Governor …..’s office. This march will be protesting the expiration of the millionaire’s tax. Sorry, my apologies. That’s Tuesday. Tomorrow is Halloween. For Wednesday we have a pair of marches that are twinned. They are the Occupy Oakland solidarity marches. From 10Am to 4PM we’ll be marching on Wall Street. This will be a circular march, we will keep walking. We will bring brooms and Simple Green, and we will clean up Wall Street. There is another march leaving at 5Pm. Going to City Hall and 1 Police Plaza. It intends to be back in time for the spokes council. The third march we have to anounce is for November 18. It is a civil rights rally followed by prayers. They are marching against CIA and NYPD repression. 12-4pm, Foley Square. 44.2.2. I’m from Sustainability. Due to the diligence of Occupy Boston and a bunch of people from Occupy New York, tomorrow there will be another bike generator in operation. 44.2.3. Working group from Principles of Solidarity and Consolidation, which has been

working to consolidate and synthesize vast inputs of principles going to meet at 2PM, Charlotte’s Place, Tuesday, unless we get really big, then we’ll move to 60 Wall St. This is our first big meeting, you are all invited to help synthesize. Thanks! 44.2.4. Vision and Goals: Meets every day of the week. MWF 5:30 PM to 7PM and Th, Sat Sun, noon to 1:30 pm, always at 60 Wall St. at the Atrium. We especially invite people living in the camp, because we don’t have enough people living in the camp at the meetings. We also invite people marginalized due to their race, gender, gender identity, socioeconomic level, religion, or anything else. Thank you.

44.2.5. Arts and Culture: Olma: It’s Occupy Halloween! We’ve been invited to be a part of the NYC Halloween parade. So if anyone wants to join the parade, show up tomorrow, 6th Ave and Grant, between 5 and 6PM to line up. If you want to join a specific group like corporate zombies or Anonymous masks, go to occupyhalloween.org to check out the group contacts. All costumes are welcome. We also need pacers. If you can volunteer please see me, or email me at wafflesushi@gmail.com. We also need trucks to move giant puppets, an emergency situation because our transportation has fallen through. F: End of WGRBs, opening stack for Announcements. Announcements are statements of factual information, such as time and place of a future march or demonstration or notable speaker. This is not the time to give your opinions. There will be time after the GA for Soapbox. That’s the time to express all your personal opinions.

44.3. Announcements

F: Stack is now open for announcements. 44.3.1. Mic check! Greetings form Occupy Atlanta! You inspire us! I’ll keep this brief. I am returning to Occupy Atlanta tonight. I am driving. I do not need gas money. I am wondering if anyone wants to go south with me. I have space in my car, and some music. I will be at this corner in 10 minutes. If you would like to participate in this conversation please join me. Liberty and Broadway right at the light. Occupy Atlanta needs your fresh and positive energy. Thank you all. It’s 10 to 15 degrees warmer! 44.3.2. I’m a mom from Occupy Boston here to give and receive knowledge. I’m around until the 4th. If you want to talk to me, go to the Info desk to communicate. 44.3.3. I just heard there were 46 cases of hypothermia last night and two people went to the hospital, so the situation with the generators is very serious. F: Closing stack on announcements. 44.3.4. Hi my name is Steve, I’m from Occupy San Diego. Just wishing solidarity, and I’m going to be here tomorrow, and keep up the good work. F: Stack is now closed for announcements. 44.3.5. Hello my name is Ashley, there is a new working group staring called WON, which stands for Women Occupying Nations, this is a closed group and safe space for women only. We are addressing the UN regarding a logo that was created to be the new human rights logo. It was created this year, it is a dove with a hand, and the logo is “free as a man”. We believe it should be “Free as a human”. If you people are interested, meet me at the cube after the GA. Thank you. 44.3.6. Occupy DC is in solidarity with you! I also wanted to say that I had the great fortune of working with a group called Students Occupy DC to hold a 150 person student march and rally against student debt and student loans on Friday. This would not have been possible without the folks from OWS, who also inspired students across the world, and as a student I just want to say thank you. Thank you! F: That concludes this GA. Thank you so much. Soapbox is open.

**NYCGA Minutes 10/31/2011**

Posted October 31st, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 45

Meeting Date/Time: 10/31/2011 / 7:15pm EST

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators (F): Christina & William

Stack Taker: Zach; Stack Greeter/Time Keeper: Phil; Minutes Taker: Ron.

Introduced Facilitation Team

General Description of Consensus Process

Announced Facilitation Working Group Meeting Time and Place

No Agenda Items

AGENDA

45.1. Working Group/Caucus Report Backs

45.2. Announcements

45.1. Working Group/Caucus Report-Backs

45.1.1. Daniel from Direct Action. Announced a march had occurred in solidarity of Occupy Oakland. Announced that another March to City Hall for the Iraq War Vets would take place on Wednesday [time not specified]. They hoped to offer speeches at 5 p.m. in the Park.

45.1.2. Justin from Part-time Working Group: Reported that for all people previously occupied that they plan to occupy [not stated] on 12-6 [date not clear]. For more information see Justin at Information although he’s not there full-time.

45.2. Announcements

45.2.1. Dr. Ron announced that any group listed at NYCGA.NET can have their own sub-site using a web site that he would help them set up. See him for help and details.

45.2.2. Steve announced that he was forming a new Working Group called “Things We Love.” Their first meeting was this Thursday at 5 p.m. at 60 Wall St. He would set up a table then and there and if anyone had any questions they could contact him at Thingsweloveows@gmail.com.

45.2.3. Queen Mother announced that she wanted help to occupy 477 W. 142nd St., between Amsterdam & Collins Ave., in Harlem on Tuesday at 11 a.m. They had no heat or hot water and needed help with bolt cutters and to install a new boiler.

45.2.4. Eli announced that he was driving a small bus to Occupy Washington DC on Thursday to protest the G-20 Summit in France and would offer free rides.

45.2.5. Chris from UCATS Local 3882 of the Nurses Union announced that there was a rally on Tuesday at 5 p.m. at NYU in support of the union contract negotiations with NYU. UCATS Local 3882 is located at 7 E. 12th St.

45.2.6. Daniel D. announced that if anyone wants to help with Occupy Oakland they can see him after GA.

45.2.7. Black Feather announced that to increase awareness of the plight of indigenous people to come by their table located next to the kitchen.

45.2.8. Doug announced that he was forming a website devoted to proposing a constitutional amendment calling for Direct Democracy. See him for more information. [Website name garbled and indistinct.]

45.2.8. Mike announced that he was calling for a movement for justice and would travel to Harlem on Monday at 7 p.m. For information and details on the bus going up there see Julia at the Cultural Center.

F: General Assembly Closed: 8:30 p.m.

**NYCGA Minutes 11/1/2011**

Posted November 1st, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 46

Meeting Date/Time: 11/1/2011 / 7pm EST

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators (F): Kelly, Stephan, Kim

Sully on Stack. Kim time keeper. Jason Stack Greeter

AGENDA

46.1. Agenda Items (Internet Working Group Proposal

46.2. Working Group Report Backs (WGRBs)

46.3. Announcements

Process Review/Opening Comments from Facilitation (F)

Announcement: On September 29th occupying Zuccotti park, Liberty Park, came to consensus on a document called the declaration of the occupation of New York City. It is the only declaration that has reached consensus to this point. We have made many friends using this document. It’s been blasted out to occupations all over the world. It was read by Keith Olberman live. Sparrow Media, a NFP, independent public relations group, through grassroots funding, came up with this really beautiful pamphlet and printed ten thousand copies of the declaration on their own dime. It’s really beautiful. These copies were meant for you to keep for a long time, sort of a collectors addition…not to get too nerded out. We have a bunch of boxes feel free to take one take five take ten and hand them out to people at work, in your hood, people who want to know what we are all about and are too lazy to use Google. We love you and thank you!

F: I’m sorry about the tents, I’ll try to project to the sides, maybe we can all congregate down here.

F: Hello! We are gonna start the General Assembly (GA). As a reminder, in our GA we use progressive stack which means I reserve the right to bump up people of traditionally marginalized communities and those that haven’t spoken in the speaking order. When stack opens, Jason will run around and get your names

F: Alright, to begin with Id like to announce that the facilitation working group meets every day at 4pm at 60 Wall Street you are all invited to come at 5:45 daily facilitation training. You should come! Take part in this because we should all be facilitating. I’ll go over the hand signals that we use to communicate without yelling. This, hands in the air wiggling, you feel good or you agree. It’s clapping in sign language for real. Hands in the middle means you are on the fence… agree with some but not with all. Hands down means you are not happy and you don’t agree. This is a Point of Information (POI). POI is information pertinent to what has just been discussed. For example I say the cops are over there. But sully knows that the cops are actually over there. He would raise his hand, F would notice his POI and acknowledge him and he’d say the cops are over there. This is a Clarifying Question (CQ). It’s not the same as a general question on which we open stack for. It’s used when the point being addressed seems ambiguous and needs further clarification for people to be able to form a thought around. Point of Process (POP), this is used when the process we are following has been derailed. You can hold it up and F will acknowledge, POP is not a place for thoughts of opinions, just to keep the process moving forward, which is what F does.

F: This is wrap it up sign, use kindly. When the point has been made, we do this to let the person talking know they can wrap it up.

F: This is a block. It is used during the consensus process. If it looks like we are coming to consensus, we might ask for blocks against that proposal or decision. A block is a very powerful thing used for ethical moral and safety concerns.

F: This is raising your hand, what you want to do to get on stack. The stack taker will jot down your name, and maybe an article of cloths you are wearing.

46.1. Agenda Items

46.1.1. Internet Working Group Proposal

F: I would like to start the GA with the proposal from the Internet working group, but first I’d like to quickly note how a proposal gets to the GA. We accept proposals with a 24 hour process period which is posted online at nycga.net. The 24 hour period allows for folks to review and comment on proposals that will be addressed at the GA. However, we do have emergency proposals, which are time sensitive that was unforeseen and unplanned. With this in mind, I’d like to point out a it of info about the proposal tonight. It was submitted at 3am online, posted at 11am this morning. However, it is time sensitive in nature because the GA is our assembly, everyone’s assembly, I’d like to have internet make the proposal and get a temp check to see if we can continue. (Facilitation goes over temp check process)

46.1.1.1. Mic Check! I’m Drew from internet. We would like to propose tonight the purchase ofoccupywallstreet.net for the use of all of us. It is time sensitive because the person who owns it desperately wants to sell it and will sell it to anybody but we have put a stop on that for the day. I realize that this is a weird situation, but we would rather that you own it than say the Koch brothers. The amount is $8,000. Just so everyone knows, we are about to take a temp check, not on the proposal, but on having it being addressed now based on the time situation.

F: (temp check mixed)

46.1.1.2. Clarifying Questions

F: Ok, what I’d like to do is open it up about the time concerns with this issue. Please express concerns, stack is open

PoC: This is to discuss the proposal being spoke about tonight right?

Response: Correct, just to address the proposal tonight.

F: While taking stack, I’d like to fill everyone in that after the agenda we will move to working group report backs and general announcements

46.1.1.2.1. Where is the money coming from, and how much is in that place?

PoP: We will flush this out, so we all know, we are taking stack to make sure we are cool with addressing this proposal period.

F: We are taking a temp check because it falls in a grey area of the 24 advance notice for agenda items. The 24 hour period was consented on last week.

46.1.1.2.2. I’m concerned that without the review period, we won’t have a chance to properly review the proposal and I’m curious what the Internet working group thinks the odds are that it will be purchased by someone else by tomorrow given that it hasn’t been purchased before now.

Response: The reason that this is time sensitive is quite serendipitous. We came to the conclusion that we needed to purchase a web domain such as this one very recently, and also very recently, a gentleman in Florida who had the ownership of this domain put it online for sale. So it has not been up online all this time unbought.

46.1.1.2.3. I’m Jake from the internet working group I spoke with the seller for several hours last night on the phone. He is very desperate to sell this domain because of his current financial situation. If we do not move to buy this domain ourselves he will pursue selling it to other people.

F: Another temperate check about discussing this proposal tonight? (temp check positive)

F: What it looks to me is that we can begin this discussion. I’d like to open stack for CQ about this proposal.

46.1.1.3. Internet: The outward facing site that people believe represents this park is not in the GA’s control. The occupy wall st sites are run in solidarity by an affinity group and also Adbusters, two separate site. The internet working group feels that it is very important to have an outward facing site that is accountable to people here in the General Assembly. Nycga.net is a lovely tool for the intercommunication. We feel occupywallstreet.net is a wonderful platform to outwardly express what’s going on.

46.1.1.3.1. Internet: This proposal has been seen by Finance and they support it as an investment in the future of this movement and this occupation. We cannot understate the importance of protection of our online identity. This means everything to this movement and this occupation. For some of you, who are not as familiar with domain name pricing, allow me to offer a point of reference. 1 hour ago I received a phone call from a trademark attorney. One of her clients wanted to sell us the domain name occupy.com for $150,000. In that context, I ask that you recognize that $8,000 is not a high price for this domain name.

One last thing, this domain will be legally owned by the unincorporated organization known as Occupy Wall St. and will not belong to a single individual, but all of us collectively.

F: So now stack for CQ is open, I have a few names on stack already, Stacy will be first, Alex, Zellig, and Jeff are on stack.

46.1.1.3.2. Stacy: I have a couple questions, the first is. Who exactly currently owns this domain and how and when did they purchase it?

Response: Internet: I can address this. The owner is a gentleman named Mark R. Elsis. He is a former NY’er and lives currently in Florida. For 35 years he has been buying domain names and generally using them for progressive purposes. He bought this domain name months ago at the beginning of this movement. Until now, nothing has been developed there. It leads to a blank white page.

46.1.1.3.3. My other question is, is there an alternative website that we could purchase that would be cheaper and equally representative because there are a lot of domains that could exist. I want to make sure that we are purchasing the most cost effective site.

Response: It’s a balancing act between the power of the name and the price. At a certain point you’ll have to trust the judgment and our intention to do what’s best for the movement. We have considered many other options which would be equally high profile, they are currently controlled by affinity groups or Adbusters. There is one other domain name that could be used and we hope to acquire this one for little or no cost. These domains will work together to form the outward facing web presence of this occupation.

46.1.1.3.4. Alex: I have a couple clarifications. So occupywallstreet.com is not owned by us?

Response: Correct

46.1.1.3.5. Alex: Is $8,000 the price he is asking for or our counter offer.

Response: The price he was asking was $10000, last night I negotiated, lowering it to $8,000 plus an immediate 10% deposit which I put on my personal card last night so he would take the domain off the market and so we would have a chance to present this proposal tonight.

46.1.1.3.6. Alex: Is it under your personal opinion that this is the best solution to our problem?

Response: Yes.

46.1.1.3.7. Zellig: My ? is who is the affinity group and why won’t Adbusters and the affinity groups give the control of the other websites to us for free?

Response: I’ve been told that we are running a little off topic but the short answer is that both the affinity group and Adbusters have a different view of where they want the website to go. As some background the internet working group has had many mediated conversations with the affinity group.

F: Next up Jeff.

46.1.1.3.8. Jeff: Can you discuss whether you sought other offers other than the $150,000?

Response: Allow me to clarify, we are not suggesting that we purchase occupywallstreet.net for $150,000. That was to provide perspective for the worth of occupywallst.net.

46.1.1.3.9. Jeff: Do you have other references for prices that would fit your purpose?

Response: occupywallst.org in addition to the traffic it generates is worth well over $150,000.

46.1.1.3.10. Jeff: What is your point of reference for that price?

Response: Our discussion with our affinity group disclosed what they thought it was worth.

46.1.1.3.11. Jeff: Have you sought other owners of websites to see if you would like to buy theirs instead to see what their price would be?

Response: As mentioned earlier, there is one other domain that we would also like to discuss with the owner, which we hope to get for very cheap or free because of the owners solidarity with the movement. All other domains we see as sufficiently high profile are controlled by the affinity group or Adbusters.

46.1.1.3.12. Michael: I just wonder did you look into other top level domains like .us, .info, etc.?

Response: I t is our belief that net is our best option to be sufficiently high profile and to exist to our existing site nycga.net and another domain that we hope to develop in the future, occupy.net

F: Next up, Lawrence.

46.1.1.3.13. Lawrence: My question relates to the name under which this will be registered. I agree with the need to secure our online identity, the existing convention flowing from occupywallst.org is this entity is the NYC General Assembly, and thats not the name under which this is being registered. Please illuminate the process by which it will be named.

Response: We had nothing to do with the formation of that entity. It was offered to us by the financial working group. We do believe that this GA and this occupation in Liberty Plaza should be represented by the term occupy Wall Street, because we are so close to OWS. We have also had many people from other occupations have conveyed their confusion that occupywallst.org doesn’t represent this occupation in an official capacity.

F: We would like to close stack. Next up Katie.

46.1.1.14 Katie: My question is similar to my previous one. Can we just get some idea what $8,000 means to us? What is the percentage of what we have etc.

Response: Today financed released a report of all the money garnished over the past time. It’s on our website nycga.net under bulletin. Is there someone from Finance that can quickly address this question?

F: Based on finances release at last Friday GA, I can address this with very rough numbers. So far the GA general fund has raised somewhere above $450,000. We have spent somewhere around $60,000.

F: Next up Tim!

46.1.1.3.15. Tim: It was my understanding that the PR working group runs occupywallst.org. Is that not true?

Response: Members of the affinity group work in PR. There is solidarity between the website, the affinity group, the GA, and the working groups.

46.1.1.3.16. Tim: So are we sure that we are all agreed that occupywallst.com is the term we should use to refer to this occupation or the whole movement. Do we risk co-opting the movement ourselves by continuing to call ourselves Occupy Wall Street?

PoP from F: That was not a CQ that was a concern. We will open the floor for concerns soon

F: Speaking of which, we have closed the stack, next is Rocky.

46.1.1.3.17. Rocky: How can we incorporate a 501c-3 which will give us a .org website?

Response: .org websites are not available, and the question of whether or not we are a 501c-3 is not under our jurisdiction.

PoI from Finance: We have fiscal sponsorship for a 501c-3, we could get it, but other people already beat us to it.

PoI from Internet: There is no relationship between being a 501c-3 and registering a .org. Anyone at all can get a .org website

46.1.1.4. Concerns

F: We are now opening stack for concerns. If you want to get on stack, raise your hand

Internet: To respond to the previous concern, we don’t get to choose how people describe what we are doing. Anecdotal info from the Internet working groups shows that people from other occupations view the term “Occupy Wall Street” as referring to us here. They have also said that they see what we do here as the thought leadership of the movement. How we use that, whether we co-opt anything, isn’t determined by what domain name we have, but by how we act as a group in solidarity with all the other individuals across the world.

F: First on stack, B.

46.1.1.4.1. B: When you said that there was another website domain, correct me if I’m wrong, but $150,000,000…

Response: The other domain was quoted at $150,000.

46.1.1.4.2. B: Is that from them being able to advertise, and, if …would you guys be opposed to advertise to reimburse the $8,000, for companies that we support?

Response: We would only do that with the consensus of the GA, a strong presence means that our donation link gets clicked on, which means that’s where our money comes from. It could be argued that a strong forward facing website will create donations greater than what we are asking for in a matter of minutes

F: Are there any more concerns, I would like to close stack? (no more)

46.1.1.4.3. Daniel: My concern, just to address it to the assembly, in the past when dealing with money, there has been a lot of concern over who our money is going to. It sounds to me that we are giving $8,000 to someone who purchased the domain name simply to profit off of our movement. If he is really willing to help our movement, I don’t see why he bought it and is now demanding $8,000 from us so that we may use it

Response: It is entirely possible that this gentleman has pretended to be in solidarity, pretended to be in economic strife, just for money. However he is offering it to us when he could get much more for it.

46.1.1.4.4. Adam: About 6 years ago a group I was involved with purchased a domain called freegan.info. .org .com and .net were already taken, but we got a lot of media attention, and we put our less favorable domain out through all of our media. If you go to google and look up freegan, you will find freegan.info. If you do a good job promoting your site, it doesn’t matter what letters are after the …

F: Stack is now closed for concerns. Internet wants to respond.

Response: Internet: I hear your concern, and we hope to get as many high profile domains to point to this site as possible We should point out that if we do not buy it, someone could buy this domain to use against us.

F: We have about ten minutes left to discuss this topic in total, keep that in mind. With that in mind, I’d like to open up stack for quick friendly amendments.

46.1.1.4.5. Friendly Amendments

F: Friendly Amendments (FA).

46.1.1.4.5.1. Can we amend the proposal to address the issue of if we ever address the issue of nomenclature of the movement that we allow that site to be open for other uses in the future, potentially movement wide issues.

Response: As the domain will be owned by the GA, they can do with it, you can do with it, what you wish.

Interruption from GkM from Picture the Homeless: I’d like to say that “Picture the Homeless” is picturethehomeless.org and if you want to connect with Picture the Homeless, then do so.

F: Thanks for the announcement, but thats not related to the proposal being discussed.

F: I’d like to close stack for FA.

46.1.1.4.5.2. I’d like to suggest, maybe this in alternate proposal actually, that before we consider buying this domain, we test for consensus whether that as a GA, requesting the other website from the affinity group, asking if the affinity group would give us the domain name in good faith. That may be different coming form the GA as opposed to coming from the internet working group.

PoI: On Saturday at the GA we proposed almost the same proposal with the same language…it was rejected. After mediated conversation with the affinity group, we agreed that this would be the best step.

F: With that in mind I would like to begin the process of testing for consensus

F: Please restate the proposal first.

Internet: The internet working group would like $8,000 to purchase a domain occupywallstreet.net on behalf of the NYC GA.

F: Can we get a temperature check? (mostly positive, a few negative and neutral)

F: So we have a few sad hands and some neutral. Are there concerns from those people that have not been addressed?

46.1.1.5. Concerns

46.1.1.5.1. Is the idea to get all of the OWS domains, to prevent people from coopting our message by registering those domains in bad faith?

Response: Our objective is to have an outward facing site that people understand that is owned, operated and accountable to the NYCGA

46.1.1.5.2. Do we have any occupy wall street domains?

Response: No.

46.1.1.5.3. Can we get an OWS domain that doesn’t $8000, for example, a .info or a hyphenated domain?

Response: It may very well be possible that we could, however, this is a unique opportunity, and also, those other domains could very well cost money.

Thank you.

46.1.1.5.4. I’m still concerned that there’s more going on here than I quite understand. If the PR team is using occupywallstreet.org, even if it doesn’t own it, why are we competing with them and using the same name, when there are arguably better names for this GA?

Response: The outside world, for a large part, when they hear OWS, they think of this protest here in Liberty Plaza. The first line on the OWS wikipedia page says that the OWS movement is an ongoing protest here. To your second point, the affinity group would like to use their website for broader movements, news, and stuff. They are not accountable, and do not have to do anything that we’d ask them to. A good for instance, is the principles of solidarity. They would not post those on the website, even though it was consensed on by the GA. We feel that it’s best to let them do their thing in solidarity and that us, to have a place to put official outward-facing news, information, etc.

F: Time check: our time is up to discuss this topic. We’re going to move on to blocks.

F: Temperature check on this proposal. (mostly positive, similar to previous temp check)

F: Are there any blocks to this proposal?

46.1.1.6. Blocks

F: One block. Please speak to your block.

46.1.1.6.1. I feel that we should have a different name and this should be called the Real Party. We’re not the Democrat Party, we’re not the Republican party, we’re not the Tea Party.

F: PoP: Right now we’re talking about buying a domain name for OWS. What you’re suggesting is probably a different proposal entirely.

F: Are you retaining your block?

Response: No.

46.1.1.7. Consensus

F: we have reached consensus! [cheers and applause]

F: MIC CHECK

46.2. Working Group Report Backs (WGRB)

F: We’re moving on to WGRBs. If you’re in a working group and you’d like to report back, please come over here and get on stack. Mic check!

46.2.1. Call to Action and Sparrow Project. My name is Andy, and I work with the group called the Sparrow Project. Were a grassroots PR and creative agency, and we took it upon

ourselves to publish 10000 copies of your Declaration and give it to you to use however you

like. We have also been in communication with the call to action working group and the

people’s library. We hope to get more texts consensed upon by the GA to compose an OWS

Reader. We have 10,000 copies of the Declaration that you guys wrote, right here. Please

take them home with you and give them out in the streets or anywhere that’s pertinent. We

crowd-sourced and crowd-funded for this ourselves, and our next goal is to do 100,000 copies

and mail them to cities coast to coast and around the world. But we need your help. If you

guys have twitter accounts or any other kind of social media you can tweet or

mention sparrow.net. Thank you.

F: next up: trade justice, on deck is info, followed by radio.

46.2.2. Trade Justice: Hi I’m the grim reaper. Tomorrow is day of the dead. I invite you to

join me as I dance with congress member Michael Grim at his office tomorrow. Over 3000

union workers have been killed in Colombia since 1986. 104 people were killed in the first 10

months of the current Colombian president’s term. On day of the dead we will mourn the

victims of human rights atrocities in Colombia, and denounce representative Grim for

agreeing to free trade please join us I have flyers

F: Next up info, on deck, radio.

46.2.3. Info: Hi! At Info, we’re assembling a packet to be distributed to all groups, after the

spokes council meeting to give basic guidelines and resources for organizing and maintaining

your working group. This will include guides on facilitation, printing, setting a budget,

outreaching, coordinating with Info, and all sorts of outer things. If you’re in a working group

and you have information that you think would be useful for other groups to know, please

send us an email with that info to owsinfodeck@gmail, and we’ll collaborate, and consolidate

into this document.

F: Next up: radio.

46.2.4. Radio: mic check! I’m Danny. A group of us have been working really hard to try to

get a radio station up and running in the square. So our current plan is as follows. Phase 1

will be more of an informational thing, for example, broadcasting GA over FM and

distributing hand receivers amongst the crowd, hopefully to facilitate a healthier conversation.

Phase 2 will be more content oriented, where we will invite members of the occupation or the

world to submit content to us to broadcast on a continuous basis. How do you guys feel about

broadcasting GA over FM? [positive] Good that’s what we were

hoping. Owsradio@riseup.net or hit us up on Twitter @owsradio. Thank you.

F: I have no one else on stack for WGRBs. …oh wait.

46.2.5. Arts and Culture: I have something to say from Arts and Culture. There is an action

for Thursday called Occupy Museums. We are bringing the conversation about economic

injustice to cultural institutions and museums. Also on Thursday we’ll meet right here at 2:30,

and we’ll go to the museum of natural history in the David Koch dinosaur wing and there

we’ll discuss David Koch’s history of philanthropy, giving money to the tea party, Citizens

United, and …global warming and… we’ll discuss this among the bones of dinosaurs. We

don’t want to go extinct like those dinosaurs. Red cube at 2:30 and we’ll start there. The

museum of natural history has a “suggested donation.” you can pay with one penny or you

can give ten million dollars and have your name on the dinosaurs. You make the decision yourself.

F: Next up: queer caucus

46.2.6. Queer Caucus: hey guys! So the Queer Caucus has been doing really amazingly. We have…. on Facebook, 600 on our email list. This was in response to homophobia, transphobia, and sexism. Coming up we have two cool events. On Sunday the sixth we’re going to have …to make ribbons for Aids Day. We’re having a trans awareness day on the 13th called Transform the Occupation from 4-6pm right here. thank you!

F: Stack is now closed for WGRBS

Interrupting question: ….so why do we have a group of people who believe they are fighting for a cause?

Response: We are!

F: Next up, Daniel

46.2.7. Mobile Occupation Working Group: Hello my name is Daniel, i’m from the mobile occupation working group. We are individuals from many different working groups planning a bus tour down the east coast to visit other occupations. This will be for the purposes of sharing information, initiatives, and best practices between OWS and other occupations. This is also about mobile outreach and solidarity. For more information, visit occupywithin.us. We will be meeting on Wednesday at 11AM at 60 Wall Street. Thank you!

F: Announcements

46.3. Announcements

F: Next up: Jay.

46.3.1. Hey everybody, speaking of bus tours, we have an awesome field trip on Thursday. We will be taking a bus down to dc. The nurse’s union is paying for it, so it’s completely free, and it’s to protest the G20 specifically for a financial transaction tax. So if you’re interested in going, it’s 6AM from right here to around 7:30, and the nurses really want to fill up the bus. I have to go to another meeting so please meet me within the next five minutes in the library to sign up, thank you.

F: Next up reverend Ralph.

46.3.2 Mic check! My name is reverend Ralph. I’m not just a reverend, I also help in the kitchen to bring food here, to help feed the people. What I’ve been doing the last couple of days is Occupy Letterman. He let me share the sidewalk and he even let me put up posters that represent us, on Times Square! I also over the weekend got a letter from President Obama that wanted to know my views. My views are also your views, so I’m going to use this moment to ask Obama to come here to talk to us. [cheers and applause] I don’t know if he’s going to come, but I’m going to try!

F: Next up: Lawrence.

46.3.3. Hey everybody! Last week we started up the free society working group, which is for organizers dedicated to organizing a society outside of this park based on these values here. Not much to report back yet, but it was a great conversation. Next conversation tomorrow 2PM by the red thing, facing this way. Join me! It’ll be fun. Build a new society.

F: Last call for announcements.

46.3.4. Hi my name is Talia, shalom! We’re from Tel Aviv! We came here to say hi because we support you and everyone else in all the tents everywhere in the world. Thank you.

F: To the best of my knowledge there are no more announcements. Oh. Yes.

46.3.5. Mic check. I’m trying to form a functional working group. The purpose of this working group would be to help those in need in cold weather, in the event of an emergency we’ll be able to evacuate them to free clinics and homeless shelters. We’re calling the group the St. Bernards. We’ll be traveling through ice and rain to make sure the …is kept in check meet me at the retaining wall church and cedar right after this meeting thank you.

PoI from Medical: For the last announcement it would be prudent to have communication with the medical team.

Response: We are working on it, thank you.

F: Any final announcements? No? With the power vested in me I pronounce the GA over. Soapbox begins.

**NYCGA Minutes 11/2/2011**

Posted November 2nd, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 47

Meeting Date/Time: 11/2/2011 / 7pm EST

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators (F): Daniel, Melanie

Stack taker: Jason; Keeping time: Brett; Minutes: Carrie

Agenda 47.1. Working group report-backs 47.2. Announcements 47.3. Report-back from Trade Justice

Process Review/Opening Comments from Facilitation (F): The Spokes Council meeting that was originally scheduled for tonight will not be happening. The first Spokes Council meeting is currently scheduled for Friday. Is anyone here from the Structure group that has more information on that meeting? No. We should know at tomorrow’s GA all the specifics of the location and the time.

Tonight we don’t have an agenda. In other words, there are no proposals in front of the GA. However, we will be taking working group report-backs, after which we will go on to announcements. So for this meeting, because there’s a lot of obstacles [tents in front of stairs], everyone should try to help out and make sure everyone can hear. Thank you. Also, if you do speak, try to use only a few words at a time, so the human mic, which you are all a part of, can work properly.

Before we open stack for report-backs, I’d like to go through some of the hand signals that will be important tonight. I won’t go over hand signals that only relate to proposals, because we won’t be going over any tonight. Point of Information (POI): Finger pointing up, is for if you have information relevant to what’s being discussed. Clarifying Question (CQ): Hand in a “C” symbol, is for if you want something to be clarified that’s being discussed. Point of Process (POP): Fingers in a triangle, is for if you think there’s been a disruption to our approved process that you’d like to point out.

47.1. Working Group/Caucus Report Backs

F: We are opening stack for report-backs from working groups and caucuses.

POC: These are working groups that are already established. If there is a working group that needs to make a report-back, please see our stack taker Jason.

47.1.1. Constitution. Hi, I’m Bob. And I’m Judith. Thank you for all you are doing. The Constitution working group of Occupy Wall Street has produced the following statement of beliefs, as a platform for recommending future actions to solve our grievances, including bailouts, corporate personhood, war, unsound money, and public debt. The Constitution working group asks that these beliefs now be considered by all people in and out of the Occupy movement, ponder these, and make known your approval. This statement of beliefs is now posted on www.occupytheconstitution.org. Go there! Study it! Signify your approval. We have copies. We’ll be over here by the structure. The government needs to hear from millions of us, united in purpose and spirit. We are the people of America. We are the people of America. And we are free. We are free. And we are free. We will give you six of these beliefs now … oh, okay, our time is up! Meet us at the structure.

47.1.2. Free Society. As you know, Free Society gathers organizers working to build a society based on these values outside of the park for our daily lives, for ALL our lives. So, as you know there’s lots of things going on on the 5th. But we decided to add one: At 5 o’clock you can join us at our usual meeting spot, the red structure, and we’ll have our usual meeting at the Staten Island Ferry. Anybody can join us toward that most exciting borough, Staten Island, and we’ll check neat things out when we get there. The 5th at 5. Over there. It’ll be fun! And every other day, at 2 at the same place, until we find a better one.

47.1.3. Direct Action. Hi, I’m GD from Direct Action. We’re really busy these days. There’s lots of exciting things coming up, too many to tell you about right here, but I’ll tell you about one. Tomorrow at 10am right here, there is a mock trial of Goldman Sachs with such dignitaries from the left as Cornel West and Chris Hedges. It’s gonna be great. Other than that, we have lots of trainings going on— there’s one every day that meets under the Red Cube at 1. Our meetings are at 2pm, Monday through Friday. They’ve been moving around a lot, I wish I could tell you where.

F: We are closing stack on working group report-backs.

47.1.4. Occupy Dublin. Hello from Dublin! I bring you a message of solidarity. Our arms are linked. We stand shoulder to shoulder across the Atlantic Ocean, across borders, in spite of resistance; we stand for justice and hope. We will lead the world to a better place. We can do this. The Occupy movement has given us belief in our own power. We stand for justice, equality, and people. For too long we have stood on the sidelines as our planet has been ravaged, as too many have too much and too many too little. Our message is simple: We are the 99% and now is our time.

47.1.5. Facilitation. I’m taking of my Facilitation hat to put my other Facilitation hat on. The Facilitation working group meets at 4 pm every day at 60 Wall Street to discuss facilitating. We desperate need more input. Please come to these meetings. We also have teach-ins on the consensus process at 5:30 every day at 60 Wall Street. If you are unfamiliar with or would like more training in the consensus process, please come to these trainings. If you are familiar with it, please volunteer to teach. Also, this Saturday, at the Facilitation meeting at 4, we are specifically outreaching to the Women’s caucus, the People of Color caucus, the Queer caucus, other caucuses I don’t know about, and other voices who feel underrepresented in the

Facilitation working group. Please come this Saturday so we can work on solutions to make it more inviting.

47.2. Announcements

F: We are now opening stack for announcements. An announcement is a call to action, a statement about a meeting place, not a soapbox. We have a place for that, it’s called the Soapbox, it happens right here, after the GA. So if it’s some information that people here need to know, please share it.

47.2.1. Michelle: Hi, I’m with Anti-Frickin’-Fracking, from Occupy Hudson Valley. We need you all to come to a hearing coming up of the Delaware River Basin Commission. It’s vital for those of you who value clean water to attend this hearing. On Monday Nov. 21, five people are going to take a vote that can change the course of our lives forever. They are the governors of New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware, plus our own president Obama represented by the Army Corps of Engineers. If only 100 or 200 of us show up, the Delaware River Basin Commission will presume that we’re all in favor. We need a few thousand to stand to defeat the gas companies and let them know that we won’t stand for their lies any longer. There are over 30 buses leaving from all over the region. You can get more information here:http://action.foodandwaterwatch.org/p/salsa/event/common/public/index.sjs?distributed\_event\_key=647 I’m also looking to connect with the anti-fracking people at Occupy Wall Street. Okay, we can do this! No frickin’ fracking! Thank you.

47.2.2. Ben: Thank you for your anti-fracking work. Second, the working to Occupy the Polls and Elected Office had its first meeting. The group will be teaching 99-percenters to run for office, run your own candidates, and support people you like … [rest of Ben’s announcement missing]

47.2.3. Georgia: I’m announcing and asking for your approval of a new working group whose name is Direct Democracy. I’m going to read its proposal: “Direct democracy” is used to describe the process and the unique character of our movement. But we haven’t had any time to create substantive thoughts in that direction. The flux and intensities of events …

POP: This is not an announcement, this is a proposal. Therefore, it should be on the agenda with all the other proposals.

POI: Working groups have never needed an approval from the GA.

Response: I am not seeking an approval. I am making an announcement about this new group and telling you about it and telling you where we are going to meet.

F: As a reminder, we ask you keep announcements to one minute.

Response: Can I ask for a few minutes more?

F: Can I get a temperature check for allowing Georgia a few extra minutes to talk about this announcement?

[mostly positive]

CQ: The clarifying question is, how many minutes?

Response: One more minute.

F: It looks to me like we’re okay with that.

47.2.4. Georgia: What we create here in this square and in many other squares around the world is not just an ephemeral experiment but what today is the birth of direct political participation, passion for social engagement and happiness, passion for direct involvement by the common. It is clear that political representatives are not anymore capable to create the political circumstances and to make decisions on our account. It is obvious that they make decisions for the benefit of the 1%. The Direct Democracy working group invites everyone to direct the participation process and allow its further continuation and growth. Direct democracy takes democracy out of the corporate office and economic negotiations and political elites and brings it back to our lives and engagements through [unintelligible]….. We will expand our political process together. We’re going to meet at 9 pm after the GA for our first meeting. Thank you.

POC: We neglected to explain the hand movement that many of us just witnessed [rolling hands] means we get what you’re saying, we appreciate it, please just get there. Also, as a reminder, we’d very much appreciate limiting the announcements to 1 minute and making your speeches as concise as possible. Thank you.

47.2.4. CQ: Isn’t there already a Direct Democracy working group?

F: There may be, I don’t know. Is anyone here privy to that information?

Response: As far as I know there is no Direct Democracy working group and that’s why we created one.

POI: There is a direct democracy training that happens every night at 5:30 as part of the Facilitation meeting. We would love for you to come to one of those trainings. Any of you. All of you! The training happens at 60 Wall Street in the Atrium every night at 5:30. Thank you.

F: We are now closing stack for announcements.

47.2.5. Eric: Hi, there will be a meeting of a new working group, the Water group, to discuss the issues regarding our water supply in the park and to determine solutions to these issues. This is vital to our survival in the park. The meeting is at 11 at the Blarney Stone, three blocks south of the park on Trinity, on the left.

47.2.5. CQ: Can I suggest the Water working group be a subgroup of the Kitchen?

Response: It was determined that we need a separate group through meetings between Sanitation, Sustainability, and the Kitchen.

47.2.6. Laura, from the Consciousness group: The very first Occupy Wall Street women’s circle will be this Friday from 7pm to 9:30pm. It will be held in a safe indoor space fifteen minutes from here. Meet at the red thingy between 6:15 and 6:30 to travel there together. Look for Melody.

POI: There are numerous women’s groups who’ve met numerous times and meet numerous times throughout the week and there’s a Safer Spaces working group that helps women find safe places in the park. Thought that was important.

47.2.7. Holly: I’m here on behalf of Occupy Palm Bay Florida, and I just wanted to tell you seeing you all here fills me with hope and that you’re so beautiful. Also, my state has had one of the highest home foreclosure rates in the country, so what you do here represents us. Thank you for doing this.

47.2.8. Patrick from the Press group: I’m not actually speaking for Press tonight. I’m making an announcement about mediation about the occurrences of last night. Last night the Internet working group went to GA with a proposal that was passed for $8,000 in order to buy the domain occupywallstreet.net. I and others have problems with the way this was accomplished. I won’t get into them now. If you have issues, please find me and we will set up a mediation. I am almost always at the Press table or someone there will be able to reach me.

47.2.9. Ray: Please support the fight against animal abuse. Join the anti-fur demonstration this Saturday from noon to 4 at the headquarters of Intermix at 125 Fifth Avenue between 19th and 20th.

47.2.10. Doug: I’m an international activist and an independent journalist coming to you from Western Massachusetts. I’ve noticed that one of the most salient questions on everyone’s mind, consciously and unconsciously, is where will the Occupy Wall Street movement go from here. And I’m suggesting one of the answers we might provide people when we’re speaking with common sense, good logic, and sound intelligence, is we might tell people we ‘re all here to eventually effect needed and drastic fundamental, root-cause economic and political change.

47.2.11. Ben: Speaking to the drastic political change, today six senators introduced a Constitutional amendment to overturn the Citizens United decision made by the Supreme Court. For those who don’t know, Citizens United allows unlimited corporate funds into our elections. I urge all of you to let your senators know that they should support this amendment. I believe Occupy Wall Street has given the normally spineless Democrats the cover they need to take bold action.

47.3. Report Back from Trade Justice

47.3.1. Belated report-back from Trade Justice:

47.3.1.1. Today, we and our allies had a demonstration for Day of the Dead at the office of Representative Michael Grimm, who voted for the Colombia and Panama and South Korea free trade agreements. We brought “Grimm reapers,” and had Grimm dance with the reaper as we read the names of the 104 Columbian civilians who have been assassinated by

Colombian security forces and government-lined paramilitaries in the first ten months of President Santos’s first term. We brought shipping boxes, as metaphor for thousands of US jobs lost. Since workers will lose their jobs, we wanted Grimm to volunteer to be the first one, so the boxes we brought had shipments to sweatshops in China and Vietnam, which is where the jobs are going to be going as a result of these agreements. His staff did not accept the boxes but they did take our info. If you want to know how to get involved, talk to me, Adam: ows@tradejustice.net.

F: That’s the end of the report-backs, announcements, and the end of the GA. However, we have a treat brought to us by the Raging Grannies. They are going to sing. You are welcome to join in or not, it’s up to you. After will be the People’s Soapbox where you can make speeches of a more opinionated nature.

The Raging Grannies are in over sixty cities across the U.S. and Canada. We came to say we love you. We’ve been waiting for you for over thirty years. The first song is: “Good News, Occupy Wall Street is a-Comin’” followed by “Solidarity Forever.”

Adjourned 8 pm.

**NYCGA Minutes 11/3/2011**

Posted November 3rd, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 48

Meeting Date/Time: 11/3/2011 / 7pm EST

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators (F): Jason, Laura

My name is Brett, I will be taking stack.

My name is Christina, I will be time keeper.

Review of hand signals

F: Is anyone here for the first time? Raise your hand. [lots of hands] Welcome! We hope you have an interesting experience, and that you will continue to grow in your participation in this movement. Before we begin, we’d like to go over the structure of how this meeting will occur.

AGENDA

48.1. Agenda Items (Direct Action Training; El Barrio de Movimiento Justicio Proposal; Principles of Solidarity Working Group (WG) Breakout Discussion; Herbalism Budget Proposal; Sanitation Emergency Proposal; Town Planning Emergency Proposal; Open Source Budget Proposal)

48.2. Working Group Report Backs (WGRBs)

48.3. Announcements

48.1. Agenda Items

48.1.1. Direct Action (DA) – Breakout Groups and Park Defense Training

F: Before all that, tonight, due to unforeseen circumstances, we have an announcement from Direct Action which may affect our time schedule and may involve Direct Action training. We are treating this as an emergency breakout group. It should take an hour at most. We trust that Direct Action will be concise and prompt, and then we will move forward to the following agenda items.

48.1.1.1. Hey everybody! We’re from Direct Action. We’re just going to try to go over some things that you should all be aware of in the event of an eviction. Is Han here? [no] So basically, there’s been a few rumors flying around, there could be a raid tonight. So what that looks like has been talked about before, and whether or not it’s true doesn’t really matter, because it’s great that we have you guys here to talk about park defense and non-violent resistance.

F: Han’s here!

48.1.1.1. (Continued) Han: Sorry about that. I answered my phone, it won’t happen again. My name’s Han, I work with the community relations working group, and in so doing, I’ve been in touch with community members, the community board, and some of their elected representatives. And what we’ve been hearing from them, as well as union allies, reporters, and others that we think have credible information, is that the city has lost its patience and is planning on attempting to evict us at some point in the very near future. We don’t know whether that’s tonight or next week, but we all agree I think that we need to be prepared. I don’t want to sow panic. None of us think that there’s imminent danger, but we do want to make sure everyone has the latest information and is prepared within this community to defend our occupation, to defend our movement, to support our allies, and stay safe. And with that, I’ll turn it back over to Direct Action, unless there are questions.

F: We will hold the questions till afterwards.

48.1.1.2. We don’t know what an eviction will look like, so rather than speculating, we’re just going to tell you what actions are being planned and what actions carry certain levels of arrestability. If there is an eviction, there are only two categories of arrestability: high risk, or low risk. High risk means that you are prepared to stay and defend this park through a variety of tactics. No risk means you’re leaving the park. In both of these levels, it should be emphasized that we prioritize people over things. That means don’t worry about the stuff in the park, let’s worry about each other.

48.1.1.3. Just a quick bit on nonviolent resistance. Basically nonviolence is a tactic we can use to protect ourselves and those around us, while retaining and using power with our bodies. So what that looks like in this park for example, is doing a soft lockdown, which is using our bodies to block people, police, from entering, as long as possible. Just because I use the word nonviolence doesn’t mean that this will be nonviolent. Police are violent, and nonviolence implies that we are willing to use our bodies and put our bodies in harm’s way, with the safety in mind, of course, of those around us, to defend our space and to defend our cause.

48.1.1.4. So we are going to go into a tactic that would be really super helpful for the park defense plan that we have, which involves hard blocks somewhere in the park. If you choose to stay in the park, you’re essentially making the choice to put yourself in possible danger to defend your space, and to support those who have made a plan with Direct Action to make a hard block to stay in this park.

48.1.1.5. We’re going to explain what a soft block is, and how it is effective to support those doing hard blocks. One soft block tactic that we find most effective is the human caterpillar. We will demonstrate what a human caterpillar looks like, please don’t laugh! We would use this around folks who are locked down with hard locks. [demonstration]

48.1.1.6. This is a human caterpillar. It works really awesome when there’s a lot of people doing it. It also really works really awesome when there are two rows of it. So just to frame this a little bit, we use a lockdown to protect our space by making time for ourselves. Obviously the police can get through this at some point. It’s not totally defensible. But it does create a powerful impression, and it does cause disruption in their ability to sweep the park all at once. So we’re holding space and making time, because people want to be mobilizing others in the park, to get out their personal belongings, and perhaps mobilize people to march, so we need to make time for them. And so that people who are not at the park will have time to mobilize and come here and help us! (Yay!)

48.1.1.7. So we encourage everyone here to practice this with your affinity groups at some point tonight, and just get comfortable. Get consent before you just grab someone, during a raid for example and just wrap your legs around them. ‘Cause that’s one of these [downward fingers]. We’ll be practicing this tactic and others right here at the top of the steps, after the GA.

48.1.1.8. Let’s say your with your affinity group, you have an opportunity to create a blockade during a possible eviction, and the first think you think to do is link arms, a pretty obvious choice. There’s a certain way to do it that’s a little more effective and safe. Notice how they are linking their hands and staying super tight. And they are putting one foot in front of the other so it’s harder to push them. That’s really important. If your feet are together it’s a lot easier, especially if you’re super tall. We were going to do breakout groups to practice, but we don’t have space. So meet us up there so we can practice this a little more concretely.

48.1.1.9. Clarifying Question (CQ): I was wondering, why is it so important that we use nonviolence over violence?

Response: this is a really complicated discussion. People over there need to hear. The question that was posed is why are we using nonviolence as opposed to violence. Obviously this is really complicated. DA’s guidelines support a diversity of tactics. That’s a really great concept that can mean different things, much like the concept of violence. What we want to emphasize is that your actions affect yourself and others. We also consider self-defense as nonviolence. But that’s just us. And we have to support each other through solidarity. If someone makes a decision that we don’t agree with politically, but we’re all being beaten, we should probably stick together and not alienate each other based on political choices surrounding violence or nonviolence, because usually that will break us apart even faster, and that’s using the same tactics as the cops. Also we cannot police each other, that’s just wrong.

48.1.1.10. This is not us telling you “This is what you have to do if we’re raided.” We’re just suggesting these tactics because they complement the park defense plan that is happening anyway. If you want to participate, you’re welcome to do so. If you have other ways of participating, then do that.

48.1.1.11. Shawn: Hi everybody! I’m Shawn with the Medics. One tool that the police use is fear. And they also like to turn each other against us. So we must stay calm and strong. Another tool is pepper spray. Is there anybody here that has been trained in decontamination for chemical weapons? [two] Would you guys like to get a quick rundown? [yes!] Can I get one volunteer? I’ll make this brief, but it’s really important. If they use pepper spray, it kind of incites panic. The most important thing is DO NOT PANIC! So. This is water. This is

liquid antacid in water (Mylanta). Mylanta in water neutralizes the oils in pepper spray. Has anybody here been pepper sprayed before? It sucks. This works. For those of you who have been pepper spray, were you treated with LAAL (liquid anti-acid water)? It works.

48.1.1.12. CQ: What’s the ratio?

Response: 50-50 water and mylanta. The active ingredient is magnesium hydroxide and aluminum hydroxide. 50-50 water and mylanta, non-flavored!

48.1.1.13. Shawn: Next: when somebody has been exposed to pepper spray, they should yell out Medic! And somebody will come over to them, introduce themselves, “Hi, my name is Shawn, I’m a street medic, can I help you?” Always ask for consent! If you don’t ask for consent, that is assault! Next: “Are you wearing contacts?” If you are wearing contacts, take them out. It’s very important. It can cause unrepairable damage to your eyes. How to administer LAAL. “So I need to get on your knees, sit on your hands, don’t touch your hands. Are you wearing contacts? Can you lean forward for me?” What I’m going to do is ask them to try to open their eyes, but you might need to help them. “Tilt your head back, and lean to the right”. I’m going to treat the right eye first, from the inside out. So what I would do is pincht their eyebrow and open their eye a little bit. Always wear gloves. Chances are if you’re not exposed, you will be. And if you treat more than one patient or comrade, you’re going to expose the next one. Change your gloves. From the inside out, like that, twice [sweeping water stream across eye from inside to outside]. Twice on one side, twice on the other, and repeat, blink, blink, blink, blink. How are you feeling? Wet. Thank you. Remember, stay calm. Fear is their greatest weapon they have against us.

48.1.1.14. Tear gas treatment is pretty much the same, LAAL. One thing that people do to help them breath is have a bandana soaked in water or lemon juice. Some people soak it in apple cider vinegar. Anything helps to breathe better. It helps to wear more than one mask. It’s important to wear goggles if they start using chemical weapons. It’s also very, very important to not spread rumors! So stay calm, stay strong.

48.1.1.15. DA: Our final component for this training is awareness and communication skills. In the event of an eviction, it’s going to be chaotic. What you can do before that is make sure you have a buddy or an affinity group, which is a small group of people who really trust each other. Stick together. IN the event of an eviction, you should try to ensure that everyone around us is safe and accounted for. That usually means looking out for your buddy and your affinity group. As Shaun said, stay calm but stay alert. Check in with people around you. Please try to stay as quiet as possible so that critical communication can be heard. This means do NOT mic check, except for critical emergencies, such as when you need a Medic. If everyone could just breathe in and out with me really deeply, one time.

48.1.1.16. We should be doing that when there’s a lot of shit going down around us, to stay calm and alert. I know there’s not a lot of space here, but when GA’s over and you’re milling around, if you could take your hands like this, and put them out until you can’t see them anymore, it’s a really good exercise to know the limits of your visual awareness. One last thing, just reiterate the mic check etiquette, it might be a good idea to breathe first, and then think three times again before calling a mic check. Please try not to soapbox in the middle of an eviction. Thank you.

F: I think it would be best to hold questions for DA for when they’re doing their training after GA. How do you feel about that? [positive]

48.1.1.17. Just one more minute, we forgot to talk about people who decide to leave the park, what they should do. A good idea would be, especially for those who are living here, is to look for ways you can provide support to those who remain in the park. There are key working groups that will be already providing support services who will probably need assistance, such as food, comfort, storage. They will need help shuttling water, or sweaters and blankets, for those who remain the park. If you are not providing a support service, but you still live in the park, you should stay close and stay together with your buddy or affinity group, and wait to see what the next steps are. There are folks that have contingency plans that are not necessarily up for discussion in this forum, and that are not necessarily mandatory. Does everyone know what the NLG is? No. The National Lawyer’s Guild are our friends. We should all have their number and give them a call to let them know that someone has been arrested. They’ve been providing counsel and support since September 17th, and they’re awesome. You should have this number written on your body: 212-679-6018. You should write it on your body, because if you go to jail you might not have your phone. They’re going to want to know the name and possibly the birthday of the person who was arrested, this is why having a buddy is really damn important. You want somebody to be able to call for you if you’re arrested. One last thing, I really want to emphasize solidarity between the folks who decide to be outside the park, our park, during a raid. There’s lots of things you could be doing. Talk to each other, listen to each other, stay alert, and stay around until you don’t feel comfortable, and then go. That’s that.

48.1.1.18. Mic check! Two quick things. There is a text alert for an emergency park defense. As of right now, it’s about 500 people. Within those 500 people, certain people have their own text alerts. Within those, there are text alerts. So there are different tiers of text alerts. If you’re not on one, but would like to be, you want to text @occupyalert to 23559. You’re going to text to that number, @occupyalert. You will not be able to text to that number. There’s a small group of people including folks from DA and people staying in the park, who will determine when an alert goes out. I promise we’re not going to spam you, this is an emergency alert text.

48.1.1.19. Jon: I’m Jon, I just want to say a couple more things about safety. One important thing is DO NOT RUN. There’s too much stuff to trip on, including people, and people will get hurt. If you see people running, make this motion [calming motion with arms] and say WALK. Do not run. Also, if you have access to bicycle helmets, they are a great idea, they are great to have, because you want to protect your head! To correct one thing that I said, the LAAL does NOT treat tear gas. It does treat pepper spray and pepper spray mixed with tear gas. That shit is nasty. It comes in something that looks like a fire extinguisher. It sucks! Keep your eyes out for it. Stay calm, stay strong.

48.1.1.20. We’ll be available for questions, since this was really quick and dirty, out there, after GA, and probably during. Thank you.

F: Mic check! So now we’re going to continue with the GA. Before we move on to proposals, there’s a few little things we missed. We first wanted to say a word about Facilitation, which is what we’re doing right now. Facilitation is a working group whose purpose is to uphold and help to evolve our processes of communication. We are not in charge of this meeting. We’re only here to help the people here make their communication clear and concise. And

most importantly, with compassion and patience. In the outside world, it costs a lot of money to have your voice heard. Here it only costs patience, so we ask that tonight, with an especially lengthy agenda, you become rich with patience! [review of progressive stacks and Step Up Step Back]

F: We have one point of clarification about the text blast. If you put it in the text blast as two words, you’re not in the loop. You need to get a response that says welcome to owsrapidresponse. This is free, so make sure you text 23559 and the message says “@occupyalert”.

F: I have one more announcement and then we’ll actually get to everything. This is about the spokes council. The spokes council’s first official meeting will be this coming Monday. You’ll get more information about that later. Tomorrow there will be a spokes orientation specifically for spokes of working groups, and facilitators. IT will be at 7PM at 52 Broadway, on the 6th floor. That’s all. We will now move on to agenda items. [review of process for agenda items]

48.1.2. Proposal from the Movement for Justice in the Barrio

F: Our first proposal tonight is from the movement for justice in el Barrio.

48.1.2.1. Presenter: To the GA of OWS: receive greetings and embraces of solidarity from Movement for Justice in El Barrio. We hope this message finds you well and in high spirits, or as we like to say, “con muchas ganas de luchar” to continue mounting and insurmountable struggle for dignity, justice, and democracy. We are an immigrant and people of color -led organization. We fight for dignity and against displacement in East Harlem, NY. As part of the zapatista initiated the other campaign, we fight for the liberation of all marginalized groups such as women, immigrants, people of color, indigenous, lesbians, gays, and transgender people. During the past month, we have visited and participated here at Liberty Plaza. In doing so, we have given our grain of sand to and been strengthened by this beautiful space that continues to grow with and across all the differences that make us one. We wish we could maintain a more constant physical presence at this space, but the real circumstances of our lives make that impossible.

That is to say, as low-income immigrants and people of color, who on a daily basis must juggle the demands of working over 60 hours a week, raising our children, and fighting a day-to-day local struggle for dignity, we simply cannot, regrettably, in this way and others, the false gulf between us is kept open. For us, and perhaps many other marginalized groups seeking to build here at Liberty Plaza, this problem is not just a question of accommodations, but rather a commitment to and strategy against fighting a common enemy that feeds off our divisions.

In the spirit of shared struggle, we want to find creative and productive ways to overcome these circumstances, and combine our forces. Towards this end, we are requesting to propose the following before this GA: the Outreach working group has collaborated with us to make this proposal. It has also been endorsed by the following working groups: People of Color working group, Spanish working group, Immigrant and Worker working group, the Anti-Racism Allies.

We are inviting all the good-hearted people of OWS to our corner of the world, El Barrio, East Harlem, to join us, this Monday, November 7, at 7PM for an evening of dialogue. We will present our struggle to you all, so that together, we can continue bringing our dreams of a world of dignity, justice, autonomy, and democracy to life. Our event is called “Dignity Is An Echo In The Heartbeat Of The People”. Our proposal is as follows: that the GA publicly endorse this event and make a commitment to promote and attend it. Thank you.

F: We’re now going to open stack for Clarifying Questions (CQs). If you have a CQ, raise your hand and I will put you on stack. Just to be clear, a CQ is not an opinion. It is only if you are confused about exactly what is being proposed.

48.1.2.2. Clarifying Questions

48.1.2.2.1. Can you just repeat the name of your group?

A: Movement for Justice in El Barrio.

48.1.2.2.1. Where exactly are you meeting?

A: The event will take place at the Julia de Bourbos Latino Cultural Center. It’s at 1680 Lexington Avenue between 105th and 106th Streets.

F: We have one more CQ.

48.1.2.2.3. My question is, the meaning of these hand gestures.

A: We’ll have someone explain that to you.

F: Stack is now closed for CQs, we will now open stack for concerns. If you have concerns, raise your hand, and you’ll go on stack.

48.1.2.3. Concerns:

48.1.2.3.1. My concern is that we are attending too many events outside Liberty Square. Instead these groups should work to bring those events and those people here to the park, and increase our numbers. Thank you.

Response: We have participated as I had mentioned, many times here at this park. Like I said, we want to continue building with you. But because of the circumstances of our lives, which the 1% imposed upon us to keep us divided, we cannot be here. But we are with you every day in solidarity. As marginalized peoples, we are extending an invitation to continue building beyond these borders.

F: There is one more concern from Richard.

48.1.2.3.2. My only concern (and I love this proposal), is that on Monday at 7PM, we will probably be at spokes council.

F: Can we get a temperature check on how we feel about the proposal? [lots of positive] That looks really good. And now are there any blocks concerning this proposal? [none]

48.1.2.4. Yay! We have consensus! Thank you.

48.1.3. Breakout Discussion from Solidarity WG

F: Our next agenda item is from the Solidarity group, which will be a breakout discussion. Is anyone from Solidarity here?

48.1.3.1. I’m Rabbi Chim Gruver, and I’m going to start this with a sadly perverse joke, that sadly there was news today, that in terms of global warming, scientific government has come back that global warming is now worst than the worst forecasts. Then just a moment ago, I realized how lucky I was to have been poor so I didn’t take as many taxis and took public transportation. And I realized the perversity, or rather the paradox of what’s going on. Because it’s I think the wealthiest the people who are mostly destroying the world. So I don’t know if wealth is the answer. The best thing to do may be somehow to impoverish everyone! That’s the end of the joke.

48.1.3.2. Back to Principles of Solidarity, there are several groups that are working on various types of documents, with principles or declarations or future aspirations for how they want a perfect world to be. So what Solidarity and Principles is doing in conjunction with these other groups is to try to better work together. Second point, that there’s another group which is coming forward with certain guidances about bell-curve truths having to do with certain principles that are generally always true, such as the more love between persons, means that less money is required for goods and services to be exchanged between them, therefore it’s in society’s best interest to increase love. And just to take this one step further, therefore then society should, with these bell-curve truths, promote love, so as by explaining that honesty is a basis of love, because if people hide themselves, no one knows who the person is to love. Hence, freedom of expression is so important, so we can be ourselves without fear of being harassed, so that we can be loved.

48.1.3.3. So on that note, we’re going to have another breakout group for Principles! To be brief and recap, Principles has been a document in draft since the first couple days of the Occupation. We had three breakout groups, and a document was consented upon in late September. Since then multiple drafts have surfaced, and we are trying to come to consensus on a full draft. Last week we had a breakout group on a draft that was an extension of the first document that passed consensus.

48.1.3.4. Today it would be nice to work on a document that has an alternative structure. The structure was written by one person in Principles. His name is Benjamin. It’s not really that important, just throwing it out there. So this document is […] bullet points, but our friend in a different way. In this breakout group you can make edits, and please do. I’ve made edits, and the group has been edits, and the document will be synthesized with all the edits. But also if you could state on this document somewhere what you think of this structure in comparison to the bullet point structure. If you could all form into small-ish groups of maybe ten or twelve, and I’ll hand you the document. If that works. if anyone is not staying for the groups they should know now we have a planned 1PM meeting at 60 Wall Street tomorrow. Thank you. And it is our hope with this meeting to synthesize this feedback. So if you’d like to come and help synthesize, that would be awesome, and less talka bout the process of the document itself would be awesome, so we could get more work done. So break into groups please!

F: Just so everyone is aware, we will come back to the next agenda item in ten minutes.

48.1.4. Proposal from Herbalism

48.1.4.1. Herbalism: We are asking for $1,476 for herbalist supplies and a table. […] also, long-term, this could be an expensive project. We have been serving patients medicine since day 1 of this occupation. This proposal is not about serving herbal medicine in the park. This proposal is about budget and the need to re-stock our supplies. We are all concerned about side-effects and allergies, and have worked full-time in medicine for many years. This is a serious concern of ours. If you would like to talk more about this, please come to Medicine and talk to an herbalist.

48.1.4.2. Friendly Amendments:

48.1.4.2.1. Richard: I was just wondering if you could take the table out of the proposal because Brendan in offering his.

Response: I will take that amendment with the understanding if I do not receive a table from him that it will stay in the budget.

F: Next on stack: Kelly

48.1.4.2.2. My suggestion for an amendment would be to hold some teach-ins so people could be more educated about herbal medicine.

R: I was at a meeting today discussing trainings in the park, and one of the trainings we are working towards is a self-care training. Part of that training will have herbalists talking about how to use herbal medicine.

F: So unless there are any more FAs I am going to close stack. Stack is now closed.

48.1.4.3. So the proposal is a request for money from the GA. We are asking for $1,416 if a table comes through, and $1,476 if a table does not come through. Can we get a temperature check on that proposal? [positive]

F: Any blocks? No blocks. Oh we have one block. Can you please explain your block?

48.1.4.4. Blocks

48.1.4.3.1. BLOCK: Again, teach-ins, education, health-concerns, allergies, reactions to herbal medications which the occupiers have not been prescribed.

R: To clarify: what happens when you come to see an herbalist in medical. They will ask you about any underlying conditions. They will ask you about allergies to food, medications, and environment. They will ask you about any medications you are on. This questioning will go on for a little while to get an understanding of the patient. In addition we will be limiting the herbal medicines we will be using in the park, specifically to address concerns about side-effects. There are medicines that could be safely used in more structured environments that will not be used in the park because of allergy and side-effect concerns. We are also very concerned with educating the population about herbal medicines, and we will be starting classes in the next week.

48.1.4.3.2. BLOCK: Would it be possible to get releases signed by anyone who uses this form of medicine to protect the occupation and the provider?

R: Medical releases do not protect the occupation. Medical releases only protect the providers, and we are comfortable protecting ourselves. Thank you for your concern.

PoI: You cannot sue an occupation.

F: Do you uphold your block?

48.1.4.3.2. Yes.

F: We have one more block. Can I ask that you not block unless you have raised a concern?

48.1.4.3.3. BLOCK: I am opposing this on the grounds I am opposing herbal medicine in general. I’m sure it causes some benefits but it’s not much better than a placebo affect and therefore not worth the money. Can we have at least an accounting of yeas and nays, because the last vote didn’t seem very enthusiastic?

R: Feelings about herbal medicine is not what is on the proposal. This is about giving money of a specific amount to a group that has already been operating here at Occupy.

I just want to say that other groups have been blocked on money because people disagreed with the reactions of the group. I’m not one of those people but I am acknowledging that other proposals have been blocked for those reasons before.

48.1.4.3.4. BLOCK: Are there any ways you can treat someone who has an allergic reaction to any medicine?

R: Yes. We have a full medical staff in our tent including RNs and doctors, and have a relationship to the ambulances. Herbal medicine generally, even when it does cause an allergic reaction, does not cause life-threatening allergic reaction. If any allergic reaction was beyond an herbalist’s ability to deal with, they would call on other medical professionals or call an ambulance.

48.1.4.3.5. BLOCK: In your experience to date with the occupation have you come across individuals who have expressed a preference or required administration of herbal medicine as opposed to regular medicine?

R: Yes. Most of the patients I have had to deal with have preferred to be treated for symptoms like cold or flu with herbal medicine.

48.1.4.3.6. BLOCK: If you were blocked, and ran out of supplies for one of these patients would you be forced to against their will treat them with non-herbal medicine?

Response: It would be nice to say yes to that to get my money, but I am an herbalist. I will find a way to get these people herbal medicine when they need it.

PoI: I do not know if this is a P of I or a question. Is there a FA that blockers could propose that would allow this proposal to move forward in some way?

I am not opposed to the herbalist being here, I am opposed to them getting money. He says there have not been negative side effects. I would attribute that to herbs not having much effect one way or the other at all.

F: This is taking a long time, so in the interest of time we are going to take another temperature check on this amendment. [positive] Do these blocks still hold? I would like to ask if the other blocker might have a FA? A block is to establish a serious moral or ethical concern that would cause the occupants to want to leave the occupation if this proposal were to go forward. So my point is does this blocker really feel does this blocker really have a safety or moral concern that he would leave if this proposal were to go through?

48.1.4.3.7. BLOCK: I have a moral opposition that we shouldn’t be spending money that would be better spent elsewhere.

Response: My only concern is the health and wellbeing of those occupiers who have not partaken of this herbal medicine program. They have a right also to participate. In their right to participate they may expose themselves to allergies or side-effects. I am not comfortable that this medical tent can address those issues. Apart from that, this initial grant money requested will obviously become more money over a two-three month period.

F: We have many points of process. A PoP is used when we have gone off the process. It is not used to express concerns. It seems to me that the blocks on this issue are not willing to take them back. Since we cannot reach initial consensus, we will move to a nine-tenths vote. At this point, with the amount of people here, I think we will be able to do that visually. If you are opposed to this proposal, please raise your hand. (2)

48.1.4.4. If you are for this proposal please raise your hand. That appears to be nine-tenths of this group. We have modified consensus.

F: We have two more proposals

48.1.5. Emergency proposal from Sanitation:

48.1.5.1. Hey everybody, I’m Bobby! Sanitation needs money for trash bags and other things. The way money is set up, $100 a day is not enough. So far we’ve been periodically getting more money by going to the GA. I think this will be the last time because tomorrow is the spokes council and next week we will have a budget. Sanitation has decided that we need emergency $4000 for supplies or we can no longer keep the park clean. For instance $1000 will be for contractor bags that will last us a few days.

F: Opening stack for CQs

48.1.5.2. Clarifying Questions

48.1.5.2.1. My understanding is this is an emergency proposal and has not gone through the 24 hour period, is this true?

A: I approached the Facilitation yesterday, I was late. The GA had never been that quick in the 45 days I’ve been here. But Sanitation is crucial for the…of this park and I would say save the park from eviction. It is my understanding that with emergency proposals, after the

facilitation has presented it, it is up to the GA as a whole as to whether they would like to hear the proposal.

F: That is correct. That is my mistake. So we will take a temperature check about whether we would like to continue with the conversation about this proposal. How do we feel about that? [mostly positive, some middle]

PoI: I was under the impression that ….if Facilitation cannot decide if the proposal qualifies as an emergency proposal…then it is up to us to decide if the proposal is time-sensitive.

F: When we were approached with this proposal, the Facilitation team deemed the time sensitivity of this proposal to be sufficient to make it an emergency proposal to bring to the GA.

48.1.5.2.2. Did you say something about running out of funds by tomorrow?

A: We’ve already run out of materials. You don’t want to see us stop cleaning!

F: So in the interest of being polite we will take a temperature check on whether to proceed with this conversation. That looks very good. We will proceed.

48.1.5.2.3. Chloe: My question is can you describe in more detail what the rest of the money is for other than contractor bags?

A: Sure. Cleaning supplies, gloves, storage containers, lights, contractor bags, is sufficient to fill that whole $4000. IT’s basically the same budget we’ve had for over a month.

48.1.5.2.4. Kelly: My question is if you need people to help clean and if that’s in the works. Because if you’re asking for an emergency proposal it’s for an emergency cleaning…

A: No, this is not an emergency cleaning, but it’s an emergency if we stop cleaning.

PoI: and you will stop cleaning if you run out of trash bags.

F: One more on stack. Closing stack unless you make yourself known.

48.1.5.2.5. Ben: my questions have been answered.

F: Next and last on stack: Richard.

48.1.5.2.6. Richard: Okay I’m a little concerned that the prices aren’t clearly defined, not extremely up for blocking this because they weren’t defined, but I would have liked to have seen a more clearly defined budget.

A: I’m really excited to write up a weekly budget. We don’t have at this moment. We’re busy, I’m sorry, but we know what we need.

F: One more CQ.

48.1.5.2.7. My name is Galant. People know me from 9/11 because I was the person that brought the generators first down to the 9/11 site on that night and was there for five days. I’m also the person at the …march that Rudi Juliani …attacked because I didn’t turn the generators off …

PoP: this doesn’t have to do with this proposal for cleaning supplies.

48.1.5.2.7. (continued) The cleaning supply is another thing. We also were researching whether we wanted to use for cleaning a steam cleaner which produces water, or a vaporizer which can be used with snow. The vaporizer also raises money for the kitchen…

PoP: This is all very valuable information but it’s not pertinent to the proposal at hand and there will be a time and place for him to speak.

F: Stack is now closed on CQs. We will now open stack for concerns.

48.1.5.3. Concerns

48.1.5.3.1. Ben: Cleaning is very necessary. Without the cleaning crew there will be no Occupy. My concern is that the $4000 is not allotted for anything specific other than what we heard today, so I have a FA which I guess can wait for FAs.

R: just so people know, in case you didn’t know, everything we buy has a receipt from hardware stores. Those receipts are given to Finance. I’m pretty sure you can see them, or you can soon.

F: Next on stack: Billy

48.1.5.3.2. Guys I walk by the park every day to catch my bus back to Jersey. And I see everybody every day and it seems like there’s no one voice. We need to be united in our message to the public.

PoP: that is an opinion about the movement as a whole, and does not apply to this proposal.

F: Next on stack: Jose

48.1.5.3.3. Jose: My concern is that this proposal gives the impression that we’re not being self-sufficient. The media portrays us as trying to commit to a movement, but at the same time there are individuals who are making it hard to prove that we can coexist in a more sufficient way. An example of that would be to ask the occupiers that are here to contribute to cleaning supplies instead of having many reasons to tap into the resources, but instead to …be more self-sufficient with the proposal.

R: …We have a large recycling program. We compost. We do gray-water. We’re doing the best we can, but we have to make sure it gets done, and it has to be structured.

F: Next up is Robin.

48.1.5.3.4. I am concerned that things are being stolen and then the money we spend is being stolen.

R: We are doing the best we can. We have people there 24 hours a day that are awake, but people still steal things. We’re working on it.

F: …We are talking about deciding if they are able to get the money they need to do a cleanup. If you have any other concerns about how they are operating, that should be addressed to them specifically outside of this conversation.

48.1.5.3.5. Richard: So you did say that stuff is getting stolen. I just want to know is there a safe area that you keep this stuff when you buy it in bulk?

A: I don’t appreciate that lack of trust in what we’re getting done. All the supplies are used. I just mentioned theft because it’s inevitable in this park.

48.1.5.3.6. Daniel: I have two specific concerns. The first is not really about the proposal, but the manner in which it was brought. I think that this could’ve been foreseen, and the GA has consented on wanting proposals to be posted ahead of time for consideration by the GA, and I think we should try to hold ourselves that, so we don’t have a small group of people like we have here determining how to spend $4000. My second point is that I feel like a lot of the information given is very nonspecific with regards to how the amount of $4000 was chosen. That’s it.

F: Stack is now closed on concerns. We will now open it for FAs. Does anyone have one?

48.1.5.4. Friendly Amendments

F: We’ll start with Cameron.

48.1.5.4.1. FA: in the future will you please provide a more comprehensive list of exactly how this money is being used and maybe not drop this sort of bomb on us last-minute.

Response: This is not a bomb, Sanitation works 24 hours a day and we need to get supplies. The spokes council is tomorrow. This is the last time this type of proposal will come before the GA.

PoI: Spokes council is Monday

PoI: Spokes council is going to be requesting 24 to 48 hours notice for proposals, so this is still going to be a concern for the spokes council.

F: Next on stack: Rossi.

48.1.5.4.2. FA: Rossi: My amendment would be to put together what you’re going to spend the money on, after we allow the money to go through.

F: It sounds like this amender is asking Sanitation (correct me if I’m wrong) to provide a list of what they purchased after purchase.

48.1.5.4.2. (Continued) Rossi: Basically what i’m getting at is that we know we need cleaning supplies and will continue to need supplies. $4000 is reasonable regardless, and do with it what you will.

F: Next on stack: Daniel

48.1.5.4.3. FA: Daniel: This amendment is actually coming from the person who sat over there, forgot his name, but the amendment is to request $500 tonight to be able to purchase the cleaning supplies necessary to get through tomorrow and to propose again with a more fixed amount for what the cleaning supplies are and how much money is needed for them.

R: This is a fixed amount. Do you want me to read the old receipts? I think that would be a list of GA’s time. ….We know what we need. This is a consensed-upon amount within Sanitation.

48.1.5.4.4. Concern: Trish: I have a concern: I know Sanitation needs $4000 immediately. The spokes council –

F: PoP: Are there any more FAs?

48.1.5.4.5. Trish: Everyone that visits the park has to clean the park for one hour every day! [not accepted]

F: So it seems like now we can move to take a temperature check on this proposal. Sanitation needs $4000. temperature check on that? [positive] Any blocks? no.

48.1.5.5. We have consensus.

F: As an extra bonus, our final proposal has been tabled till tomorrow.

48.2. Working Groups Report Backs

F: We will now proceed with WGRBs.

48.2.1. Direct Action: Hey everybody! On Saturday there’s going to be an “Obama don’t be a puppet for the banks” because he’s doing behind the back deals with the banks so they don’t have to pay fraud charges to the district attorneys. So we’re going to have a giant Obama puppet here on Saturday at 2PM Liberty Square and going to Foley Square. The other thing is were’ going to have a big Structure meeting tomorrow you can meet us at 1:45PM at 60 Wall St and we’ll go off-site from there, but were’ going to be talking about how we can make direct actions bigger and more all-encompassing and how we can incorporate that in the meetings.

F:Stack is now closed for WGRBs. Stack is now open for Announcements.

48.3. Announcements

48.3.1. ….on the steps of the

F: Next up: Jay

48.3.2. Mic check! On Saturday’s meeting of the music guild of the arts and culture group which meets at 60 Wall Street at 9PM sharp, sharp because we will be moving, a discussion will take place on the planning of Occupy Lincoln Center. All are welcome to attend. 60 wall st, Saturday, 9pm.

F: Two more people on stack, closing stack unless you make yourself known.

48.3.3. Chris: on Sunday, November 6th, there’s going to be a tar sands protest in Washington, DC where we circle around the white house holding hands. …old Obama climate statements.

F: Next on stack: Kate

48.3.4. On Saturday, November 5th at 1Pm the organization Asian Americans against violence will be holding a Move our Money action in Chinatown. Afterwards in Columbus park they will do a community education and outreach on the big banks.

PoI: Chloe: if you haven’t been to 60 Wall St., it is a large public lobby that shares an address with a private corporate building. So if you walk from one direction like I did, you might be confused when you see this corporate lobby. Go a little further, next door there is a large, tall lobby that is public and where many working groups meet. It is beautiful.

48.3.5. Robin: I’m going back to Maine tomorrow (well the next day, I’m stopping in Boston) and we are trying to get an occupation starting in Rockland, so if for some reason you find yourself in a small town in Maine come join us please. I might be the only one.

48.3.6. Chris: [not here]

F: It seems that we are done with Announcements, which means we’re done! We want to thank you guys for all your patience, this takes a long time. We’re getting better at making this shorter, but it feels good right now. Facilitation meets every day at 4PM at 60 Wall St. Facilitation training and intro to direct democracy is immediately after that meeting at 5:30 at 60 Wall St. We would love for you all to come and you all to facilitate. We especially encourage traditionally marginalized voices to be a part of the facilitation, conversation, and process. Thank you.

GA ends at 10:30PM

Tim, live tweeting

diceytroop@gmail.com

twitter.com/diceytroop or diceytroop2

**NYCGA Minutes 11/4/2011**

Posted November 4th, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 49

Meeting Date/Time: 11/4/2011 / 7pm EST

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators (F):

[Facilitator introductions]

[review of hand signals]

Asher: Hello I’m Asher … 1500 harmonicas … it would be wonderful to make our breaths heard and give our presence here an audibilization.

F: I have an apology to you all. I didn’t say this. For continuity purposes we are going to keep all WGRBs and announcements till the end. Okay?

AGENDA 49.1. Open Forum

49.2. Working Group Report Backs (WGRBs)

49.3. Announcements

49.1. Open Forum

49.1.1. New Speaker (NSp): I just want to provide some suggestions. What are we doing to put the international bankers out of business? We have power and the power that we have is to take our money out of the bank – take our money out of the stock markets because … we empower them … the resources to continue to fund presidencies, kings and queens, play both sides of the war[s?], … and impose taxes on the poor, the working poor, the middle class, while they continue to elevate their wealth and continue to divide countries …?, commit mayhem, create wars, and fund those wars. Thank you.

[Editorial note: technical problems, missed proposal concerning information table] 49.1.2. NSp: … question about what we’re going to do. We have too many debts [?] from the park. Where can I go to find this answer?

49.1.3. Charlotte: Hi, I’m Charlotte. … Many people say to me: down at OWS, they don’t have jobs, they don’t have careers, they don’t have ambition – they have nothing. I think we should find a way where we can say what we are … and end this crap.

F: Right now, since Doug is speaking, he takes off his facilitator cap and speaks as a regular person.

49.1.4. Hi, I’m Doug. I’m from … I’m a twenty year international activist. … I have a concern I’d like to bring before you. My concern is our Constitution does not have any provision for direct participatory democracy. This is very concerning to me. Because our Founding Fathers … to the Continental Congress … and created a new nation. Now, since we have been disempowered, I think it’s high time that we took back our sovereign and inalienable right to real and authentic direct democracy and there is a movement already under way sponsored by the former governor of Alaska Mike Ravell [sp.?]. And you can review this at the website [???].us that shows us using something called first principles that we can utilize to do a national citizen’s initiative. I encourage you all to go to that website [..] and sign up if you agree with it.

F: Thank you, Doug. Right now I want to ask if there are any suggestions on how we can put our money into credit unions, as was brought up by [F didn’t remember name, said something unpronounceable].

49.1.5. NSp: If we go on Google you can personally Google small banks and credit unions in your area and then do research, your own research on which banks … are most in accord with your own personal system of beliefs.

49.1.6. NSp: Credit unions [are things you have ownership in…]. So one suggestion I have is to look at the dividends that are returned to [depositors]. [also check out a number of other criteria, which I didn’t get] … accessibility to minorities or to anyone else at lower interest rates.

F: Was that helpful? Does anyone want to be on stack for general things?

F: Any suggestions for what Charlotte said? To restate in less words, what are some ways that we can get other people to realize that we are not as small as so many of them think we are? Any suggestions?

49.1.7. NSp: There is a group called Ambiguous Upsparkle that just formed that meets once a week. [People can tell their stories about why they got involved in OWS…. things will be published in the Huffington Post]

49.1.8. NSp: We have a ceremony, a unity ceremony. Part of the ceremony: we go one by one, we say what we do, then we go to the next person, we videotape it and then we share it everywhere.

F: Any other suggestions?

49.1.9. NSp: I am honored to say “thank you” for staying here in the cold. I see the problem that families can’t get involved because little kids can’t come here at 8 o’clock at night. My suggestion is to spread out, do Occupy Families, all over the city, in coffee houses …

F: Just for the record, we are occupying in all the boroughs of the city. … There is an Occupy Bronx, an Occupy Brooklyn, an Occupy Manhattan, Occupy …? There is also an Occupy Queens! [cheering] Any other suggestions on becoming more visible from a better stance?

49.1.10. Rossi: I’m Rossi. Another thing everyone can do is recognize that the Occupy Movement is not something that must be done in one specific place. It’s something you take with you everywhere you go. Share it …

F: Thank you.

49.1.11. Mitchell: My name is Mitchell. I’ve been talking with an old man who lives in Brooklyn who was the first person to develop solar energy in housing in NYC. We’ve been talking about how to create warmth using the sun here at OWS – so that people will not have to freeze at night. It would require a [new?] arrangement of many of the tents, but it looks very promising. If anyone would like to work with me on this, please talk to me.

F: So it seems that everyone’s giving announcements. And we haven’t gotten to that part yet. We’re still on ways to improve the GA. Just so you know. [laughter] Any more suggestions that people want to put on the Open Forum before we move on?

49.1.12. NSp: Maybe post the subject of the GA during the day … allow filtration, maybe idea…

[from crowd: Is someone taking notes?]

F: I have taken notes.

49.1.13. Warren: I have an idea – start midday news every corner by subway stations, whoever rides [?] make signs, spread it on those corners, like AM News or Metro News. [positive responses] Whatever goes on here, everyone sees it. We all have cell phones…

F: Just to clarify, Warren’s suggestion is that we maybe become more visible with a newspaper at subway stations [… other places… become visible] constantly. Rob is next, after him, we have two other voices who want to speak on ways we can improve our image.

49.1.14. Rob: One of the things I have learned recently is that one of our greatest sources of power is exposure is power, and that’s why we’re down here. So I want to name a couple of names, earlier this evening I named international bankers, so I want you to know some names: the Rothschilds, Warburgs, … Oppenheimers. Put your money into gold!

49.1.15. Jasmine: Hello.

F: Clarification, Jasmine has a concern and I misunderstood what she [meant earlier?]

49.1.15. (Continued) Jasmine: Hello, I believe other resources in education that we need to be understood at the primal level of any conflict that is occurring is available to us, and the more we go out and get it, the more we can build, and the stronger our voice will be. Communication among ourselves is not enough. We need to study and do research like they do. Thank you.

F: If it’s okay, I would like to take off my facilitator hat for a second and speak on that. Is that okay?

49.1.16. Facilitator-without-Facilitator-hat: I think it’s very important for this movement that you learn about other people. Your ignorance is no excuse. This country is not the greatest country in the world for no reason. It’s because there are great people, different races and colors and sexual orientations and we don’t care because they’re all great. … because tolerating people is not enough, we need to get to acceptance.

49.1.17. Brian: I’m from Occupy Newark. My issue with OWS is that sometimes it seems as though some members of the group or the protests in general can’t substantiate their claims or goals with real information. It isn’t to say that you’re all stupid … because you’re not. But we should prioritize on disseminating information … so when we’re challenged we can retort with facts. I believe that is the only issue with OWS. If we can solve that, we can solve anything.

F: … There is a Visions and Goals working group working on that exact [problem?]

As a friendly reminder, we would like to keep these report backs to one minute. Thank you.

49.1.18. Tim: Hello, I’m with Environmental Solidarity. As you may be aware, on Sunday, there is a large action in DC to oppose the Keystone XL pipeline of such disgrace, I need not mention it further. Unfortunately, you may not be aware, an attempt of co-option of the 99% has been made by the oil and natural gas industry. They have said that they have jobs for the 99% in this atrocity. We are formalizing a request for proposal for tomorrow [..] to distance ourselves from these groups. We are working in solidarity with the transit unions [more unions, including Canadian unions]. We don’t need the oil and gas unions. Up with the 99%! Down with oil and gas!

[announcement of report backs]

49.2. WGRBs

49.2.1. Han: I have two announcements or report backs. The first is about a new OWS working group support center. This is a pilot support center located at 50 Broadway that will be made available very soon to support office needs of various core operational groups. This pilot support center was created for core operational groups whose activities require consistent access to a secure office space [..] And we’ll also hopefully provide for more efficient communication for more working groups that are working in ad hoc spaces around the neighborhood. The working groups will be employing a transparent process to designate who within their working groups will have access to this space. There will be an additional formal announcement on NYCGA.net so you can review the process by which the space will be allocated to various working groups. We’re trying to make sure that that process is democratic, transparent, and fair and we beg for your patience. Announcement #2. We have secured access to toilets [cheering] I should say 24/7 access to toilets. There are fliers being made right now with an explanation and a map so you can find these toilets and have access 24/7 to these sanitation facilities 24/7. Briefly, it’s […directions…], you’ll find three fresh Port-a-Potties for your comfort in a loading dock that is well-lit, safe and secure, with

professional security at all times. Please spread the word, there’s no excuse to use anything else, that might make our neighbors think we are anything less than neighborly… [cheering]

49.2.2. Dan from Comfort: The women need lady products. I’m sorry but I can’t buy them. Can you donate some? Thank you.

F: I think I know what he means. Are there any more WGRBs? This is the last call. At this time, we move to announcements, if you want to make an announcement, come down and put your name on stack. Once again, we are cold. We admit it. If you need a little more [time], we’ll be kind, but please try to keep it to a minute.

49.3. Announcements

49.3.1. Tim: I’m Tim from the working group Stop Stop and Frisk. Our WG is working toward stopping a racist policy that targets black and Hispanic [details about meeting tomorrow]. Find and talk to me for more info. Thank you.

49.3.2. Barry: Two years ago, I filed for bankruptcy, not because I lost my job, not because I got sick, but because like these banks, I made bad decisions with money. Unlike these banks, I failed. I accepted responsibility for my mistakes. … And [because of it] I’m a better man. If anyone here is struggling with debt, or knows someone that is drowning in debt, please tell me them I’m bankrupt, I’m here, and I’m fine.

F: Last call to be put on stack for announcements.

49.3.3. Jess: It’s my first time in NYC. I’m here from Occupy Des Moines Iowa. I’m here to invite you to action in the first-of-the-nation Caucus Occupation. I’d like to read you the first official statement issued by Occupy Des Moines. “In solidarity with OWS, Occupy Des Moines issues a call to action to all the nation. We are excited to announce a first-in-the-nation caucus occupation. [caucus events this winter will be occupied] …presidential nomination process, Iowa is obligated to set a new standard for discourse. For too long, corporations and corrupt politicians have dictated policy [..] on a global scale. Although corporations … have vast capital interests, every dollar … shall be countered by a voice, an individual part of the 99%. We demand our grievances no longer be ignored. Join us in Iowa from December 27 to January 3.

F: Everyone. We have 3 people left on stack. So I’m going to try to have us done within the next seven minutes or so. So please, if you can, give us seven more minutes of our time.

49.3.4. Isaac Silver: I love the Revolution. I’m interested in forming a working group dedicated to Occupy May Day. [I’m going to ask you for two favors] If you’ve been involved in Direct Action, and you’ve already started to talk about May Day, please talk to me. … I’m going over to the Red Structure, I will be there for 15 minutes.

49.3.5. Jerry: My name is Jerry Kahn [sp.?]. I live in Astoria Queens. We are having our first GA in Astoria next Saturday, Nov. 12, at 2pm, in Athens Square Park, near the statue of Athena and the other statue of Socrates. If you are interested, feel free to join us. But understand, our primary concern is occupying Astoria. Secondly, occupying the borough of

Queens. I’m sure you all understand why we have to rank it that way. But you’re all welcome.

Athens Square Park is one block south of the 30th avenue station on the N or the Q to

Dettmire’s [sp.?] Boulevard. Talk to people who live in NY and get to know the subway

station if you don’t [know you’re way around].

F: Last on stack.

49.3.6. Lynn: Good evening. My name is Lynn Paramour [sp.?]. I’m a contributing editor at

AlterNet. I have a special guest joining me here at 8:30. He’s Charles Ferguson, he’s the

nation’s leading expert on financial corruption … I’ll be meeting him under the X at 8:30.

F: At this time, Jess forgot to tell us something about Iowa. The website was

occupythecaucus.org. I know I said that was the last one, but we have a visitor from

thousands of miles away, in Australia.

49.3.7. Billy: … This movement is exponentially growing in Australia. When I go [catch my

plane] I’ll go to Occupy Sydney then to Occupy Melbourne. … I hope to see you next year,

running the government.

F: At this time I want to thank you for your enthusiasm, your energy, and for standing here in

the cold. Please remember, it’s us who will move this country … General Assembly is over.

Thank you so much. Good night.

[GA concluded at 8:05 pm]

**NYCGA Minutes 11/6/2011**

Posted November 6th, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 51

Meeting Date/Time: 11/06/2011 / 7pm EST

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators (F): Alice, Craig

Stack Taker: Joel, Zach; Keeping time: Craig; Minutes: Dara; Cofacilitation greeters – Chris/ Tracy

AGENDA

51.1 Agenda Items (Demands Breakout Group, POC Emergency Proposal, Environmental Solidarity Statement, Theoretical-Praxis Breakout Group Discussion, SIS Proposal for Surplus Supplies)

51.2 Working Group Report Backs

51.3 Announcements

F: Review of Process. Here we practice direct democracy. What that means is that you are interacting directly with this democratic process. We use some concepts and tools to make this process run smoothly. One tool is nonverbal communication. Hand signals to convey messages to get point across.

Step up, step back means that if you are a person who speaks a lot or comes from a place of privilege step back and let others voices be heard. If you’re a person who tends to speak less or comes from a marginalized group step up and let your voice be heard. This is something to think about and apply yourself not something to impose on others

F: A really quick announcement: A sign of the GA agenda will be posted all over camp before GA so that people know what we’ll be talking about.

F: We would like to now ask GA if they feel comfortable with the facilitation team. Temp check. Positive. Any concerns with team?

Clarifying Question: How long have you been facilitating? How many times have you done this?

Craig: 3 times in the past. I haven’t done it in a month. Alice: First time as cofacilitator.

Clarifying Question: An archives proposal was supposed to be on the agenda tonight, why was it not included?

F. If a misstep was made, then we can have it on the proposal for the next GA.

F. We also noticed that a proposal form last night that was tabled re the march to DC is not on the agenda. We would invite those individuals making it to do so tonight if they are here.

51.1. Agenda Items

Summary:

51.1.1 Demands Working Group- Discussion regarding draft proposal

51.1.2 Occupy the Hood- Budget Proposal for $2,000

51.1.2.3.6 Consensus on Amended Proposal: $3,000 in conversation with Finance working group.

51.1.3 Mobile Occupation/ DC March: Budget Proposal for $3,000

51.1.3.3 Consensus

51.1.4 Environmental Solidarity: Proposal to endorse statement condemning “Jobs for the 99%” on the grounds of that group’s support for Keystone XL Pipeline

51.1.4.3.3 Consensus

51.1.5 Theoretical Praxis: Discussion. Tabled.

51.1.6. SIS: Budget proposal for $5,000 and materials to export surplus supplies to allies and the unemployed.

51.1.6.2.6 Consensus

Detailed Discussion

51.1.1 Demands Working Group Discussion

51.1.1.1 First, for your info we are going to read the demand we are proposing together with the preamble then break up into breakout groups to discuss how we can improve the proposal by soliciting amendments and also asking your thoughts on the proposal in general, including what you might like about it. Afterwards, we will be done and go back to our working group with everything we heard and we will discuss ways to amend the proposal.

A quote from Frederick Douglass: “Power concedes nothing without a demand never did and never will.”

We retain the right to make multiple and or continuous demands of ourselves our society our government as there are numerous and varied problems ot be addressed by our peoples movement Demands are only one integral part of an already successful movement. In order that 99% can control their workplaces, communities job This is offered to the GA as an initial transitional demand in hopes others will follow. To help build alliances with workers, unemployed and undocumented. We expect that as the movement grows we will make new demands on our society our government and ourselves. Demands we make and will make are just one of the ways we will take collective control over our common This is the demand. Jobs for all. A massive public works and public service program we demand a massive dem controlled public works and public service program with direct government employment to create 25 million new jobs at good union wages. This is to be paid for with new taxes on rich, transactions, corporate profits by reinstatement of the Glass-Steagal act as well as ending all US wars, disbanding mercenaries, ending aid to authoritarian regimes. The new jobs will aim to radically expand access to […]

51.1.1.2 So now throughout the crowd, there are 12 people from our group who have these sheets, and they are based on common questions brought up at prior GA where this was discussed. Please find one of the people holding these sheets and form groups with no more than 25 per group. We will begin a conversation about how we feel about the proposal. We would like everyone to get the information and discuss and give feedback. What we discussed in our working group was to have the member of the Demands working group not to facilitate but really to be present to write down everything brought up to have documentation to bring back and discuss. So that person can be the person to report back and sort of lead, but not really, those groups. That would be good.

Point of Process (PoP): Why are we doing this exercise before the Emergency Proposal from the POC working group?

F: The Demands item was tabled yesterday, unless GA would like to do POC emergency proposal first. Temperature check. Concerns?

F: I understand that the demands group might have personal reasons for getting out of park quickly.

Point of Information (PoI) from Demands: Some of the people working in this have had past criminal records and are on a curfew to return back to their places of residence so they are here now to make sure they have a voice in something they feel affects them.

PoI from PoC: We have people who are cold and hungry right now.

Question from Demands: How long do you need?

PoC: Five minutes.

51.1.2. POC Emergency Proposal

51.1.2.1 I am Seema (spelling?) from Occupy the Hood/ Urban Nomadic Warriors. I have been part of Occupy North Carolina, and 8 different occupations. We are now occupying in Harlem at 477 W. 142 St. We are battling predatory lending and mortgage fraud. They are attempting to freeze residents out of their homes. They have sabotaged boilers and locked out the tenants. We broke in and have a new boiler. We are cold and hungry and we need help from Occupy Wall Street. We emailed a proposal to allocate us funds to continue our occupation. Our proposal is to be reimbursed for the finances we have spent ourselves for $500 dollars. We are also asking for $1500 for survival. We have over 15 occupiers from this park who are now occupying in Harlem. It is the first occupation other than Liberty Park in NYC. We are waiting for no one to take our community back.

F: We would like to open the floor, open stack, for questions or concerns. If you would like to be on stack please get Joel’s attention.

51.1.2.2 Clarifying Questions & Concerns

51.1.2.2.1.We want a legal solution, a legislative solution to this problem. We want job stability. F: Excuse me sir, respectfully, do this during announcements. Currently talking about this proposal. Any concerns or questions?

51.1.2.2.2. How will we know to vote for this proposal or not if we do not know what your budget consists of? What I really mean is that we have to know how much money you already have and what it will be allocated towards. We need to think about different groups who might need funds and how to divvy it up evenly and fairly if possible.

51.1.2.2.3. I’m Mischa, how can we get in touch with occupy Harlem? Response: We are Occupy Harlem behind you, Occupy the Hood. We need you today!

F: If want info about occupy Harlem, talk to them after. I’m sure they would like to talk. Right now we are doing questions and concerns.

51.1.2.2.4. I am Daniel. Indirectly related to this proposal, I am curious as to whether Occupy the Hood has consulted with any legal teams regarding illegal evictions and also I believe some of the questions asked over how the money amount was decided upon and what it will be used for are rather relevant in this body deciding to allocate these funds. I understand this is important but we also need information. Response: Yes, we are in court. Queen Mother (Lois last name?) is trying to save this building from predatory lenders for over a year. The things we need are Con Edison, metro, food, cleaning supplies, towels, and toiletries. We need everything that this occupation has. We are an occupation. This battle has been going on for over 7 years. The judge locked out of courtroom. The other attorney is in prison because he is not an attorney.

51.1.2.2.5. I am wondering if anyone is here from financial working group? Because my concern is that this GA cannot disperse funds without the financial working group. PoI: The financial working group does not need to make these decisions. The GA can make it. F: We are making this decision right now in the GA. Other questions and concerns?

51.1.2.2.6. I think this is a good idea however I am also aware what we might be doing many occupations such as this in the future. We need to keep in mind how we will be able to save many occupations in the future. Response: We also need bodies. All are welcome.

51.1.2.2.7. I am Catherine. I support this proposal but wonder if there is a reason that it is an emergency proposal. Is there an external deadline? Response: They are right now trying to keep the building open so the boiler can be installed. If this doesn’t happen and pipes freeze they will evict everyone. This is the reality of living in the hood, reality of people fighting for their homes and lives because of wall street and predatory lending. Right now there are people who are elderly, disabled and children in this building freezing. We need to keep the building open. We need to help them have this boiler installed. We need to continue the occupation until this is fought in court. This is already happening in LA and Florida. This needs to start now in NYC.

51.1.2.2.8. I am Keith. I respect what you are doing. You have my solidarity; however, I think there are a lot of such buildings and people who need that kind of help. I also think that running a boiler and using funds to save a building can be costly in the long term. Also a question, was the decision to occupy this building ever proposed at a GA? Response: Did we ask to occupy this park? And not only that, this is precedent. There are a lot of people who come here that are willing to occupy our neighborhoods. We need to set the example. We need to set precedent now. Response from Keith: I think you’re right

F: This is not a discussion abut whether this is a good idea. If there are concerns about the proposal please bring these up.

51.1.2.2.9. Hi, I’m Maria from Chicago and I got an email with a leaflet that talked about Occupy Harlem. As a Latina, I was thrilled there are people occupying Harlem. I understand that we don’t know their exact money situation. I propose that we give half of the treasury or $1500 as they ask for, whichever is more money.

F: That would be a friendly amendment. We will do that after questions and concerns.

Mic Check – can’t hear. Can we get two generations of people’s mic. Yes.

PoI: With respect to the earlier concern raised over the consensus not being given to form Occupy the Hood. These occupations are all autonomous and do not need approval. We also did not approve Occupy Oakland but gave them money when they were in need. I am not speaking that we should do this only that there is precedent for this being done in the past.

51.1.2.2.9. I am Martin. This is a very urgent concern. It is matter of life and death. I think this should be approved as soon as possible and simultaneously a committee established to deal with this sort of thing in the future.

PoI: It is my opinion that OWS was a catalyst for occupations in this country and around the world. What better way to show support for our brothers and sisters in Harlem. They can be a catalyst for the lower class and lower income across the country.

F: I see a lot of points of process and points of information. We are trying to voice and address questions or concerns about this proposal, not endorsements. We would like to close stack on questions or concerns. If you still have them get on stack now. There is also a concern that two generations will be time consuming and that everyone could hear if the first generation could be louder. Temperature Check. Back to one generation

51.1.2.2.10. My concern is that many other groups will then be coming and demanding that OWS will give money like in Harlem and Oakland. Response: If they have done enough work and made an impact in their community then OWS should write them a check.

F: Please respect each other in this process.

51.1.2.2.11. Again I agree, but maybe they should provide a supply list from the group and I’m sure we could get things donated. This will help with future groups who will ask.

F: That is a friendly amendment. Are there any others questions/ concerns?

F: Two more people; stack is closed.

51.1.2.2.12. OWS receives its funds from outside donors. Has occupy Harlem approached any other sources as a kickstarter. Is it wise to put all your eggs in one basket? Response: $1500 is needed now. This is an emergency proposal. OWS receives money from individuals. We will continue raising those moneys. I was part of the people writing this proposal. We had in mind when bringing to GA that it would bring attention and awareness with the hope that we could start a kickstarter fund for these people. We can’t do that without media attention and awareness. This is a first step.

F: We would now like to open stack for friendly amendments for this proposal.

51.1.2.3 Friendly Amendments

Question: What is it that makes this an emergency? F: Please ask someone who had been here the entire time.

51.1.2.3.1 I’m Justin. Would you accept taking surplus supplies of purchases instead of finances, while still being reimbursed for the boiler to keep you warm?

F: the proposers can accept or reject friendly amendments.

Response: We reject just because there are finances needed in addition to resources.

51.1.2.3.2 My Friendly amendment is that there are currently 2 amounts being requested. I want to give $3000 instead of $2000. Response: We accept.

F: Anymore friendly amendments?

51.1.2.3.3 I propose that in addition to these funds we also come up with the condition that Harlem works with OWS finance committee for coming up with a clear process for how they

will have sister and brother occupations in the city. Response: we accept.

F: Are there anymore?

51.1.2.3.4 I recommend that we defer to media power to give good press to this occupation.

F: Not an amendment.

F: We will restate the proposal with amendments in just one second. Any final friendly amendments?

PoI: I suggest that you also check with SIS in addition to the funds. They will have supplies to help you.

F: Now we will have Occupy Harlem quickly restate the proposal with the correction of budget and recommendation that they network with finance to figure method to help support other brother and sister occupations like this one.

51.1.2.3.5 The new proposal is for $3000 and to work with the OWS finance committee and also to access resources that can be donated to deter purchases for the occupation in Harlem at 477 w. 142nd. C

51.1.2.3.6 Clarifying Question: Will this money be going to an individual or is there a 501C3? When we had to do our dispersal to Oakland we had to make sure they were set up so the money was going to a kickstarter. We cannot send funds outside of OWS. Response: The Finance Dept. has a whole process of disbursements through a 501(c) 3.

F: This can be a direct conversation with this group.

PoI: This proposal came out of the People of Color working group, which was approved by GA.

F: Let’s take a temp check about this proposal. It looks positive.

F: Are there any blocks? No blocks, consensus has been reached. 51.1.1 Demands Breakout Group

51.1.1.2 Breakout Session

Demands Working Group: Twenty minutes. There are a large number of people who do not support the jobs for all demand and for that reason there is also information passed out why the jobs for all is a bad idea.

PoI: The breakout groups are for this conversation. 10 to 15 people to discuss for 20 minutes and then reconvene. We plan on bringing the demands proposal back to the GA once we have heard enough voices and considered enough perspectives thoroughly. If you would like more information ask the demands group representative.

51.1.1.3 Discussion Group Report Backs

51.1.1.3.1 Leah: be more specific about the jobs we are proposing particularly since we are proposing to reduce the military industrial complex and pay for these jobs by ending wars. The group wanted to say what jobs they would be giving to people displaced when we end the wars. Also we should be more specific about environmental jobs. We need to talk about jobs with the food system and water quality.

51.1.1.3.2 Cecily – We heard that we needed to be more about environmentally sustainable jobs. Also that we need to be clear about “democratically controlled” and what that means so that the government doesn’t F us over. Also some people felt that the demand would be better staged as a question or a vision statement. Positive things –people feel like discussion for demands is a good thing. Also that it appeals to American middle class and because it is so big it taps into major themes at OWS.

51.1.1.3.3 Eric: Most people in my group were generally in favor of the demands but strongly felt that it could be shorter and clearer or that it could be divided into sub-demands.

51.1.1.3.4 Jake: 1 favorable comment and 3 amendments. One person said I agree with the demand. I am an immigrant I spent a lot of money to get my teaching degree but I cant find any work. Add comprehensive healthcare and education free for all. They are rights not privileges. Add a plank that includes the 99ers and the long term unemployed are covered by jobs for all. Add something about eliminating corporate personhood so they cant hide their assets from taxes required to fund jobs for all.

51.1.1.3.5 Steven: my group wanted to make the demand a bit simpler and to make the military language and reinstating the Glass-Steagall act into separate demands. They wanted to specify that the jobs were quality and rewarding jobs not dreary exploitative jobs. They wanted to include reducing greenhouse emissions.

51.1.1.3.6 Jake: generally supportive of making this demand but a number of people in group who felt needed more work and more time. Some thought that it would be important for the first demand to be about getting money out of politics or to incorporate that into the demand. Many in the group were in agreement with individual statements, but needed another demand to back it up with more specificity. One person suggested that there are related demands and that this is a living document. Add a flow chart showing how these demands are related.

51.1.1.3.7 Susan: generally my group was favorable of jobs for all. Although there was controversy regarding the word demand as well as making a demand to government. Most were sympathetic to the tone of jobs for all. As far as amendments people suggested that the demand be more succinct and strip some of language re foreign acts and explain more about what act Glass-Steagall would play. Include language about infrastructure. One interesting suggestion was to incorporate this with direct action as well as the visions and demands group. There was an interest that we consider other alternatives.

51.1.1.3.8 Craig: I heard a lot of what Cecily heard, on other hand, I also heard a suggestion that jobs that are created by this demand be long term jobs. Jobs cannot be short term employment, otherwise I heard pretty much what Cecily heard.

51.1.1.3.8 Andrew: the big thing we heard was to change the language about how it will be paid for, the union ramifications environmental concerns, foreign policy concerns. Also, discussion about how to phrase whether it is a demand or policy idea.

51.1.1.3.9 Peter: we had a really great discussion, really supportive. My group wanted to see greater clarity in mechanism of job creation. There was debate about whether Glass Steagall and military language helped or hurt. We also talked about the last sentence and whether it should be jobs for “all” without qualification or whether we do need to specify immigrant or criminal. There was concern that we also should be emphasizing transparency and sustainability in the economy.

51.1.1.3.10 PoI: one thing was left out of our report back. There was significant opposition to making any demands because it could hurt the power and momentum of inclusion in our movement. Response: Just to wrap up we had one minute so if we didn’t raise your concern we will be discussing and debating your concerns. Come join the discussion on Tuesday at 7pm 60 Wall Street. 51.1.3 Proposal from Mobile Occupation re DC March

51.1.3.1 Hi I’m Michael from mobile occupation to ask for a bigger budget as suggested by last night’s GA for our march to DC, which leaves Wednesday we have a few spots available if you would like to come meet us tomorrow 12pm. Budget we are suggesting is $3000 dollars. Breaks down as such. $5.50 ride to Jersey City, $20 dollar bus ride back from DC for about 15 people. This breaks down to about $382 dollars. Eating on the cheap. $10 dollars a day. It breaks down to about $1800 dollars. We also are looking to record what we do, and the tapes required for this are going to be for a Sony HD1 camera – 400 dollars. All this together will be about 2600 dollars. The other $400 dollars are for any unforeseen expenses such as a medical emergency. All receipts will be kept and if there is any money left over it will be returned.

F: Really quickly. Eric’s backpack is missing.

F: Now open stack about questions and concerns about mobile occupy proposal:

51.1.3.2 Clarifying Questions & Concerns

51.1.3.2.1 Erin: What are you going to do for shoes? Response: Everyone going on this march is aware of all the concerns, doing on own fruition. Bringing own gear.

51.1.3.2.2 Avi: I have a question and a small suggestion. How many more spots do you have? Response: Kind of up in the air, some are on the fence. We need a definite list by Tuesday night. Avi: So if the number is up in the air, can you put sign up info at Info because we don’t know about it. Response: You got it.

F: good point but not related directly to this proposal. If want to talk to him about mobile occupy then do it after. Let’s focus on this proposal because we have 3 more agenda items.

51.1.3.2.3 John Carlo: I was wondering when you’re planning to return. Response: Friday after thanksgiving.

F: Again this is something you can get from him directly.

51.1.3.2.4 Have you proposed from media to borrow camera instead of borrowing new one. Response: Someone has a camera. We just need tapes.

51.1.3.2.5 Because you don’t know the number of participants wouldn’t it be better to come up with a figure per person? Response: Any extra money not used will be returned. I’m leaving it open for about 15 people.

F: Open for friendly amendments on this proposal.

51.1.3.3. Friendly Amendments

F: No friendly amendments. Move for consensus. Temperature check. Good.

F: Any blocks? No

F: It passes.

51.1.4 Environmental Solidarity Statement

51.1.4.1 Hello my name is Tim and I’m from the Environmental Solidarity working group. I have a statement of solidarity of which I ask your endorsement and as you’ll see it concerns an issue of cooption from outside the movement. There is a website called jobs for the 99.com this is a website that promotes the construction of the keystone XL pipeline to move Tar Sands oil from Alberta to gulf for world market exportation. This website is a front for groups supporting the pipeline. Pipeline spells game over for climate pristine aquifers and the displacement and replacement of long term jobs. We propose that the GA dissociate itself from the “Jobs for the 99%,” which is a front for groups supporting the Keystone XL pipeline. This pipeline would transport tar sands oil. It would mean “game over” for the climate, pollution of pristine aquifers, the killing of long-term, existing jobs and devastation of First Nations communities. The leadership of the unions behind this campaign have made a public alliance with the oil industry and Tea Party funders. Big Oil and Tea Party billionaires are part of the 1% . The reference to the 99% is opportunistic and misleading. We express solidarity with the unions that oppose Keystone XL and support a transition to a sustainable, green economy, namely the Transport Workers Union, the Amalgamated Transit Union, the National Domestic Workers Alliance, and Domestic Workers United. We applaud those hundreds of rank-and-file members of all unions who have publicly expressed their opposition to Keystone XL pipeline. We must dissociate from this attempt at co-optation by the 1% to preserve our movement as the 99%, and as definitive precedent to dissuade future attempts of co-optation. Thank you! Peace, Love and Justice!

51.1.4.2 Clarifying Questions and Concerns

51.1.4.2.1 Aaron: how exactly are we going to show this solidarity. Via post online or some other method Response: we will do a post online. We will use tailoring of our messaging in the media in our outreach to KXL. In solidarity with unions.

51.1.4.2.2 Frank: Why hasn’t there been a march against the greed of unions in transit hikes?

F: PoP – unrelated to what we are currently discussing.

F: Any more questions or concerns. Open floor for friendly amendments to this statement.

51.1.4.3. Friendly Amendments

51.1.4.3.1. My friendly amendment involves us endorsing life as opposed to opposing the keystone pipeline or at least emphasize something positive making it look like the keystone pipeline is against life, which it is. Response: this statement albeit by nature is a disassociation from jobs from 99.com in near future we will approach such an endorsement of life.

51.1.4.3.2. My friendly amendment is to mention that it would triple our greenhouse gas emissions. Someone said that earlier, but I don’t know if it’s true, but if it is, I would love for it to be included. F: clarification he was suggesting it be included after fact checking in this statement. Response: Accept.

F: Any more friendly amendments. Now restate proposal briefly. Don’t think have to read whole thing, but include friendly amendment.

51.1.4.3.3 We the 99 percent dissociate from the website jobs for the 99.com citing all sorts of facts and fact checking other facts to make sure there will be no cooption by the 1% on our glorious movement.

F: Okay now we will move for a consensus. Temperature check. Positive. Any blocks? No.

F: This passes! Cheers.

F: Next up on agenda is breakout discussion with theoretical praxis. 51.1.5 Theoretical Praxis (Breakout groups)

51.1.5.1 My name is Calico. Because this is such an interesting topic I am wondering whether we want to wait until the beginning of the next GA. What does everyone think? Do you want to have a temp check on postponing to the next GA or do you want to hear the agenda. Okay, here is our agenda. We have some questions to discuss. 1. Where do you see occupy movement going. What do you think will come next? Do you think of this in location of your occupation, the movement around the country and international context? 2. What is the purpose for occupying public spaces? Specific role for public encampments. 3. How do we build bridges between our community and the world as it is. These are our questions. Rather intense

Let’s take a temp check re moving it to Tuesday. Okay it is moved until Tuesday. Hope to see you then.

51.1.5.2 Are these questions online so people can think of them bf Tuesday? Response: Yes and also lots of printouts if you would like to talk and bring to next GA. Let’s disseminate these questions as far and as wide as we can.

51.1.6. SIS Proposal (Transportation in Cabs – $5K)

F: One more proposal from SIS.

51.1.6.1 My name is Sam and I am with the shipping inventory and storage working group. People from across the world know the power of giving. OWS has become outlet for inspiring generosity of 99% after outpouring of support from recent snow. Our shelves are overflowing. Surplus is great comfort but responsibility. More we hoard supplies in face of need from community and need from other occupations the more we will resemble the American status quo. After all change is what were here for. Let’s start moving supplies to where it is needed. Making following proposal. In solidarity with over 15 million unemployed workers, allocate at least 15% of supply surplus to outreach working group to be donated within our community. The Rest will be made available to fellow occupations. Use supplies as incentive to promote improved communication with others in our movement. The release in surplus comes with hoe that internet working group in cooperation with any group will establish part of our website for inter-occupation communication. There are efforts under way-let’s coordinate.

One time export budget of $5000. This will be used to fund travel between occupations and used for shipping. After initial export continue to use newly developed contacts to send more supplies whenever we can. Given great deal of wealth, let’s show wall street how we handle our stock.

F: This proposal is to release the surplus and for funds. Open stack for concerns and questions.

51.1.6.2 Clarifying Questions & Concerns

51.1.6.2.1 Colin – I just wanted to know what is meant by asking for money for travel. What does that mean? Response: We are trying to promote inter-occupation communication. We prefer for other occupations to make the trip here to pick up supplies. We would like to reimburse them for as much of the travel expense as we can.

51.1.6.2.2 Ingrid: sorry I have a low voice. I want to know in general what kinds of things are in surplus and what kinds of things you might still need a lot of. Response: In surplus we have sweaters, socks, gloves, hats, coats. In need we need boots, thermals, scarves, food, we also need cold weather sleeping bags, not 40 degree bags.

51.1.6.2.3 Jared: hello my only question is whether or not these donations will be limited to American occupations. Response: I don’t see why we shouldn’t donate wherever it’s needed and affordable.

51.1.6.2.3 Emory: I was wondering how you determine what is surplus and what is a good emergency reserve. Response: We have members who come to storage every day and helping to determine what is needed and what is not.

51.1.6.2.4 Lillian: will the cost of shipping be greater than the cost of finding these items in their community? Response: We would prefer to only ship when value exceeds cost of shipping. For example generator from CA would cost us 71 dollars to ship. That is worth it.

51.1.6.2.5 Paul – from occupy Chicago: I’m here on the east coast hanging out with the occupations. Trying to learn and network. Like to cordially invite to great city of Chicago because in a matter of months hosting g8 and NATO. So, bankers and generals conveniently meeting in one location. Qualify to say that daily reiterates its commitment to nonviolence.

F: That is not on topic for this proposal. Lets talk about this more in an announcement.

51.1.6.2.3 Friendly amendments

F: Can we ask everyone to take a knee. Thanks.

F: If you have a friendly amendment, please get on stack. It looks like we don’t have any.

51.1.6.2.6 Would it not make sense to try to find out who is going to other occupations on their own instead of using UPS to send those supplies with them. Response: Yes, it is our policy to contact those who are driving inter-occupation. We would like to reimburse them for gas or tolls.

F: Let’s do a temp check for this proposal. [Positive.] Any blocks? No. We’ve reached consensus.

51.2 Working Group Report Backs

F: Working group report back – get on stack now. Keep report brief. Two minutes.

51.2 .1 SIS: I’m Justin, you kind people just passed our proposal. Thank you. That being said now we have much work to do. Please come volunteer all the time. The storage unit is at 52 Broadway. We will be conducting inventory this week. We need help next weekend. Come next weekend.

51.2 .2 Outreach: Ronnie from outreach. Today we had a community organizers lunch where 150 people attended. This coming weekend we are holding an event called occupy your block asking communities in NYC in solidarity to do works in their community and tie it back to occupy wall street cause. Contacted by New Haven. The occupancy there wants to take surplus occupiers, people who want to sleep in park but can’t because no space here. That is all. If you’re from a working group where you think this is related please contact outreach to work out a system to send people and supplies to New Haven.

51.2 .3 Theoretical Praxis: hey everybody I am with Theoretical Praxis. Our update is this. We’ve tried to have our discussion twice and it hasn’t happened. We are going to try again on Tuesday. We meet at 3pm at charlottes place – down a block and over ½ Albany and Greenwich. If you’ve already thought about questions on paper give back or bring with you.

51.3 Announcements

F. if want to make an announcement get on stack

51.3.1 Last night someone gave me their jacket. It’s really nice, it belongs to Luis Santos, gentlemen named Blessed, but I think it belongs to Louis Santos and I have his id and

important documentation and I am wary of the info desk. I am going to leave my contact info at info desk when if Louis Santos is found and reports there so he can get his stuff.

51.3.2 Chris: I am from Occupy Duluth and we are facing an eviction under guise of protecting us from cold, trying to remove from permanent camp in front of city hall. Please help us by visiting occupyduluth.org. Solidarity forever.

51.3.3 Mike – Hi, I am Mike. With part time caucus table. Between library and info. If any working groups need volunteers come here and we will send them to you. If you know people coming and want to volunteer send them there.

51.3.4 Tomorrow night Henry Kissinger is being honored as a history maker by the New York Historical Society at their annual dinner. He is the oldest US war criminal, responsible for deaths of 1 million people. There will be a demonstration tomorrow night at the Waldorf Astoria from 530 to 730. Let’s give the New York Historical Society a history lesson. We should make it a citizens’ arrest.

51.3.5 Paul: My understanding that I am the last speaker at this GA so please allow for an extended comment. I will wait for the soapbox.

51.3.6 New working group – Occupy the Cipher for live mcs and spoken word poets to create future music re: the philosophy. My friend who is here will also help with that. We have 5 MCs we need more.

F: That’s it for tonight’s general assembly. You guys are awesome for persevering and you accomplished a lot. I would like to close GA with 3 times power to the people but first after GA is the open forum. Anyone can come up and talk but you don’t have to stay. I would like to say that I made a mistake and I am apologizing to Paul please listen to him after.

Close GA – Peoples Soapbox

**NYCGA Minutes 11/8/2011**

Posted November 8th, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 53

Date/Time: 11/8/11, 7pm

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators (F): Chaliko, Christina

AGENDA 53.1. Agenda Items (Theoretical Praxis Breakout Discussion, Screen Printers Guild budget proposal, Occupy Edmonton Solidarity/Funding Request, Principles of Solidarity Emergency Proposal)

53.2. Working Group Report Backs

53.3. Announcements

Time: Captain Duggers ; Stack Taker: Fanchen; Stack Greeter: Alejandro; Facilitation Greeter: Fred [information about process, etc.]; Minute Taker: Spencer

F. Greeter: Review of Process: Hi! Welcome to our GA. A few housekeeping items. If you can please come forward there is a lot of room and we would love for you to have a seat on the stairs but also try to keep a few areas open so people can pass through. So like this front area here.

[Stack process review: greeter comes to you if you have a concern during the concern period.]

We use hand signals so we don’t have to yell but can still express how we feel. Twinkle fingers means I feel good, I like what I’m hearing [Fingers wiggled upwards]. Next, not so twinkly fingers, but not disappointed [Fingers wiggled horizontally]. This, is I don’t like what I’m hearing [fingers wiggled downwards]. It doesn’t mean shut up, just means I don’t like it. Next, is Point of Process [fingers held in a triangle shape]. Use this when your neighbor starts asking questions when it’s not time to ask questions. This [Fingers in a rolling motion] means someone is talking too much and has already made their point and we understand their point and we want them to wrap it up. We use this with great compassion and understanding. We use this [a C] to say I have a question, a clarifying question. It’s used when we are discussing a proposal and have opened stack for CQ about that proposal. This is point of information (PoI) [one finger in the air]. This is used when you have factual information pertaining to the proposal which we are discussing and not some other proposal. The last symbol is a block [arms crossed]. This means that you are morally opposed or have significant safety concerns with what is happening. We use a block if we are seriously opposed, morally or for safety.

Everybody clasp your hands and raise them over your head, inhale to the left, exhale to the middle, inhale to the right, … and relax.

Progressive stack: If you want to speak, I will put you on a list and you can speak. Here we use progressive stack, that is, when we place people from historically marginalize communities at the front of the list. But everyone has a chance to speak. We also encourage you to keep in mind a guiding principle known as step up step back. This is when we ask that you think about whether or not you have been encouraged to speak and have spoken a lot and maybe step back so that someone who has not had a chance to speak can step up and speak their part. Rock on!

So tonight we have four agenda items, two of which are budget items. Do you want to hear what they are? Temperature check: [positive]

F: 1.Breakout with Theoretical Praxis, 2. Screen Printers Guild budget proposal, 3. Solidarity and a funding request from Occupy Edmonton, 4. An emergency proposal concerning the tents brought forth by Principles of Solidarity.

After that we will have working group report backs and announcements, and following all that we have Soapbox, which we won’t be facilitating but we encourage you to speak during that time if you have concerns or rants or songs or whatnot, and you really just want to get them out there. Hang out by the red sculpture afterwards and do that. Before we start, we have an announcement from the Movement working group.

Movement working group: Hi, we are subgroup of Movement Building in conjunction with Mobilize Occupation. We are leaving from here tomorrow at noon marching to DC. I have flyers if there are any last calls from you who want to join the march. I also want to encourage you all to walk with us to the ferry to send us off. Thanks, you are all beautiful. If you want to make awesome signs or anything else tonight for us to carry, make it happen and do it and find us.

53.1. Agenda Items

53.1.1 Theoretical Praxis Breakout Discussion

53.1.1.1 Hola! Theoretical Praxis is a discussion group interested in pursuing new strategies and reflecting on our movement so we propose …in the pursuit of true democratic pursuit and revolutionary changes, we have proposed the topics for around a 30 minute discussion in our GA. The questions are: Where do you see the occupy movement going and what do you think will come next? Two, what is the purpose for occupying public spaces like parks and plazas? Is there a strategic role for creating public encampments in our struggle? Three, how do we build the bridges between our community and the world as it is? How are we going to engage with the old system? We want people to form groups of five to ten to discuss one of these questions for about 20 minutes. After the discussion, we will ask you take 5 minutes to

synthesize the thoughts within your group into key ideas and write them on these sheets which will be collected. We will try to put them together and represent them at a later GA so we know what we are all talking about. The last 5 minutes can be a report back from each group on what the key ideas were. As well as suggestions for other important topics and questions to be considered in future GAs. Ok. Who wants to discuss the first question, we will ask that they meet under the red sculpture. If you want to discuss the first question raise your hand.

Repeat: 1. Where do you see the movement going, what will come next?

F: so they are going to change that up a bit. It might be easier and more time efficient if you can get with ten people around your area and discuss the questions. How do we feel about that?

Breakout: I would recommend just focusing on one because they are really hard to answer.

F: Is everyone clear about what’s happening, see some frown fingers. So, if you have questions, you can form a group of ten people or five people and come up with thoughts on one of the questions. You can do it right where you are at, just get to know your neighbor. Show some love, that’s what happens here.

PoI: We could just move apart a bit so it’s easier to discern who you are talking with.

53.1.2 Consultation and report backs from breakout groups.

F: Please synthesize your work into two concise statements. As soon as you are ready and have a spokesperson, get their name to Fanchen right here. Thanks!

F: The person you have elected to voice your concerns and ideas should come down here right now. You are going to get on stack with Fanchen. If you can’t get down here, put up your hand and we’ll get your name.

F: We only have four names on stack, so if you want to get on stack, last call because we will close stack and then share ideas, so come on down or put your hands up and recognize who you are and you will get on stack.

F: Also, if you have written anything on your paper we really want to know what you wrote down so pass you papers forward to Jess, he is right over here, so pass ’em forward!

F: We encourage everybody’s participation with the human mic so everybody can hear. Thank you. The first person on stack is Stanley.

53.1.1.2 Breakout Group Presentations

53.1.1.2.1 Hi I’m Stanley. The question that my group addressed was question three, how do we build the bridges between our community and the old regime? We had three suggestions: education, leadership, and occupy network. For education, we decided the best way to educate was to go to communities and inform others of the issues that matter the most. As well as how to articulate them. Leadership, we discussed in the meeting that it may be a good idea to have someone who is involved in politics who can push for the issues we deem the

most important, it’s not the most popular idea, but to be realistic, we need a voice. The last

one, was to create an occupy network, a social network, ning.com ???? Where all the

occupiers and support can join in and have a venue to discuss issues and communicate. This

network will be run by the occupy wall st movement. Thank you.

53.1.1.2.2 Nicki: The question that my group discussed was question number one, which I

don’t remember right now… where is the occupy movement going? Two suggestions that we

came up with were to come up with more personal actions, and to have more marches dealing

with different sectors. Thank you.

53.1.1.2.3 Valerie: Hi I’m Valerie. We talked about the first question in our group. That is

what is next for OWS? We talked about two options. Doing what we can do right now,

number one is sustainable agriculture so that we can feed ourselves autonomously, divest

ourselves from the capitalist status quo and poisonous food supply. Second, alternative

currencies we can use with sustainable agriculture providers so we can feed ourselves and

participate in a network of food providers that support our cause, ensuring our autonomy.

Alternative currencies we have talked about the best idea being time making because it’s

something we can use here. The other idea we came up with is to push for purchasing and in

addition to working with farmers to achieve these ends. Thank you.

53.1.1.2.4 Christine: We had a kind of freeform discussion that went in and out of topic. It

was great! We talked a lot about whether or not we should interact with the political system

that is already in place. Some of us said yes, some of thought no. One thing we agreed on that

this movement is a baby step toward a revolution that strives for all to be able to live with

dignity through having access to the things we need. Such as healthy food and shelter, health

care, and education without a corporate price tag. We agreed that this place serves as an

educational space to shift the dialogue about what people are already talking about and see

the struggle against capitalism through a different lens. Thanks!

F: In the interest in everyone having a chance to speak and be heard, please limit your

comments to three minutes or less.

53.1.1.2.5 Skeet: We did number three. We have one sentence. We are skeptical of our ability

to meaningfully engage with the old system on their terms without being co-opted. But we

are also skeptical in light of what I just said, of being able to advance our movement without

a more active confrontation of that system.

53.1.1.2.6 Daniel: We talked about question two which was about the importance of

occupying public space in this movement. Our conversation fell into three categories. The

importance in general, the specifics of an occupation, and ideas for actions. First, an

occupation is a visual symbol that we are here to stay. It is an embodiment of an alternative, a

show of force; it keeps open the rupture that DA crests. Two, it is important that the space is

open to wanders, that is interactive and that it is a working space to build a movement. Three,

action! Assist other occupations in other cities, and finally, occupy more space!!!!!

53.1.1.2.7 Pam: We addressed question two. What is the strategic purpose of occupying

public space? First and foremost, to teach other people the practical skills that we have

learned to use here to occupy this space. This allows this process to become repeatable.

Different situations and different audiences will be suited to different environments and

communication styles so we want to encourage occupying other different spaces, such as the

workshops and the auditoriums and central park… The purposed to meet our needs, especially for people that have slipped through the cracks. To keep our energy up especially as it gets colder, to be a form near a symbol, to be too big to ignore.

53.1.1.2.8 I am Lex. I am Brian. Brian: Today we are choosing to address the first question. Where do you see occupy movement going? In a word, where we take it. Ok that’s four words. One of the main points of where this movement needs to go is horizontal. We need to take it home. Everywhere! All the homes, not just the cities, not just the tents, Lex is going to talk about barber shops. Lex: In my hood, we have barber shops. See! This this their fine work. In barber shops in the hood, social ills are addressed constantly. We can take this very real active and potent movement directly to where a captive audience is available 365 days a year. Can you feel me!?!?

53.1.1.2.9 Hi I’m Dan: we addressed question three. We decided as regards to the first part, we already succeeding at building those bridges. The occupy open space model is also the bridge and we are giving people optimism that did not exist in September. Finally, the way to move forward and engage and reach goals is to stay with it and those will develop. Thank you.

53.1.1.2.10 My name is Melissa: we had question three about building bridges. The first thing we talked about was disengaging from existing systems, acknowledging that we would have to do this only as much as is possible. We thought it is good to outline baby steps like we did from moving to big banks to credit unions. We need to engage our friends, families and colleagues sharing with them; the power of the beloved community that is developing here. One baby step that we identified with the upcoming holidays, we can invert the system in ways that economic impact and suck the consumerism out of the holidays, redefine the season.

F: Peoples mic, let’s use it, I’m losing my voice, thanks!

53.1.1.2.11 Nick: I’m Nick, our group addressed question three… How to bridge the gap. We asked the question on whether or not we would want to work with current politicians, or whether we want to move around the current system all together. Working with the current system of capitalism and democratic republic, we feel it would be good to ask for campaign finance reform, as well as finance reform in the election of judges, and that if we are going to work with current politicians which politicians would we look to for assistance? That’s all we got.

F: Last person on stack is Danny

F: Danny?

F: OK, everybody take a deep breath. We are going to move to the next item, which is a proposal from the Screen-Printing Guild

53.1.2 Screen-Printing Guild Proposal

F: if anyone out here is confused about the consensus process, please don’t disrupt it, get my attention and we will talk about it back there. Thanks

53.1.2.1 Hi I’m David from the Screen-Printers Guild (SPG). Since the second week of this occupation we have been screen-printing textiles and tee-shirts for free over there. All of our donations come back to this occupation. To date we have netted this occupation over $10,000. Here is an example of our shirt, he is wearing one too! Last week at this GA we got a consensus for a budget to buy five hundred t-shirts and we have screen-printed all of them this past weekend and have more than made up the five thousand dollars. We are back here for another request for 4 rounds of 5000 each with the stipulation that we only ask for the next 5000 after we have made back the 5000 we just got. This is time sensitive because we’ve already gone through the t-shirts we got last week and this Friday 11/11 is going to be HUGE!!! I have so many more details, but budgeting is boring, so I’ll let you ask for the details during CQs

F: Temp check on this proposal: [Positive] it looks like everybody is pretty jazzed. If there are any concerns or CQs, ask them now. We usually like to go with questions first, so if you have a question throw up that C and we will get you on stack.

53.1.2.2 Clarifying Questions (CQ)

F: Just a reminder this part is for questions only, concerns will come afterwards, thank you…. my bad, I wanted it to go faster, and I’m a stickler for policy of process…sorry

53.1.2.2.1 Q: Mikey…I love the screen-printers guild, quick question though… Is this body still empowered to make those decisions?

A: Yes!

PoI: Just to be clear, the SC hasn’t begun addressing financial decisions, until then, the GA still does that for all financial decisions.

F: Next on stack we have Corey.

53.1.2.2.2 Q: When you get donations and you give it over to the info or wherever, are they keeping track of your donations specifically to make up that 5000?

A: Everyday, we count our earnings, bring it to finance, and get issued a receipt so we have a total record of our earning.

F: Next on stack, Philly

53.1.2.2.3 Q: Is this an appropriate time to ask about 11/11?

F: Questions about future events such as 11/11 which is a great question but not specific to this proposal can be answered afterwards after the GA by other people working specifically on that topic.

53.1.2.2.4 Tam: Q: I love the screen-printers guild, rocking one now… I’ve been asking if you are using non-toxic paint.

A: Yes!

F: IF there are no more Q’s we will close stack on Q’s and open for concerns, if you have a concern just raise your hand.

F: Stack is open for concerns

53.1.2.3 Concerns

F: Just make sure that your concern is about this proposal, thanks!

53.1.2.3.1 C: It’s about the t-shirts, I had heard that there was someone else trying to get a trademark and I wanted to know if there was anything official with that or if this is the more official way to go, and what’s up with that trademark?

F: That’s not what we are talking about, we wanna get consensus on whether or not the SPG can keep printing shirts since there are no concerns we are going to move to see if there are any blocks

53.1.2.4 Blocks

F: Temp check on giving money to the SPG, specifically 5000? (Temperature check good!)

53.1.2.5 Consensus

SPG: Come get screen-printed over there!

PoI: TO address the young woman with the question, I suggest she go to legal.

53.1.3 Occupy Edmonton (OE)

F: Next item is expressing solidarity with Edmonton and maybe sending them some money.

F: So we have a rep from occupy Edmonton

F: I ask you standing in the front and on the sides to please find some way to sit down, you are blocking.

53.1.3.1 OE: My name is Eric; I have made friends with some heroic people in Edmonton. They are facing temps of 40 below, three feet of snow is normal. They inspire me. They are very creative; they have fought against a boondoggle stadium and took over a city council meeting. Their health and safety depends on having hi-tech camping gear. This is an emergency. Our brothers and sisters health is at stake. Are you moved by their determination [temp check good]? Do you want to support them? Please solute them over the live feed. See the tree! We love you Edmonton!!!! We are moved by your sacrifice your commitment inspires us.

The proposal says “We of the NYGA hereby name occupy Edmonton to be the occupation of the week of OWS. We instruct finance to provide them with the requisition $6500 worth of gear for camping plus training and public relations support.”

F: Ok that’s the proposition. Stack is now open for CQ. Raise your hand if you want to get on stack.

53.1.3.2 CQ

F: We will leave stack open for a few more minutes. First on stack, is Emory.

53.1.3.2.1 Q: I just want to clarify what is meant by the second part of that proposal to give money where its talks about support, what is that? Not the part about equipment, I get that, but I forget the exact words you used.

A: The majority of the rest of the support is training over the live feed and facilitation meetings which we will shortly be scheduling. Does that answer it?

A: Yes.

F: Next on stack is Jason.

53.1.3.2.2 Q: This is a fairly common question with budget proposals, can you be any more specific…never mind it’s on the sheet

F: Next on stack is Steve.

53.1.3.2.3 Q: I wanna ask who will receive immediate access to the 6500 to determine how they will be spent for the greater good of the occupy movement.

A: I believe that the 6500 will be spent on online retailers directly shipping the goods to Edmonton; we will not be sending money, but only gear and supplies.

53.1.3.2.4 Q: Who is in charge in receiving the gear?

PoP: You already asked your question.

F: Just to be clear, the PoP you have already asked your question and it sounds like you have a follow up, maybe you should on stack for your follow-up if it’s not answered in other questions.

A: We are happy to send people we know well, a Canadian, with the gear to make sure it arrives.

F: Next on stack is Niko.

53.1.3.2.5 Q: My question is whether or not we can coordinate with SIS to provide some of these materials without buying more materials and sending them directly from us?

F: I don’t know if this is a PoP or PoI but friendly amendments will be addressed after concerns.

F: Next on stack is Tim.

53.1.3.2.6 Q: Hi, when we awesomely gave money to Oakland, part of what was consensed upon was that a process be created for establishing a fund for support financially of other movements, other occupations, how does that relate to this?

A: This is an emergency, there is a process that the team called movement building is attempting to define, it’s not ready yet.

F: Next on stack, Zack.

53.1.3.2.7 Q: I’m Zach, just a quick Q; the budget in the written proposal is different than the budget proposed…I was wondering if the proposal is still for 6500, or for 7466.95?

A: My mistake, it was the 6500 plus shipping, tents are very heavy.

F: Next on stack is Mike.

53.1.3.2.8 Q: It’s been answered.

F: Next on stack is Charley.

53.1.3.2.9 Q: Me too (answered already).

53.1.3.2.10 Q: Can people just a slight summary about the resources this community has for newcomers for we are all connecting, so we can be supportive but can understand what we are supporting with and from, for example, as in the previous discussion knowing that the materials sent are used will not be from sweat shops.

F: Did everyone hear that? Please repeat the question, and speak up.

53.1.3.2.10 (Repeated) Q: Two main things, can you summarize how much money you have at this point from which you are asking this donation, and two, are you already well covering the discussion of the most environmentally and labor sound materials to send?

F: Is there anyone from Finance?

PoI: Before proposals are brought to GA, they are run by finance

PoI: Since this is an emergency proposal, I’m wondering if it was run by finance.

A: I did discuss this with a few people on finance; one thing that was mentioned is that we collect sometimes in one box, a single day, the kind of money that will help these people get through the winter.

F: The last I knew, our proposals for money are consensed upon by the GA, not finance, additionally I think we have about half a million dollars.

F: Are there any more concerns? I mean questions.

A: I would be happy to make a request that they use best efforts to source the gear and the….in a way consistent with this question (about good material sourcing).

F: So it sounds like we want Edmonton to stay warm, but we also want to make sure that they are accountable, and we are accountable for the money and supply trail and the kinds of supplies we are sending. We want to open it up now for concerns.

53.1.3.3 Concerns

F: Stack is now open for concerns…right now we have two people on stack.

F: First on stack is Steve.

53.1.3.3.1 C: I would like to know which vendors will be chosen to supply Edmonton as we know this is a movement against corporations. I would like to know that our brothers and sisters in Edmonton are being supplied with ethical and socially responsible people…accepting our money for the revolution.

A: As a Canadian, the items are beings sourced from a coop known as mountain equipment coop. I have researched them on my own in the past and say that they try to the best of their abilities to be ethically and environmentally sound, and they are local….and they rock!

F: Next on stack is Jason.

53.1.3.3.2 C: I’m sorry to waste a little time, I just wanted dot say that this is one of the most detailed and well put together proposal I have ever seen

F: If there are no more concerns after this, we will close stack.

53.1.3.3.3 C: MikeL: I don’t want our brothers to freeze, but I’m still concerned that we set up another program to help fund occupations in distress. I think this body needs to stress importance of us knowing what is happening with that body.

F: Finally on stack, Corey.

53.1.3.3.4 C: I just have a concern that there is going to be a gas generator… with there be a similar situation with what happened here and it being confiscated.

A: I think we know that it is allowed in the current location of the occupation of the occupation to use gas generators. I can check to be totally confident.

PoI: Just to add to it, none of the Canadian occupations, none of the police have even tried to raid or move in on the occupations.

F: So if it’s alright, can we do a temp check?

F: Can we get a temp check (good) we would like to open to friendly amendments.

53.1.3.4 Friendly Amendments (FA)

F: Just to remind everyone, the proposers have to decide if the amendment is friendly.

F: Donkey

53.1.3.4.1 FA: Donkey: With respect to the first sentence of the proposal as I suggest. This is not a competition that the first sentence read we of the New York GA express our solidarity with occupy Edmonton.

F: I think there is confusion about your FA. Can you quote?

53.1.3.4.1 (continued) FA: The resolution says “We from the NYCGA hereby name occupy Edmonton to be the occupation of the week at OWS.” My proposal is that we say instead that we express our solidarity with OE and change that first sentence.

F: Temp check about that FA? (Temp good)

A: The idea that we who have a huge amount of press have a poster child every week forced into the media…we are national and international movement, why not start that this week?

PoP: That seems to be another proposal establishing that.

A: Friendly amendment accepted.

F: Next on stack is Jason.

F: Jason left, next is Ruth.

53.1.3.4.2 FA: I hope that people in Edmonton with our help will be warm but I want to suggest for future when it’s not an emergency that instead of several people needing a 300 sleeping bag, for ten, 300 dollars you could build a shelter that people could share. I don’t want to block this plan but in the future that would be worth discussing, it has to do with individual or group problem solving and construction.

F: We have several PoP.

F: The first FA was passed, that wasn’t an FA but thanks.

53.1.3.4.3 Jared: I would like to propose a FA that there is coordination with SIS to send extra supplies, thanks!

A: Accepted!

PoI: I’m Bill from SIS, I came a little late… has this been sent to SIS, we have information about what materials are requested.

A: Not yet, happy to do it

F: I think this means these two should meet up…you should meet up afterwards since you proposal is dealing with the financial and availability part right now.

PoI: I was here at the GA two nights and SIS stated that they have a large need for heavy duty sleeping bags and gear, so I’m assuming that they don’t have any to donate.

F: Next on stack is Tim.

53.1.3.4.4 Tim’s FA: I’m hoping you’ll be comfortable changing NY to Liberty Square as this GA doesn’t represent all of NYC.

A: Accepted.

F: Jonathan.

53.1.3.4.5 FA: He already said my concern.

F: Stephanie.

53.1.3.4.6 FA: my FA is that instead of two gas generators we get two biodiesel generators or some other environmentally friendly generators.

A: The proposal is to give them the ability to spend 7500. I will give you their contact information about how they spend their money. This is a budget that will get modified at least a little, does that work for you.

53.1.3.4.6 (continued) FA: I’m slightly uncomfortable with that.

F: The last FA requests that they use biodiesel instead of gas. It’s my understanding that these things might be much more expensive. If the proposer wants to accept, the dollar amount will probably change a lot.

PoI: I myself am not entirely clear, but I suspect that the type of fuel is important for such a deep cold, some of the same things just don’t work at minus 40 degrees.

F: If there are no more FA, can we get a temp check? My bad, please restate with the FA.

PoI: I was just going to add that not only is biofuel maybe more expensive but it requires outfitting the machines in a different way and it might be complicate, might not be a biofuel production facility near them.

F: We are waiting for the proposal to be restated with the FA.

53.1.3.5 OE: We of liberty square GA in solidarity with Occupy Edmonton do hereby instruct finance to provide them with the requested 7500 worth of gear and supplies for camping and training and public relations support. We love you OE we are moved by your sacrifice. Your commitment inspires us.

F:..

PoI: I don’t fully know the process here, perhaps this is friendly amendment of information, but maybe we should give them a little more money if a biodiesel generator is an available to use. If not……If the amount of energy a generating can produce can provide the same heat no matter what the source…..

PoP: We are no longer taking FAs, that was a good suggestion and I think they heard it so hopefully they will consider it. At this point, I’d like to get a temp check to see how everyone is feeling about this proposal (gooood)

F: Any people with sad fingers? Any blocks?

53.1.3.6 Consensus!!!

53.1.4 Principles of Solidarity Proposal

F: The last proposal is from principles and solidarity. Please come forth. Principles of solidarity please come to the GA!!!

53.1.4.1 Principles of Solidarity: Good evening. This proposal is designed to ideally put a stop to inappropriate persons and tent displacement when the larger community needs a space that is already being occupied by occupiers. What has been proposed by six working groups, or rather representatives of these groups is as follows: that when the community needs space, it maps it out in some matter. Anyone who happens to be occupying that space they have a right to be satisfactorily moved somewhere else, so, when we move people, we have to find a space for them. When we find a space for a person, the community then holds that area someone so no other occupier takes it until all the different spaces that are required, the community has after having taken everyone who may have occupied the space, to their rightful place that they are happy with, because a large space that the community needs may have more than one person in it. We have to balance keeping everyone happy somehow. Also, getting the space that community needs in a peaceful fashion. If there are people concerned that there is not enough space to house all the tents, people, occupiers who dwell here, so that they may be against this proposal, because it greatly empowers occupiers to recognize that while this is a limited space, there is occupy central park that is happening, and there are so many other occupations, and that they are even asking us for money. So recognize that this could be the impetus for communication of occupiers themselves between various groups. It may be that there isn’t a place that someone is satisfied here for a tent person to move to, but there could be somewhere else.

The technical proposal is: No one can be moved unless they are happy about moving and that if anyone sees someone being forcibly moved, even by forcible coercion, they should support that person and let them know they don’t have to move until they are satisfied, stay with them as necessary until they get mediation.

F: At this point, we will open this proposal up for questions.

53.1.4.2 Questions

PoI: just a reminder, moving someone’s tent without their permission is illegal, I feel this proposal may be redundant.

PoI: I wanted to say that the proposer mentioned occupy central park which is not a real occupation, it’s just a festival.

F: Raise your hands to get on stack for questions.

F: It’s getting late, should we set a time limit for this discussion, fifteen minutes (temp check good). While taking stack for questions, we will hear an emergency announcement if that’s ok (temp check good).

F: We have our generators back, we want to turn them on at 10pm and we are holding an emergency DA training. We need people to be volunteers to put their bodies on the line to protect the people’s power just in case the FD or the PD try to take our generators, meet us at 10pm at the library for an immediate DA training, thank you. These are our generators that we have had from day one, the ones that FDNY took the other day.

F: Stack, first is Rachel.

53.1.4.2.1 Q: I just want to know who will enforce this system of mapping and standing by people everything you describe because from what I know that is the town planning group, I am curious if there is collaboration if there is a master town plan being created.

A: That is not my area, town planning is the one who decides where things are going, I’m with principles of solidarity, due to the tents that recently gone up great disruption to the unity of the camp, to the solidarity of the camp, has transpired. Large numbers of people have even left due to being so disenfranchised…hence, this proposal is to empower everyone that they could put a stop to it if they see it happening, so that everyone knows town planning or whoever is displacing people has no authority to move people even just by convincing them or by bullying them, which has been done. I will just say that yesterday…the reason why it’s so important is yesterday I occupied OWS and I refused to vacate one of the tents that was going up because it was done in such a fashion that upset people. I called for help, and no one did.

PoI: Town Planning is a working group; they do not decide where things go, they decide on proposals to bring to the GA.

PoI: If I recall, the GA approved a plan to purchase and buy these tents. There are only so many places these large tents will fit. Perhaps there is another approach.

53.1.4.2.2 Q: Hello, many time I pass you by I didn’t find interest to be part of you, for the first time after more than a month I am sitting among you…I am interested to know who has the priority to set agenda, who has the right to stay in a tent, and who has a right to move that person out of that tent, we are all here t…. knowing this place is overcrowded, only the priority of what idea that needs the space to serve this movement better and more clear has the right to move anyone that is already occupied.

A: Just remember we lose our moral authority if we force people out of this place because then the police can say why can’t we take them they are doing the same thing…we have to be better than that.

PoI: We didn’t force anyone to leave Zuccotti Park.

F: This is really important, we don’t want people to leave and we don’t want to move people’s tents. Some are being forcefully moved because we are trying to put up bigger tents. So, there are two camps, we want people to stay in their tents and be happy, but we have to balance between putting big tents with town planning.

PoP: It my understanding that fascilitators would not be voicing their opinions while facilitation.

F: I’m sorry if that sounded like an opinion, I was trying to synthesize what I was hearing to make it concise to we can move forward and find a solution to make both camps happy.

Charlie: ……..

Mike: Hi, I have a serious question/pop/concern. We set a precedent as to 53.1.4.2.3 What is an emergency proposal…I’m not sure this is an emergency. And proposals almost need to be written out. I’m very concerned that we might even thing about consensing on something we don’t know what we are consensing on.

A: I will say this is an emergency this was already raised. There are tents going up almost every day. There have been many people displaced d in the last few days. Just today, a terrible circumstance happened which I would like Brett to witness. Tell us what you know when comfort was putting up its new tent.

F: Please wait for facilitators to call on you. We will listen to what the witness has to say, despite we are just asking for questions that clarify the proposal. Additionally the next step is to voice concerns, and after that, we will get FAs for this proposal, after that, we will see after that.

A: To caveat this, I want to be very clear, I didn’t see this. As a member of the facilitation team, I agreed to hear what his witness said and repeat it back to you without adding any spin. So I cannot clarify or answer any questions beyond the very little that I am willing to say. I was told that there was an older gentleman who had been living in this camp, he suffered a head injury, went to the hospital, came back, and reoccupied his tent. Today, attempts were made to set up a new large tent. He was told to move, and his tent was forcibly taken down, he was distraught…that’s all I’ll say.

F: We have four minutes to get this complete; please let’s move along and take care of business.

53.1.4.2.4 Josh: …..

F: Daniel

53.1.4.2.5 Daniel: withdrawn

PoI: comfort does not have a large army tent to erect.

PiI: comfort has, another large tent to erect.

PoI: …

F: We would like to hear concerns, if you have a concern, get on stack.

F: Also, please remember to keep your concerns short and to the point, I’m sure we are all tired and very interested and concerned, so let’s keep it to one minute if possible per speaker.

53.1.4.3 Concerns

53.1.4.3.1 C: maybe its just me, if so I’m really sorry, but I have a concern that this proposal is not very clear, at least to me, I don’t know what id be consenting to.

53.1.4.3.2 Ruth: I was wondering, if people bringing large tents have asked if anyone in small tents including anyone who faced any controversy regarding removal would be welcome as soon as possible as soon as anyone else, in the new tents, and this is the same issue as how the wider society deals with such things as they used to call urban renewal, or problems between or destroyed the community they try to develop. I hope this is a learning process and that we do well with, if there is another place we can camp without being arrested, please mention it to us.

53.1.4.3.3 Josh: Let’s remember, this population of small tents is not the first population that will be cast out of this park when bigger tents come in because these very tents cast out a population of transient people sleeping in sleeping bags, who picked up there stuff during the day and let the whole community use it. I like that.

F: I’m reading the crowd and I don’t know what I’m looking at. Temp check about this proposal. (temp check medium, negative) Right now we are voicing concerns.

A: The facilitator had an opinion earlier, and he is again expressing it now by trying to table it. I would like to address these issues, then we could take it back to the stage, Right now we are addressing concerns and only concerns. Please get on stack if you have a concern about this proposal. WE are going to close stack about concerns. I just want to say we are hearing everything and taking it into account and appreciate everyone being patient. Let me say, taking a temperature check was not my attempt to express my opinion, just wanted to let everyone see everyone else opinion.

53.1.4.3.4 Debra: I don’t doubt that this is an important issue but it sounds like there is more discussion to be had. My concern is that the GA does not understand it enough. I don’t think the GA should vote or consense on proposals that are not clearly understood.

F: The purpose of taking questions before this was to clarify the proposal, I heard little people asking questions to clarify what the presenter please present the actionable element of this proposal so it may be clear.

F: Are we all right to let him take a break to read his proposal.

A: The proposal is “occupiers in a space required by the community have to consent in order to be removed or consent regarding a shared used of the space” and by the shared use of the space, this fulfills your need.

F: That’s the end of the proposal. There are seven people currently on stack.

53.1.4.3.5 Stephanie: I agree that no one should be forcibly moving anyone and I appreciate your suggestions on how to work with people for solutions, however I’m extremely concerned about the concept that anyone has proprietary ownership over a spot. Just two weeks ago we were all moving every night. I also have concern about how this is right now in the GA. It seems we skipped the process of mediated discussions and workshops.

53.1.4.3.6 Georgey:

53.1.4.3.7 Jeol: My concern is again with redundancy. Everything in the proposal as it was just stated is already a law. Nobody can force you to move, it’s a public park. IN the facilitation meeting today when it was brought to us as an emergency protocol, it was more about how to deal with tents that were in the way. You made it sound like we adopt new language when someone was asked to move his or her tent, a new place would be provided.

PoI: We have been providing a space for people to move to.

F: If you want to speak, get on stack!

53.1.4.3.8 Emery: I would like to echo some of the concerns about the clarity of what this proposal would mean in everyday actions and I feel that there is a lot of discussion that must take place around the issues of tents in general however the GA format is a shitty place to have that type of discussion.

53.1.4.3.9 Rachael: I’m concerned that this isn’t written down because I think it requires much more detail about the process of implementing this idea and I wonder if it should happen in SC because it is operational and would involve mediation and town council, so I think that would be the next step.

PoI: At the facilitation meeting today we were discussion the fact that it is unknowable when the SC will be fully operational and until that time the GA will continue to hear these matters.

F: Let’s use the peoples mic…. despite the fact that there are people that think my facilitation style is expressing my opinion, I am looking and listening I am hearing and seeing many very different opinions and structures involved with this proposal. Do you guys want to keep talking about this throughout the night? (Medium) Can we come to another decision about working through this or coming to some other decision, maybe tabling it, maybe starting a working group, or some other idea, because we have a lot of other stuff (working group report backs and announcements) to get through.

53.1.4.3.10 So apparently this emergency proposal is possibly going to affect some displacement situations that are happening right now but what is unclear is what this proposal is going to do to actionably prevent or promote these displacements form happening?

A: Occupiers in a space required by the community have to consent in order to be removed or consent regarding a shared use of the space.

F: I can no longer facilitate this discussion because I strongly feel this is not even a proposal and I don’t know how this work.

F: We are going to finish up stack quickly.

53.1.4.3.11 Kerry: My concern that this goes outside all of our existing channels and working groups that we already have to deal with conflicts between security and mediation and the physical allocation of space, which is town planning, I’m concerned that the proposer didn’t consult any of these working groups, informing these working groups.

A: I did, and yesterday there was an emergency meeting due to the terrible disunity that broke out in the camp… There were representatives from principles in solidarity, security, comfort, a doctor from medical, media, we came to 100 percent agreement.

53.1.4.3.12 Q: my concern from someone from occupy Boston who has had experience in our occupation with similar issues is that while is support the spirit of this fully, my concern is that this proposal does not establish a procedure for dealing with these issues. To highlight this a case in point we have had several instances where it was deemed important to move disruptive people. With your proposal, we would have no way of doing that. I would like to see a procedure adopted who are working with the same concerns, write a proposal and bring it back.

A: This is an emergency stop gap measure to keep unity amongst occupiers. When anyone is left behind, it breaks our unity. This is just designed to peacefully make sure that new big tents that are coming in are coming in a peacefully fashion.

53.1.4.3.13 Stephanie: …

53.1.4.3.14. Joyce: Good evening everyone. Here is what I feel, during the century we have been living in lies, the only…. when we know who we are, to the ear…..which…very simply, ……POP.

F: Thanks for sharing this, I think it’s important, in the spirit of the proposal I would ask you save that for soapbox after GA.

53.1.4.3.15 Richard: a lot of our concerns have been addressed, it seems very complex and there is a sense of urgency on both sides. If it’s a stopgap measure, it should be limited in duration to 24 hours.

A: I would think at least one week.

PoP: that is a FA, we are still on concerns. Temp check about proposal.

F: We are opening a short stack for FA, and remember he gets to decide if it is a FA or not.

53.1.4.4 Friendly Amendments

53.1.4.4.1 FA: I propose we offer a time period for which this is effective of 48 hours from now.

A: That would be perfect.

F: Temp check with the proposal with the FA, please read with FA.

53.1.4.5 For the next 48 hours, until the next GA, occupiers in a space required by the community have to consent in order to be removed or consent regarding a shared usage of spa…

F: Blocks?

49.1.4.4 Blocks

49.1.4.4.1 Block: I’m seriously concerned that this body is empowered to make that decision. I’ll ask one question to ask that. How many people in this body are sleeping here tonight? (some hands)

F: Can you offer a FA?

A: Stop gap principles probably aren’t worth discussion in the GA. I propose that he tables it til Thursday or bring it to the spokes council…I’ve been here since day four.

A: In response to this block, this proposal more empowers those who actually live here, which is you, so this is in your best interest.

Block removed.

49.1.4.5 Consensus on the amended proposal.

49.2 Working Group Report Backs

F: It doesnt look like any WG report backs. Temp check on going to announcements (good).

49.3 Announcements

49.3.1 Jared: The subgroup of the political anda electoral reform working group and the campaign for constitutional reform, is having a house party tomorrow night at 7 pm at 60 wall st, the atrium, to plan an action to commemorate the two year anniversary of citizens united. To call for a constitutional amendment to reverse it. Please come Bernie sanders is doing a live webcast and if you happen to have one of those mobile hotspots please bring it, cuz I’m not sure if the wifi at the atrium is very good. WE can also just use phones, and that’s only part of it, it’s mostly to plan the action. Also, if you have any questions come talk to me. Thanks.

F: Please remember these are announcements, keep them short.

49.3.2 Danny: I have two things to say. A group of us have been working with media to get a radio station going here. We made some progress but we are lacking equipment. If you have any and can share thatd be great. We meet Saturdays at 1pm at the atrium, 60 Wall St for Radio. Contact us: owsradio@riseup.net. Second, I’m also working with another group who was stated a website calledoccupywallstreetstories.com as a platform to collect individual experiences and stories related to the entire occupy movement. If you have something to share submit at occupywallstreestories.com, or to help out, itsoccupystories@gmail.com

49.3.3 Seth: Yo, I can use your help, I don’t trust my landlord to give me back my security deposit so I want to occupy my apartment for the month of December, if you’re interested, meet me after the meeting. Thanks.

49.3.4 Jordan: I’m from Direct Action, we are doing a training right now in park defense specific to an issue that media brought up earlier at this GA. We are meeting for this training at the red cube right now.

F: We are gonna close GA, feel free to stick around for soapbox. If you have feedback about the facilitation tonight, find us. Also, find us every day at 60 Wall St. at our meeting where you can come and do this. We meet at 4 pm. Its really wonderful and we need more facilitators, come hang out with us. We also offer training in facilitation and direct democracy every day at 530 at 60 Wall St.

Finish @ 10:25pm

**NYCGA Minutes 11/10/2011**

Posted November 10th, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 55

Date / Time: Thursday 10/11/2011 / 7:00pm EST

Location: Zuccotti Park, NY, NY

Facilitators: Brie, Zach

Stack Keeper: Joel; Stack Reader: Shazz; Time Keeper: Eileen; Minute Taker: Stephanie

[Facilitator introductions]

[Review of progressive stack]

[Review of hand signals]

[Review of modified consensus process]

AGENDA 55.1. Agenda Items (Occupy the Holiday Proposal, Brooklyn Occupy the Block Emergency Proposal, Movement Building Proposal, Archives Proposal, Principles of Solidarity Proposal, Call to Action Proposal, Fire Safety Concerns, Direct Action Event Proposal, Direct Action Defense Discussion, Occupy Within Proposal)

55.2. Working Group Report Backs and Announcements

F: Also, it’s going to rain tonight perhaps, 40% chance at 9pm. We have a long agenda tonight, and I’d like to take you through it real quickly to give you a sense of how much time everything is going to take.

New F: We’d also like to address the idea of Step Up Step Back. This means if you’ve grown up having parents and a community that taught you to always voice your opinions, it is your responsibility to step back. If you’ve grown up learning that your voice was not important, it is your responsibility to step forward. We must help each other in stepping up and stepping back.

[same F continues to list the agenda items:]

The first item is Occupy the Holiday. We suggest ten minutes. The second item is an emergency proposal about Brooklyn Occupy the Block, we suggest fifteen minutes. The third

item is Movement Building: A trip to Egypt. We suggest twenty minutes. Archives: we

suggest ten minutes. Principles of Solidarity: we suggest twenty minutes. Call to Action: we

suggest twenty minutes. Concern about fire safety: we suggest fifteen minutes. Direct Action

on November 17th: We suggest fifteen minutes. Direct Action regarding the defense of the

park: we suggest fifteen minutes. Occupy Within: we suggest ten minutes. That will be two

and a half hours, if we can keep it concise.

New F: After which, if there is still time, we will have WGRBs and Announcements. Quiet

hours start at 11PM, so we have to be done around 11. Additionally, we want to say that the

process of the GA can be modified. This is done by bringing proposals to the GA and having

them passed by consensus. Thank you.

New F: First up is Occupy the Holiday. Come on up, please!

55.1. Agenda Items

55.1.1. Occupy the Holiday Proposal

55.1.1.1. Occupy the Holiday: Hi everyone, I’m Kara. I’m here to talk about poverty and

kids this holiday season. One in five children are living below the poverty line. This is

unacceptable. This season, I would like to see us work with Toys for Tots, whose sole

purpose is to make sure that all kids have a happy holiday season. Toys for Tots was started

by Marines, and they’re happy to have our support. What I’m asking for is a small fund, $350

to get basic boxes, bells, things of that nature and teams on the ground in five spots in the city

– we like being on the ground anyway – to bring this issue to the front for people in the city.

That’s really all I have to say, I hope we can kick Scrooges’ asses here, and I’m open to

questions…

F: We will now open stack for questions, so come talk to our stack greeter and get yourself

on stack!

New F: We will first open stack for questions, these are CQs. We will next open stack for

concerns. Any concerns you have with the proposal will be voiced at this time. Finally, we

will take FAs. Then we will take a temperature check to see how the group feels about

moving toward testing for consensus. At this point, if the temperature check looks good,

we’ll move to checking for blocks. If there are no blocks, it is consensus. If there are blocks,

we’ll move to the procedure I outlined before [modified consensus process]. Any questions?

New F: No questions.

New F: I will now open stack for concerns.

55.1.1.2. Concerns

55.1.1.2.1. Crn: Audacio: I am concerned that Toys for Tots encourages consumerism in

children. You do not need toys to be happy. We need love.

R: I agree, but kids all want a little joy, and they’re not necessarily being conditioned, as all of us were not. We don’t have to give just toys, we can get books, we can get educational toys, we can make sure all toys are American made, we can encourage these things.

55.1.1.2.2. Crn: I concur with the last speaker, I am very concerned having a grandchild and this whole business of consumerism and perpetuating the myth that we need toys for joy. I am also concerned with your last comment to the extent that we should buy American. We’re a global world now, we were always a global world, and we need to think in global terms.

R: That’s fair. I don’t have a response for that because I don’t disagree.

55.1.1.2.3. Crn: Rob: I have one other concern. I sort of agree with the previous speaker’s point. All the jobs for manufacturing those toys are being shipped overseas. So if we’re getting American toys, we’re getting American jobs.

R: I don’t have an answer because I don’t think we can ask people to donate solely one type of gift. We can encourage charity that is in line with our belief system, but we can’t require this to be solely our specific belief system. I think it’s bigger than that.

F: [closing stack for concerns]

Next on stack: Isa. On deck: Max.

55.1.1.2.4. Crn: Isa: Hello! My concern, including consumerism, is the religious aspect of the holidays. There are other religions celebrating, so not only does this take away from our primary purpose, but it also opens up the movement to attack from the outside because we’re aligning with one religion over another.

R: I would say we could choose to get donations and give them to several organizations as an alternative. I spoke of Toys for Tots for two reasons: first, it is fairly universally recognized and supported for the philosophy it stands for, which is helping those who need.

Stack: Next on stack: Max.

55.1.1.2.5. Crn: Max: I just want to say that toys don’t have to be made by a big company, and there’s nothing wrong with helping a child have a fun holiday season. The gifts could be encouraged to be given, or rather purchased, from local merchants and craftsmen. People of many faiths celebrate the holiday season, so it doesn’t have to be overtly religious.

Next on stack: Patrick

55.1.1.2.6. Crn: Patrick: Hi. I wanted to know about the $350. Is it being used principally for the collection process, or more to go out and buy particular books and toys?

R: It would be used for the collection process. I touched base with Toys for Tots to see if they would welcome our help and what they would need from us. They said they are short on supplies for collection. It would be for boxes, some bells, some armbands that say OWS so that we can modestly identify ourselves. And that’s about it. The breakdown is on the proposal on the nycga website.

55.1.1.2.7. Crn: Charlene: I was going to suggest that maybe Toys for Tots can take a minor role in OWS and take a major role by funneling this project to the Occupies in the outer boroughs and letting them get involved in their communities by giving toys or doing that kind of thing.

F: We are now at time limit. If you would like to extend our time for this topic by five minutes, please twinkle your fingers. [mostly middle and negative] It looks mixed, so we won’t extend the time.

CQ: Can the proposal be restated?

R: The proposal is to mobilize OWS and a fund of $350 to get ourselves on the ground and raising funds for children this holiday season.

F: Temperature check on this proposal? [mostly positive]

New F: We’d now like to move for check for blocks? Are there any blocks? [no blocks] The proposal passes!

55.1.1.3. Consensus.

PoP: What about stand-asides?

F: Stand-asides are not typically a part of the GA process. They have been employed in the SC model, but this is different.

New F: Next up we would like to call the emergency proposal, Brooklyn Occupy the Block.

New F: This was given to us, the Facilitation team, as an emergency proposal, which means that they do not post it 24 hours in advance, so we’d like to ask the GA for its permission to hear this emergency proposal.

55.1.2. Brookly Occupy the Block Proposal

55.1.2.1. Brooklyn Occupy the Block: I’m Leo. I’m Helen. I”m Samantha. I’m Robert. We’re representing the Brooklyn GA tonight, and we’re asking for $670 to fund the Occupy Your Block weekend starting Saturday. On this weekend, we’ve planned a rally and marches, eight teach-ins, and something like four direct actions on Sunday, a community lunch, and some more teach-ins on Sunday, and a GA. This is in cooperation with OWS Outreach, which is promoting the Occupy Your Block weekend. We are anticipating hundreds and even more people. And this funding is an emergency because it’s on Saturday. We’ve already started incurring costs for it, and some of those have to do with issues that have arisen from negotiating with the city, so that our event is safe for people in Brooklyn who will have concerns about a police presence or violating the law.

F: The criteria for an emergency proposal is it must be time-sensitive. It must also involve an external deadline previously unknowable. We’d like to ask the presenter to explain why this is an emergency proposal.

55.1.2.1. (Continued) Brooklyn Occupy the Block: So the needs coming out of negotiating with the city are part of what makes this an emergency, so that families can come and feel safe. Also, we have been in communication with the Outreach OWS working group for three weeks about holding this event. We thought that we would be able to get funds from the Outreach funds for Occupy Your Block. Yesterday we were informed that we would have to bring this to this GA in order to get funding. We did not realize this. That’s why we’re here tonight.

F: I’d like to ask for a temperature check on whether this GA would like to discuss this proposal. [positive]

New F: Looks pretty positive. We will hear this proposal. We will now open stack for questions.

55.1.2.2. Clarifying Questions

55.1.2.2.1. CQ: Jeff: I would like to know, if you’ve been speaking with OWS Outreach work group for three weeks, why you only learned you would have to come to GA yesterday?

R: We were under the understanding that we would be able to get a portion of the money that the GA had approved for Occupy Your Block.

F: Are there any more questions?

55.1.2.2.2. CQ: Charlene: I’m wondering which communities in Brooklyn will be participating. As we all know, Brooklyn is huge.

R: We’ve been trying our best to connect with Occupy Sunset Park, Occupy Beth-Stuyvesant, Occupy Brownsville, and the list goes on. We’ve also been trying to do massive outreach to organizations, … and residents who work in many different neighborhoods. I’m sure some neighborhoods won’t be represented as much as we want them to be, but we hope on Saturday and Sunday to continue the conversations about how to improve that problem.

F: We’d like to close stack. If you’ve got a question or a statement, please get on stack now.

55.1.2.2.3. CQ: Pete from Finance: It kind of disturbs me that you guys did not sit down and properly budget the funds for this event. This is a conversation that should’ve happened three weeks ago. Otherwise, it would not be an emergency.

R: The nature of GAs in the outer boroughs is that the relationship to this GA is still developing and being defined, and that’s been a struggle, and it’s been very imperfect so far, but that is the reality.

55.1.2.2.3. (Continued) Pete: Basically, if you know that is the case, why didn’t you ask for funds earlier? R: Our liaisons in Outreach had suggested that we would be able to get funding through them. We are sorry we did not come to Finance earlier, we did not realize we needed to do that.

F: Now I would like to open for concerns.

55.1.2.3. Concerns

55.1.2.3.1. Crn: Rosario: I would like to ask as well as voice my concerns as I do not understand how the funds will be employed.

R: A chunk of it will go to porto potties. In getting permission to use the space that we are, we are required to provide porto potties and a couple other things. We are also going to spend money on the community lunch, which we are also lucky to have help from the Kitchen here. I have about twenty copies of the full budget, if twenty of you want it right now. Raise your hand if you’d like a budget.

F: Stack is now closed.

55.1.2.3.2. Crn: Jeff: I would like to say that I agree with the principles of this proposal, but I am concerned with the great number of groups coming to GA asking for funds when there are other processes to get financial support, and this is an emergency form.

R: The Brooklyn GA has not yet had an opportunity to do fundraising. We currently have $6. We are asking for this money because this is a tremendous outreach opportunity so we can build our numbers in Brooklyn and begin to become self-sustaining and support ourselves.

PoI: What’s the OWS budget?

F: I’m sorry but that’s not immediately relevant to the proposal at hand. If you’d like you can talk to the people at Finance, many of which are here and would be happy to fill you in. I’d like to next ask for FAs. I’ll now open stack.

55.1.2.4. Friendly Amendments (FA)

55.1.2.4.1. FA: I’d like to propose a FA that you borrow money for the porto potties and the action, fundraise that day, and pay the money back. [mixed response from crowd]

PoI: In the declaration passed by this GA we offer all the resources at our disposal.

F: At this point they get to decide if they want to accept the amendment.

R: We’d love it if in the future, GAs in other neighborhoods in Brooklyn could come to the Occupy Brooklyn GA and ask for help with other funds. But right now we don’t accept this FA because… we want to focus on creating a space for productive ….actions which is still in the very early stages in this GA.

55.1.2.4.2. FA: Eric: I strongly believe they deserve the funds they require, and I believe a more powerful way to secure these funds is through an online kickstarter campaign to popularize Occupy Brooklyn, popularize the event, and secure this very reasonable amount of money, and if for any reason that were to fail, that GA has them covered anyways.

F: Before we continue, I’d like to remind everybody that we’re over time for this agenda item. We have another seven proposals.

PoP: We are now accepting FAs, not discussions.

R: That’s a great idea for the future for Brooklyn. We’ve already been taking actions on the assumption that we had funding at hand, and we think it’s a reasonable amount to ask for tonight.

F: Just a reminder, we’re over time on this issue, let’s keep it short. Thank you.

55.1.2.4.3. FA: Luke: Hi! The money that we have in the GA fund was not that hard to raise. We’ve also not done active fundraising in over a month. Would you guys would be okay with taking $1500 and making things a little bit easier on yourselves?

R: Yeah!

F: PoP: We had this situation at last week’s GA, and what we decided is because this is an emergency proposal, we should decide on the requested amount of funds. If they’d like to request more funds later, they can fill out a proposal and go through the normal channels. [positive response]

55.1.2.4.4. FA: Hi. I’m Ryan. My FA is that we give the funds now, with the caveat that future funds to be raised will be dealt with in cooperation with the Finance working group, as we have done fundraising with other GAs in the past.

R: We discussed in Brooklyn our disappointment that we’ve had to do it this way. There’s a strong desire in Brooklyn to not have to take this approach in the future. This is a learning process… In other words we accept that.

55.1.2.4.5. FA: Nicole: I would like to present the FA that we give this money to the Brooklyn GA with the caveat that they must return here and ask for more money to kickstart the Brooklyn GA. OWS IS the Brooklyn GA! We support them, and the issues of the Brooklyn community are central to the issues of OWS. We are not hoarding money from them! We need to be extremely supportive! That was a bit of opinion, but I’m done.

F: PoP: That was not a FA. Stack was open for FAs. We would now like to take a temperature check on this proposal. Can we first restate in like two lines this proposal?

55.1.2.5. Brooklyn Occupy the Block: The proposal is to receive $670 to fund our Occupy Your Block weekend.

F: Temperature check. [positive] Looks pretty good. We’re building to consensus. Are there any blocks? [no blocks] The proposal passes.

55.1.2.6. Consensus.

New F: It’s now 8PM. We’ve been here for one hour. There’s someone at the very end of this agenda that really wants to have their chance. The next agenda item is Movement Building: A trip to Egypt. We hope twenty minutes will suffice.

New F: while we’re waiting for the Movement group, anyone who can move closer, occupy the stairs that are being vacated. Do it now so we can settle in for a while. Thank you.

New F: I get to do vibe-check too! How’s the vibe right now? Not too cold, not too hot, anybody hungry? I think there’s food back there…

55.1.3. Movement Building Proposal

55.1.3.1. Movement Building: Hi! My name’s Maria, and I represent the Coalition of Egyptian Civil Society Monitors, and they have made a request of OWS to help them monitor the elections. So I’m going to read to you two letters from different coalitions and from two individuals who came here, …..who are the founders and leaders of the April 6 movement, one of the main drivers of the Egyptian Revolution. [Reading from letter. Will fill in the rest of the content soon.] …Egyptians are very proud to have been the inspiration for your movement, and we wish you the best of luck in achieving your goals. In the spirit of international solidarity, we would like to invite OWS to send a delegate to Egypt and to observe the first step in our ……we hope this election will constitute not only the beginning of a genuine democratic government, but through your involvement, the first significant …dedicated to the universal ideals of freedom, human rights and social justice.” So I think I won’t read the next letter. Essentially what they want is, like it was stated in the letter, that we send a delegation and put out on our networks a request for participation. This is very important because these elections will be the first since the transition, and they will define who gets to write the constitution. So we are requesting for 20 people to go to Egypt on November 25th, which will cost $29,000, and this will include transportation, hostel accommodations, and airfare. We will be putting a call-out through all the working groups to send us three representatives who will be candidates and eventually decided upon by the Egyptian Coalition, who will go to Egypt to represent OWS and help them monitor these democratic elections. One more thing, we will also be putting the call-out to all of our caucuses.

F: We will now open stack for any questions.

55.1.3.2. Clarifying Questions

55.1.3.2.1. CQ: My question is that obviously with something this big, there are a lot of logistical issues. Is there a way for everyone to see all the logistics in detail online?

R: Currently there are several websites which detail the proposals from the different coalitions. We can add more information if people want to see it. However, there is a training program on the 26th and 27th where all the logistics have already been decided and that we would just tap into. So what I’m saying is that we will not be creating a program, we will be tapping into a program that’s already been created and worked on for a long time.

55.1.3.2.2. [same CQ]: I just wanted to clarify, I meant in regards to how the $29,000 would be used.

R: I can break it down for you now, or it’s also on nycga.net under the proposal. We budgeted $1200 for each airfare ticket, $50 for food and transport, and $20 for accommodations. This will not be a fun trip, it will be very high-risk, but I think it’s worth it.

F: Closing stack for questions

55.1.3.2.3. CQ: Hi. I would like to know which international organizations and which governmental organizations are you cooperating with, if at all?

R: Do you mean the Egyptian coalitions, or the Occupy movement?

55.1.3.2.3. (Continued) I mean for example is the UN involved, is the US State Department involved, etc.

R: So these coalitions, some of them are funded by international coalitions and governments, but the majority are by grassroots initiatives that involve 50,000 volunteers from across Egypt. The Cairo Institute for Human Rights, …April 6, the Egyptian Democracy Academy and the [word undecipherable]…Coalition.

55.1.3.2.4. CQ: I would like to know what is the criteria required for volunteers, and how are they being chosen? For example, if somebody wanted to go, how do they get to go?

R: There is a defined list that was developed with the Egyptian Coalitions that’s quite detailed and that will be distributed to each working group. Like, having Middle Eastern experience, experience with social movements, experience with media, experience in high risk environments, language skills like Arabic, direct action experience… but we want the committees to use their best judgment… If you’d like to pay your own way anyone can go. It’s an open invitation, this is unprecedented. There’s never been a… devoted to democracy and human rights, in the Middle East or elsewhere.

F: We had twenty minutes, we’re now at ten, but we just started CQs.

55.1.3.2.5. CQ:Pete: I have one question, have you talked to Legal or other people in the legal community about legal protection for people who go?

R: Yes we have, not the legal for OWS, but other people in the human rights community, specifically with Occupy DC, and we were told because it’s a social movement and we are going as individuals, there is no liability because there’s no organizational greater affiliation.

55.1.3.2.5. (Continued) Pete: That’s not really what I meant. I’m talking about what happens if people who go end up in jail?

R: that’s an easier question. We have extensive networks, it’s something many of us have worked on for years. We can adapt the program for OWS so everyone feels comfortable, but there will definitely be a program in place and there are a million options. Being an American in Egypt will afford us many privileges, since we deal arms with them! And it will be the first time it will be a group of Americans standing in front of them and protesting the use of arms against democracy…

55.1.3.2.6. CQ: My one concern is easily remediable. I just want a guarantee that everything that we do in Egypt as a delegation will be through nonviolence. [lots of positive response]

R: That’s a very easy answer. All the people we are working with are dedicated 100% to nonviolence and to the ideals of nonviolent civil resistance, which is the heart of the revolution.

F: We would like to close stack. We would like to open stack for FAs.

55.1.3.3. Friendly Amendments

55.1.3.3.1. FA: Hi, I would like to propose, since you checked with a legal team that was not OWS, just for our benefit, and our information, that you check with our legal team before everybody leaves.

R: The only concern that I have is that the elections are in two weeks, and we want to ensure that as many people get to go as possible, and the cheaper the plane tickets, the more people get to go, so that would be my only concern.

R: Do you want us to check with them or just brief them? 55.1.3.3.1. (Continued) I’m not sure I understand what the distinction is.

R: One is asking for advice, and one is making them aware of a situation. Also, Legal is one of the working groups that we will be reaching out to, so they will be made well aware.

F: Stack is now closed. They would like to accept this FA. So now we will move to a temperature check on this proposal. Can I ask the group to concisely restate the proposal with the FA?

55.1.3.4. Movement Building: The proposal is to respond to the request of the Egyptian opposition to act as monitor for the November parliamentary elections, and inform Legal of what we’re doing,

F: Can we get a temperature check on this proposal? [positive] Looks good. We are building consensus. We would now like to ask for any blocks.

55.1.3.5. Blocks

55.1.3.5.1. Block: I don’t believe there are enough people here to form a GA, but that’s just my opinion.

F: PoP: Blocks must relate to the proposal. There is also no stipulation as to the number of people that constitutes a GA.

F: Are there any other blocks? [none] Do you retract your block? [he left] The proposal passes.

55.1.3.6. Consensus.

New F: Maybe we’ll all have you out of here by ten o’clock! Next up is Archives.

[interruption]

F: While we appreciate that everyone has a voice, we are here mostly to make sure that process is upheld in hearing those voices. We have time for any one of these things, like objections, at the end of the night in the Soapbox. Please respect this delegate. Thank you.

55.1.4. Archives Proposal

55.1.4.1. Archives: Hi! So we’re from Archives, and I want you to look at this sign, just for a second. [holds up a colorful handmade sign] Let me show you the other side! [shows the other side] This sign was collected by the Archives working group over five weeks ago. We already have at least 300 signs that represent the diversity of perspectives and the real creativity of our movement. And we are asking for some funds to continue preserving our history for our children, for our future.

Archives [new presenter]: The proposed amount that we are asking for is $3,940. This money is for a secure storage space for all the material we are collecting, like these signs, transportation of the signs, archival equipment such as a scanner and printer, an external hard drive, an archival digital camera, and additional archival supplies.

Archives [new speaker]: We are also collecting an oral history project which features interviews with people like you, and people like them [indicates the rest of the park] – us – and media like digital images and video collected by the Media team.

F: We now open stack for any questions.

55.1.4.2. Clarifying Questions

55.1.4.2.1. CQ: My question is, are you working with Archive.org to ensure that the public has access to everything you preserve?

R: We have contacts with the Archive.org, and we will work with them to make those digital images and video available to the public.

F: Next on stack: Jose.

55.1.4.2.2. CQ: Jose: I was just wondering if you’ve considered, to supply your project and a lot of the things in your budget could be donated, have you tried to look for options of donations? I have a hard drive if you want.

F: I’d like to close stack.

New F: Next on stack: Jeff. Stack is now closed.

R: We recognize the importance of saving money by taking donations. Unfortunately, taking donations from any of the archival institutions may possibly expose us to transparency concerns about who has ownership of our materials. We want to ensure that WE are supporting our own archives, and not privileging some other institution rather than ourselves.

55.1.4.2.3. CQ: I would like to know the physical location that you are proposing to store the archives.

R: It’s at Manhattan Mini Storage at 161 Barrack Street.

F: Last on stack: Matt.

55.1.4.2.4. Matt: Are you aware that the NYU Tamiment Library has a project going to archive the movement? Perhaps you could consider working with them, although I don’t know very many specifics about it.

R: In my mind, we covered that by talking about the problem of privileging other institutions to what is our history. But we know people in Tamiment, and we think it’s great that they’re collecting as well.

F: We would now like to open stack for concerns.

55.1.4.3. Concerns

55.1.4.3.1. Crn: I’m concerned that there hasn’t been a distinction made between privileging other institutions and accepting donations. In my mind, if someone gives you something like a hard drive, with full intention that they will never get it back, that seems like a more cost-effective way to get what we need.

R: We will accept any donations that anybody has of these types of materials, but we do need to have a budget to start to go forward with this project, which is already underway.

F: Next on stack: Lopi. I’d like to close stack after this question.

[Lopi doesn’t have a question.]

F: My mistake. Rachel.

55.1.4.3.2. Crn: Rachel: My concern is related. While I understand that co-optation is an issue, I feel I need more evidence that you are trying to work with other organizations in not being redundant of archiving what they’re doing, even though I recognize it’s important that we have a say in how things are archived.

R: So I recognize the concern about redundancy, but it’s actually important that we are redundant, for archival purposes! The more copies of these things that we can collect the more likely that our movement will be well-represented in the historical record. [positive response]

F: Just a reminder that we’re on time for these things, and we’ve reached our time. We don’t want to keep people all night.

New F: Last on stack: Dale.

55.1.4.3.3. Crn: Dale: My concern is that maybe it would be cheaper if you just moved – the space is like 150 square feet that you want to rent, right? Could you just use a piece of SIS? That’s Shipping, Inventory, and Storage?

R: Our archives are currently held at SIS, but we’re filling up and we need another space, one that’s secure and accessible to our archival team. So the amount we’ve allocated is for the largest possible space, but it’s just an estimate of how much we would want for that. The excess funds, if we chose something smaller, could be used for other archival materials or something like that.

R [different speaker]: We also have a lot of other signs stored in our apartments. Not all of it is at SIS, and we want to have it in one location that’s big enough.

F: We would now like to open stack for FAs.

R: We would like, if it’s okay, that we don’t take any FAs on this proposal because we would want to clear those with all of our archival working group before accepting them, and they’re not here right now.

F: We will move to a temperature check on this proposal. [mixed]

New F: It looks pretty mixed. We’re not moving towards consensus, and it’s starting to rain. I felt a few drops. How are we doing on time? New F: We’re almost four minutes over.

New F: We would like to open stack for more questions on this proposal. If we cannot build consensus, the proposal will ask to be tabled.

55.1.4.4. Further Questions/Comments

55.1.4.4.1. NSp:Ryan: I just want to suggest we take FAs and then table it.

F: I’d like to suggest we give this five more minutes. Can I get a temperature check? [positive, middle] Mostly positive, but let’s try to be brief.

55.1.4.4.2. NSp: I understand that you’re not empowered by your group to accept FAs, but it might be beneficial to hear them, record them in some fashion, take them to your group, and see if your group can consent on them.

F: How does the group feel about giving them FAs and then tabling the proposal? Temperature check? [mostly positive]

55.1.4.4.3. NSp: Nina: While I think that archiving our movement is extremely important, I feel and I get a sense that we would like to see you reach out to other organizations, places or people that would not ask for anything in return, in return for the help that they could possibly provide, for storage and space and other materials.

F: Next on stack: Ryan. I’d like to close stack after that.

55.1.4.4.4. Ryan: I echo Nina’s sentiment. In the past, when a working group has not been fully present, the presenting group has set a time for a future meeting, that members of the GA were not aware of that group, to be involved in the conversation. I’d like to propose that Archives gives this GA a future day of meeting so that everyone can be involved in figuring this out.

F: Stack is closed. Next is Eric.

55.1.4.4.5. CQ: Eric: My question is, can you bring your whole group on a future day so we can discuss this and approve it, or not? [mixed response from crowd]

F: Last on stack is Jeff.

55.1.4.4.6. CQ: Jeff: The money you have requested is for your budget. If you are to accept donations for your budgeted needs, what will you do with the money that we give you that you no longer need?

R: This budget is a startup budget. It only includes a few months of rent for that secure space, and it only includes materials that we need right now. Anything that we receive in donation only further helps us. So the money that we need is right now.

R: Also, our meetings are at 6:00pm on Sundays at the Atrium. Anyone can come. The Atrium is at 60 Wall Street.

F: Time keeper says we’ve gone way over, and that we gave them amendments, and that we’re moving on.

New F: I’d like to take a temperature check to see if we’re moving towards consensus.

New F: I’d like to take a temperature check on tabling this proposal. Looks pretty positive.

New F: Next up: Principles of Solidarity. About the tents in the park. Twenty minutes we budgeted. We’ll see if we can keep it brief.

New F: We have some seating, and if anybody needs to get comfortable, we’re still tucked in for a while. Be comfortable.

55.1.5. Principles of Solidarity Proposal

55.1.5.1. Principles of Solidarity: Hi, good evening everyone. I’m here to propose an extension of the stop-gap emergency proposal approved two days ago, which expired tonight, until Sunday. And this time extension has the approval also of Town Planning, with the exception of a single dissenting. [side discussion] With one person at Town planning who has concerns, rather. [side discussion]

F: PoP: Let’s let him state the proposal, then we can deal with questions and concerns afterwards.

[side discussion]

New F: He’s still presenting. We’ll be patient.

55.1.5.1. (Continued) Principles of Solidarity: Chaim: The stop gap measure approved two days ago was designed to stop the upset of occupiers when large communal tents were going up. In the past two days, the new policy has had great success, and the new Comfort tent went up without issue. Solidarity was also working today with Security, Fire Department, and Communications on their new tent, using this policy, and it went very well. Hence, I ask for the extension until Sunday. Town Planning did not agree to an indefinite extension, which we wanted. The second part of the proposal which was not mentioned on the website, due to a new experiment that happened in Solidarity tent: Solidarity has the old Medical tent and those people sleeping in the tent have agreed to this experiment, which is that those who are

sleeping there now collapse their tents or collapse what they’re sleeping on when they wake up. That the tent will be used for community day purposes related to Solidarity. And we are in the stage of getting folding chairs. We already have a folding table, and we’re also trying to get a blackboard and whatnot, equipment to get it going. Finally, so I’m asking for a FA in the amount that the GA thinks is suitable, so we can get multi-layered hammocks for other easy bedding, and any other necessary equipment to easily pull this off, as a role model for the future usage of similar space.

PoP: It seems to me that this proposal, with no judgment on it whatsoever, will be better suited for the operational SC in which occupiers have a spoke.

PoP: The OSC is an excellent body for deciding exactly this kind of issue. However, it is a very slow process to set that up, and we have no idea when it will be up and running, and in the mean time we have to decide these issues here in the GA.

PoP: First, I’m unclear as to the propriety of a proposer making an FA on his own proposal. But secondly, it’s definitely a different proposal.

R: I’m new to this, even though it’s my third time speaking. I didn’t know if I could just add to the proposal, so I thought of requesting a FA, just to gauge if this wanted to be done. But if not, ….

F: So we would like to take a temperature check on entertaining the FA as part of the same proposal? [negative, mixed]

PoP: Leo: I’m Leo from the Facilitation working group. The 24-hour feedback period that all proposals go through was passed by consensus in the GA. As a member of the Facilitation working group, I think it’s a PoP to change a proposal after that 24-hour feedback period. And so, I don’t think we should take a temperature check on entertaining this FA. I think we should go forward with the proposal as it was put on the website, and invite you to come back to a future GA with that other proposal. [positive response]

F: So we would now like to open stack for questions on the initial proposal as it was written on the NYCGA website.

55.1.5.2. Clarifying Questions

55.1.5.2.1. CQ: I would just like a CQ because I wasn’t here two days ago. What exactly was the stop gap measure in detail, or as much as you can give?

R: Briefly, in order to stop the sometimes traumatic displacement of persons, the GA empowered occupiers with individual blocking rights if they didn’t want to move.

55.1.5.2.2. [same CQ]: And you’re asking for an extension of that until Sunday?

R: Yes, until Sunday.

F: Next on stack: Charlie. I’d like to close stack after that.

New F: I’d like to remind the GA that we budgeted 20 minutes for that. We’re about 12, and we just started.

55.1.5.2.3. Charlie: My question was already asked.

F: Are there any more questions?

55.1.5.2.4. CQ: How has the enforcement of this proposal gone so far?

F: I’d like to close stack.

R: It went quite well, as has been reported to me, that I know of one person who used his rights, but in a manner that I did not hear of, caused disturbance to the greater community.

F: Last on stack is Jeff.

55.1.5.2.5. CQ: Jeff: Hi, I’m Jeff. I’m with Town Planning. I think that this is an extremely important issue. I personally, as well as Town Planning, do not have an answer to the issue that we are addressing. I do not feel that we’re going to be able to answer the big question at this GA. However, this issue regards the idea that people are entitled to the space within the park, contrary to the idea that the community as a whole owns this space. We have a concern for fire exits, for safety purposes, for living quarters, for large tents, for weather protection. We are asking the larger community to consider these issues in contrast to individual occupants’ desire to remain in their single spaces. I do not know the answer; I ask you for the answer.

F: Just for clarification: A piece of the proposal that could not be addressed tonight – bad weather, lot of items – was breakout groups to discuss solutions. So while that can’t happen, there is a meeting that Chaim would like to tell you about, coupled with the 72 hour stop gap that he is asking for again.

Chaim: There is a meeting scheduled tomorrow at the Atrium, 60 Wall Street, 2:00 pm. Those who cannot make it can email me or leave messages through Solidarity group. Furthermore, the experiment was designed to figure out these issues, and I am for a proper balance of community and individual usage. We’re Solidarity!

F: We have four more minutes to keep on agenda if possible.

PoI: [I would be violating process, I want to speak in support of this.]

F: Up next is concerns.

55.1.5.3. Concerns

55.1.5.3.1. Crn: I have a specific concern regarding the proposal. Actually, more than one. One being, a number of the occupants will not be able to attend the meeting at the Atrium. Two, the occupants I refer to, that are most affected by the proposal and the proposed use of the tent, are at the lower end of Zuccotti Park, where most of the issues regarding putting up tents are located. What are you doing to resolve relationships with that side of the park?

R: A lot! Solidarity tent is located in the heart of this community, and we’re on good relations with our neighbors, trying to get them to be more interested, for one, in what goes on here, and also the experiment that I talked about, to make them recognize that those who live in the tent can vacate in daytime, and they’re still back at night. That community lost a lot of faith in the general community because of how it was so victimized. So Solidarity’s job is to build up that faith again with them so they won’t be disenfranchised.

F: Next on stack is Ryan. I’d like to close stack after that.

New F: I just noticed the time. Twenty minutes. That’s about what we budgeted.

55.1.5.3.2. Crn: Ryan: My concern is what happens if this proposal does not pass? We are in a gray area right now, with the SC where occupiers have a voice is not yet set up. I don’t think that three days is an unreasonable amount of time to ask for, to let individuals keep their space until a plan is devised. I want people to understand that a lot of occupiers are not here right now, so if we allow this to expire, we are effectively taking away their voice, for they have a proper voice in Spokes.

R: May I just quickly respond. I do recognize that this proposal still allows community tents to go up so long as an alternative space is found for the displaced.

F: Stack is closed, no one else is on stack.

New F: Now it’s time for FAs. Stack is now open. [none]

New F: Stack is now closed.

New F: I’d like to take a temperature check on this proposal. [positive] Looks pretty good, we’re moving toward consensus. Any blocks? [no blocks] This proposal passes. [cheers and applause]

55.1.5.4. Consensus.

New F: While we’re waiting for Fire Safety, a little clarification. Questions and concerns have their spot. The gentleman over there talking earlier didn’t bring his stuff in at the right time. We are interested in everyone’s voice, and we’re still upholding a process. It also helps if everyone keeps their questions brief and in short bursts. Everyone also has one minute. I’m going to start waving my little red flag when time’s running out. Settle in on the stairs, get comfortable, and we’ll keep rolling on. Thanks for your patience.

55.1.6. Call to Action Proposal

55.1.6.1. Call to Action: Hi everyone! We are the Call to Action working group. Our last document was the Declaration of the Occupation of NYC, which you can find on our website, nycga.net. We have somewhat irregular meetings, but we’re open to anyone joining up, our group on the website, Call to Action.

Call to Action [new presenter]: We drafted, in cooperation with the fellows over at Arts and Culture, another statement that we’d like to be ratified by this GA, and it is basically a statement of autonomy. If anybody doesn’t have one that would like one, raise your hand and

Eric will get you one. So what I’m going to do is read the statement and then move to going through the consensus process. [reading the statement]

“Statement of Autonomy: Occupy Wall Street is a people’s movement. It is party-less, leaderless, by the people and for the people. It is not a business, a political party, an advertising campaign or a brand. It is not for sale. We welcome all, who in good faith, act to end corruption and corporate influence in government, and who petition for a redress of grievances through non-violence. We provide a forum for peaceful assembly of individuals to engage in participatory as opposed to partisan debate and democracy. We welcome dissent.

Any statement or declaration not released through the General Assembly and made public online at www.nycga.net should be considered independent of Occupy Wall Street.

We wish to clarify that Occupy Wall Street is not and never has been affiliated with any established political party, candidate or organization. Our only affiliation is with the people who want to end the entanglement of big business and government.

The people who are working together to create this movement are its sole and mutual caretakers. If you have chosen to devote resources to building this movement, especially your time and labor, then it is yours.

Any organization is welcome to support us with the knowledge that doing so will mean questioning your own institutional frameworks of work and hierarchy and integrating our principles into your modes of action. SPEAK WITH US. NOT FOR US.

Occupy Wall Street values collective resources, dignity, integrity, and autonomy above money. We do not make endorsements. All donations are accepted anonymously and are transparently allocated via consensus by the General Assembly or the Operational Spokes Council.

We acknowledge the existence of professional activists who work to make our world a better place. If you are representing, or being compensated by an independent source while participating in our process, please disclose your affiliation at the outset. Those seeking to capitalize on this movement or undermine it by appropriating its message or symbols are not a part of Occupy Wall Street.

We stand in solidarity. We are Occupy Wall Street.” [end reading]

Call to Action: So I guess I’d like to ask the facilitators to move toward the consensus building process.

F: We would like to open stack for questions.

55.1.6.2. Clarifying Questions

55.1.6.2.1. CQ: Rachel: Hi. I’m really in support of this. But my question is whether there is a process in place to help institutional leadership implementing the checking of their hierarchical process necessary for the type of engagement you propose in this document. R: What we meant by the questioning of your hierarchy is to get your organization or

institution in alignment with the Principles of Solidarity. So as of now we do not have a set list of steps that institutions can take.

F: Are there any more questions? I’d like to close stack. Two more on stack.

55.1.6.2.2. CQ: Alex: I just have a quick question, or I guess it’s a CQ. This is going to be representing the movement in which way?

R: This document is simply a statement from the GA to the public, the same way the Principles were and the Declaration. Not higher or lower.

55.1.6.2.2. (Continued) Alex: To rephrase my question, where is this going to posted to represent this?

R: This will go on our website, as well as to the Press and Media teams to release it to their networks as they see fit, as being representative of being ratified by the GA, if that were to happen.

55.1.6.2.3. CQ: Hello. I assume that the proposal is not something that we are deciding to endorse, since in the verbiage it says we don’t endorse things. I just want to be clear what Call to Action is doing as far as the decision that we’re making. Are we deciding to publish? What was the thing that we did, when we did the Principles of Solidarity, since that’s what you claim that you are doing now?

R: We took the same process when we did the Declaration. We brought it to GA, we took amendments, and then we brought it back and got it consensed. The fact that it says we don’t make endorsements is actually ironic, but we are you, so you are endorsing us. We want to make sure that a statement that is released as a unified voice for you and me and for…has consensus that we do not endorse organizations, political parties, and that likewise we do not want them to take advantage of our movement. Not yesterday, not today, and not tomorrow, and that is in fact what we are asking for here today.

[NSp]: I feel like the question wasn’t answered. This would be a seeking to publish the document and that only, as published by the GA.

F: We would now like to open stack for concerns.

55.1.6.3. Concerns

55.1.6.3.1. Crn: Nicole: So I like the idea of this, I think it’s really great. One of my only things is that to say, to specify that the purpose of why we are all here is to end corruption and corporate influence in government, while I think it might actually be accurate, hasn’t been consensed upon, and is a bit leading. Also I believe that the GA does publicly endorse statements like this, that are created internally. I wouldn’t want us to not be able to do that.

R: As a FA, would it ease your concern if we changed the language, I believe you’re talking about the 1st paragraph? And the 3rd paragraph.

R: My FA would be for the 3rd paragraph at this moment in time, not discounting future FAs for the 1st. Would it ease your concerns if we wrote “our only affiliation is with the people

occupying Zuccotti Park” or “Liberty Park” or rather “With the people”, period? With your permission I’d like to circle that language as a possible future FA so that we can get the best word choice in there, but notating that that language has to be changed?

55.1.6.3.2. Crn: Tim: I have several concerns. My first concern is that we have endorsed and stood in solidarity with several organizations, irrespective of their ties to political parties, candidates, or whoever. My second concern is that GA has already consensed on a statement asserting that anything we haven’t consensed on does not represent the GA. That seems sufficient, given that we may hear future endorsements, requests, etc. I don’t see the purpose of ruling out future actions not yet presented to this GA.

R: To speak to the concern, …such as the Longshoreman’s Union, Verizon, and the teamsters at Southeby’s, does not constitute an endorsement, it’s standing in solidarity. To speak to your second concern, I can tell you that many of our opponents are using the lack of specificity in saying that we don’t endorse candidates, campaigns, and organizations, as a tool against us, and will continue to do so.

F: Time check: We have less than five minutes allotted for this issue.

New F: I’d like to close stack after this question from Alex.

55.1.6.3.3. Crn: Alex: Please take my criticism in the kindest of ways. I don’t think it’s that well-written. I’ve read things along these lines that I find represent us better. Taking that into account, if you want to make changes…as previously stated, I think they need to be changed and then brought back, because to have only a vague understanding of what you’re changing it to, changes everything. So I would move that it is brought back at a different time when it is revised.

R: I understand your concern and your criticism. I would like to ask you, do you plan on attending the future meeting in which it is re-written?

Alex: I will.

R: In that case, I understand. If you give me about a minute or maybe 30 seconds to confer with the group to decide on what we want to do, it would be greatly appreciated.

F: Temperature check on taking one minute? [positive]

R: So after conferring with our group, we feel that we would like to move forward with consensus because the FA that was proposed is a deletion of language, and we are not aware of the GA passing any other messages, so I guess we can move towards FAs, and if our brother here wants to block, we’ll see him there.

F: Stack is closed, there’s one more on stack.

F: We now open stack for FAs.

55.1.6.4. Friendly Amendments

55.1.6.4.1. FA: I take issue with, in paragraph one, the words “who in good faith act to end corruption and corporate influence in government and.” I also take issue with the words in paragraph 3, “in the entanglement of big business in government.” I suggest those words be removed.

R: Nicole raised that concern and we put it to the group that those words be taken out earlier, so we accept.

55.1.6.4.2. FA: Rachel: My concern relates to my question from earlier. I think it’s really important that if we pass a document like this, we have a plan of action for how to positively engage institutions. So my amendment is that as a group you commit to…and as a person who comes to your group sometimes I’ll come to your group and help.

R: We accept.

55.1.6.4.3. FA: Nicole: I just want to suggest that after the language ”we do not make endorsements”, you specify that we can still endorse things that come from within, for example if Vision and Goals ever got something together that we all agreed on, we would be able to put forth and endorse it as a group.

PoI: In the event of something like that, it would actually be called an adoption. So if other GAs put forth something we like, as we have in the past, we’ve adopted them to this GA, and that would still be in effect.

Nicole: So what if we…by saying that we don’t make external endorsements?

[same PoI speaker]: I think it’s still the same issue. “Endorsements” is a political word by nature, and I think that her confusion is something that…because we are involved in the process…

Nicole: What if it was an action that was brought to the GA, it wouldn’t be an adoption because everyone wouldn’t be doing it? It wouldn’t be adoption, but we might still want to endorse it.

R: That’s related to our brother’s concern about endorsements in the past…I think that is a statement of support or standing in solidarity, not an endorsement…

F: We still have 45 minutes left on the agenda and the good folks from Direct Action would like to get their chance too. We’re all getting wet, let’s keep our comments concise.

New F: Stack is closed, Tim is last on stack.

55.1.6.4.4. FA: Tim: I felt like earlier I may have been too direct, because I like what you’re doing and I think the purpose is totally sensible. However, I don’t feel comfortable prescribing the decisions of future GAs. My FA is that the document be rephrased to state that we have not endorsed, rather than speaking to what we might do in the future.

R: So if I understand your FA, rather than stating “we do not make endorsements” we say “we have not made endorsements”?

Tim: Yes.

R: Okay.

[loud sirens and traffic noise]

F: Reminder, human mic is very important! …Speak over trucks and marchers so the conversation is open and transparent, thanks for your help in that.

New F: So now we’d like to get a temperature check on this proposal. Please restate the proposal.

55.1.7. Call to Action: The proposal is to publish the document we read earlier, with the FA of the deletion of language in the 1st and 3rd paragraphs, by Nicole, and the brother’s name I don’t know, and to change the language ”we do not make endorsements” to “we have not made endorsements”, and that this document will go on the NYCGA website, and that we will work towards making a plan to get organizations to get in line with our principles to go along with this document.

F: So can I get a temperature check on moving towards consensus on this proposal? [positive]

New F: It looks good. So seeing such, we’d like to ask if there are any blocks. [no blocks]

We have consensus! – Wait –

NSp: I don’t want to block, I just want to make aware that if you’re doing what you said about putting this on Media then this will be representing us. And I really think that if this is going to be representing us as a whole, it should be revised and brought back.

R: So in the future that would be known as a stand-aside, and we appreciate your criticisms and your willingness to stand aside. Thank you.

R [different presenter]: But also, similar to the Declaration that’s passed in GA and then re-written to be more eloquent in some ways, it’s a possibility to do the same.

F: I’d like to ask again if there are any blocks. [no blocks]

New F: This proposal is passed!

55.1.8. Consensus.

R: Thank you very much.

F: Next up is Fire Safety. We’ve budgeted fifteen minutes, but we’re already over time.

New F: We have four more agenda items. A good thing to keep in mind, so while we formulate our questions and concerns we make sure they’re not redundant and that they’re concise. Thank you.

Mic check!

F: Do we have Fire Safety here? [not here]

New F: Next up: Direct Action: Park Defense. [DA: Park Defense wants to let DA: November 17th go first]

F: Next up: Direct Action: November 17th.

55.1.7. Direct Action Event Proposal

55.1.7.1. Direct Action: November 17th: Jordan: One week from today we are going to shut down Wall Street! We are going to stop the opening bell at the stock exchange and in its place we are going to ring the people’s bell! And it will be awesome! And we will create a massive carnival that will demonstrate the beautiful world we are creating together. We need your help. We are asking for the funds to…monuments and training…these monuments will cover the themes of things that Wall Street has trampled on, including access to affordable housing, access to a decent education, safe and healthy food, accessible health care, and sustainable environmental practices. Specifically we are asking for the following: $800 for vehicle rental to transport all these materials. $700 to rent a space to do the trainings as well as make the art. $2000 for art supplies, including canvas, paint, sculpture materials, and other art supplies. $500 for costumes. $200 for tools, and $800 for street communication systems on the day of the 17th.

F: Opening stack for CQs.

55.1.7.2. Clarifying Questions

55.1.7.2.1. CQ: Rachel: Have you worked with Arts and Culture to see if any of the supplies can be donated by avenues they’re using?

R: The answer is yes! And what we’re asking for is in addition to that.

55.1.7.2.2. CQ: Hi. I’m a bit concerned about the amount going towards art supplies. It’s a huge amount. As well as costumes, because one of our biggest criticisms is being a spectacle rather than a movement, and while I love art and creativity, I think this is our day to really show our militancy.

R: So our response is that we agree that it’s important to show our militancy. When we were coming up with this we looked to our comrades who thew down in Seattle in 1999. The way that went down is that they were really militant and they were also beautiful. They had lots of costumes, they had well-designed props…that attracts people and makes our message easier to communicate. That is why we are asking for this money.

F: Next on stack: Tony. I’d like to close stack after this.

55.1.7.2.3. CQ: Tony: My question has to do with communications equipment. I see that the NYPD sets up a roadblock as a communications check. Have you looked into what they’re checking for, and will the communications gear you want come into conflict with what is allowed past that checkpoint?

R: We’re going to confer real quick.

F: Just so you know, stack is now closed, with one more on stack.

R: To respond, the person running the com [communication] station will be offsite, and the coms equipment is a small radio that we will be able to move with freely. Does that answer your question?

Tony: Yes.

R: I want to clarify that part of the reason that art supplies is so expensive is that some of the things we will be buying include wood and metal, which is more expensive than paint or other commonly understood art supplies.

F: Clarification, we have two left on stack. Christina first please.

55.1.7.2.4. CQ: Christina: What are the costumes going to look like? Because if we look like Wall Street people, I think that would be pretty funny.

R: That’s a really good question, but the questions right now, as I understand it, should pertain specifically to the budget request. If you want to help plan the event, definitely go to the Direct Action working group to hash all that out.

55.1.7.2.5. CQ: Kevin: It sounds like you have a pretty good idea of what’s going into this. Can you elaborate with how you came up with such round numbers?

R: That’s a good question. The reason why the numbers are rounded and not hyper specific is because a lot of these things are being planned right now. For instance, tonight during this GA we had a big meeting that was also a training to get people involved. I’m not sure how many people were there. We’re planning on having somewhere between two and three thousand people show up at this thing. That’s based upon the organizing we’ve done in the community of New York as well as with our partners in the labor movement, and with other Occupies. In the next week we’re going to build and make all this stuff. We want to have enough money to supply all the costumes and all the art needs to the different affinity groups that are going to kick ass on November 17th. The money that is left over is going to go back to the GA.

F: We will now open stack for concerns.

55.1.7.3. Concerns

55.1.7.3.1. Crn: What is the goal?

R: That’s a great question. We have a couple goals. One of our goals is to stop the morning bell. Another one of our goals is to demonstrate the beautiful world that we all want to create, in the epicenter of the forces that are destroying us. Another one of our goals is to build our capacity as a movement and appeal to more communities that are not currently involved in OWS.

F: Are there any more concerns? We’re going to close stack on concerns.

New F: We’d like to open stack on FAs.

55.1.7.4. Friendly Amendments

55.1.7.4.1. FA: Rachel: I’d like you to formalize what you said earlier about this being a maximum, and commit to avenues for finding materials for free or cheaper than this.

R: We’re also organizing in the next few days with everyone that’s helped plan this action to do a scavenger hunt around the boroughs that we live, to find anything that we can use for art supplies for this action.

F: I’d like to close stack. First is Hermes.

55.1.7.4.2. FA: Hermes: I’m concerned about what’s going to happen to all the materials after this is over. Are they going to be used to help further the movement, or are they going to be thrown away in rampant consumerism?

R: Excellent question. We are not going to throw these things away when we’re done. In a separate thing, Direct Action is interested in having a space where we can store all of our stuff so in the coming months, as we do more badass actions, we will have a growing supply of badass things to do these things with. In the mean time we have friends in different boroughs were all this stuff is going to go hide until we can use it again.

PoP: That was not exactly a FA.

F: Stack is closed on FAs.

New F: So now we would like to move to a temperature check on this proposal. Can we have you restate the proposal, with the FA?

55.1.7.5. Direct Action: November 17th: We want five grand to make a bunch of art supplies, or rather to make a bunch of art, and to do a bunch of trainings for the 17th. We’re going to keep everything that we make for the future. We’re going to do everything we can to get everything we can for free. The money we don’t use we’ll give back.

F: Temperature check: Looks good.

New F: We’re moving toward consensus. Any blocks? [none]

New F: No blocks.

New F: We have consensus.

55.1.7.6. Consensus.

R: Thank you guys!

R [different presenter]: One more thing – I’m going to pass around this piece of paper. If you want training in nonviolent direct action, or you want to make art so we can throw down on the 17th, put your email on here very clearly.

F: Temperature check! It’s 10:00pm.

New F: We got Direct Action, and unless Fire [Safety] turns up, that’ll be the last proposal.

New F: Correction, we may have another one. [groans from the crowd] Hold tight, we’ll let you know. I’m going to go find Fire [Safety].

55.1.8. Direct Action Defense Proposal

55.1.8.1. Direct Action: Park Defense: Zach: Hi, I’m Zach with Direct Action and Expansion, and we have a proposal for you today to make $2000 worth of funds available to expand and fortify the existing park defense strategy. Really quickly, Park Defense was started about a week and a half ago in response to the fact that when the police and fire department came to confiscate our generators, we had no plan in place to defend this park in the case of an eviction. Since that time, Park Defense has been established, and we have an emergency response team in place that is prepared to lock down in the event of an eviction. This will buy us time to mobilize support, allow for a massive media presence, and hopefully stay the hand of the police in attempting to evict. With the last proposal that Park Defense made, we were able to purchase materials and a large 11×11 foot military tent at the West end of the park. There are currently ten people every night in that tent, prepared to lock down. We’re also currently working in collaboration with Community Watch to make that team available for emergency situations between the hours of midnight and 6:00 am. This proposal would allow us to increase the capacity of that tent to allow for sixteen people to be there every night, instead of ten. We intend to build a loft. We’ve had building space donated to us to build the loft. We’re also having building materials donated, but we need more. We also want to have the space well-lit, and we need electricity. We’re coordinating with Sustainability. We’re also communicating with the tent next door to expand Park Defense to include that tent and have thirty-two people every night, thoroughly trained in park defense, in order that we can defend one another and the park as a whole! That’s the proposal.

F: We’d like to open stack for any questions.

55.1.8.2. Clarifying Questions

55.1.8.2.1. CQ: Tell me more about this loft.

R: It’s seven feet by eleven feet. It’s made of plywood and 2x4s. We have people experienced in construction and architecture to build a safe structure that will provide a sleeping space…support beams along the side, it will fit flush with the sides of the tent and allow for four feet of walking room.

F: We will now open stack for concerns. Any concerns?

55.1.8.3. Concerns

55.1.8.3.1. Crn: Without getting into the details of the entire defense plan, can you state that the entire plan emphasizes nonviolent resistance? R: Absolutely.

F: Any more concerns?

New F: Yes.

55.1.8.3.2. Crn: So we’re standing all here right, and there’s a lot of cops. So what do we do? Do we just sit here, and let them stand there?

F: PoP: These concerns are addressing issues germane to this proposal.

[same speaker]: What’s upsetting about this situation…[side discussion]

F: So, we would like to move to open stack for FAs. Seeing none.

55.1.8.4. Friendly Amendments

55.1.8.4.1. FA: I would like to see Direct Action taking active –

[sirens and side conversations]

Direct Action: Mic check! In the meantime, does anyone have that email sheet I passed around?

F: We’ve got it.

New F: Mic check!

New F: We’re going to bring the GA back here. We’re going to try to sit down now for everybody who can. Thank you. Facilitators are back here. We’re waiting on one more question, as soon as the siren’s gone. Thanks for your patience. So if you would, please restate your FA.

55.1.8.4.1. (Continued) FA: My friendly amendment is that Direct Action takes immediate movement to collect more recruits to Direct Action to continue this movement.

R: Direct Action meetings are open and they’re held weekdays at 2:00 pm at 60 Wall Street. We just today –

R [different presenter]: I have the schedule, I will pass it around for you.

R [first presenter]: We’ve just recently restructured, and so we’ve changed some of the meeting times. As part of the Park Defense team, we are also training people in park defense. That will be made available in Direct Action meetings. We encourage you to come.

F: So now, since there are no more FAs, we would like to move to a temperature check on this proposal . Can we have Direct Action please concisely restate the proposal.

55.1.8.5. Direct Action: Park Defense: We request $2000 to expand and fortify the existing park defense strategy.

F: Temperature check. Looks good.

New F: We are building consensus.

New F: Are there any blocking concerns?

New F: Seeing none.

New F: This proposal passes! [cheers and clapping]

55.1.8.6. Consensus.

New F: We would like to call Fire Safety to the floor.

55.1.9. Fire Safety Proposal

55.1.9.1. Fire Safety: Hi everybody, my name’s Justin and I work in the Media team and I’m also part of the new Fire Safety working group. We have a proposal called the Comprehensive Health and Safety Plan, and I’m going to pass out some copies of it and talk it over with you in the hopes of passing it. I don’t have a copy for everybody so please try to share. As many of you know, our generators were seized without justification about two weeks ago, and since then we’ve been told that there are health and safety hazards here at camp. Regardless of your personal opinions or mine, or whether that’s true, many people believe that showing that we have plans to keep this space safe from fire and other hazards would be a good step to ensuring the safety and sustainability of our encampment. So I’ve laid out with our groups a bunch of action steps that we can take to bring power back to this space, but in a safer way. I’ll just read through them, and follow along if you have a sheet. [reading from document]

#1: Establish an OWS fire department called the People’s Firehouse, in honor of all the firehouses that Mike Bloomberg has closed, staffed by trained experts with NY state fire certification, and housed in a tent in the park.

#2: Buy a safety container to hold the five-gallon gas tanks and to be housed offsite in an indoor location.

#3: Limit the handling of gasoline, biodiesel and other flammable liquids to individuals trained in their careful use, and have a designated trained person on hand at all times to refill the generators.

#4: Offer training in the handling of these materials to anyone wishing to learn, and certify this training internally with live practice drills before allowing assistance within the People’s Firehouse.

#5: Ensure that generators that are used are twenty feet from tents or other structures within the park, and they’re protected from other passersby and residents. As far as the code requires.

#6: Clear areas around the generators of cardboard, plastic and other flammable materials.

#7, and I think this one is very important: Open up paths of egress for safe, timely exit from the park in case of emergencies.

#8: Strategically place fire extinguishers around the camp. Someone suggested that these fire extinguishers be placed at the base of trees so people know where they are.

#9: Create a volunteer firefighters’ group to join the People’s Firehouse.

#10: Hold regular teach-ins to train people in emergency preparation.

#11: Ensure that tarps and tents coming here are made of flame-retardant materials. (struck)

#12: Communicate this plan to the world, the mayor’s office, and other interested parties.

#13, finally: Have an interim plan to continue powering the Media center and other vital work spaces during the enactment of this plan.

F: We are now opening stack for CQs.

55.1.9.2. Clarifying Questions

55.1.9.2.1. CQ: Do we have as part of this plan a plan to relocate if a real bad fire were to occur? Is there a meeting place outside the park where people would know to gather and to look for loved ones that they care about?

R: [No, not at present.]

55.1.9.2.2. CQ: Stephanie: [Is it your intention to have the Firehouse tent remain open to the public, or are you planning to limit the space to people in the Firefighters group?]

R: People who are interested in joining and training could come into the Firehouse. Also it would be a place for [people who want information about fire safety].

F: [Closing stack for CQs. Any concerns?]

55.1.9.3. Concerns

55.1.9.3.1. Crn: Stephanie: [I am concerned about any operating space being limited to only the people working in it. I think that all the spaces in the park need to be open to the public for socializing, mingling, as long as they are not disrupting the work being done in the area. This park is very small.]

R: I guess I could address that concern briefly. The two people who are currently setting up the Firehouse could be suggested to make the Firehouse available as a more open space, as long as the understanding is that the people in the Firehouse are assisting the Firehouse in running it.

55.1.9.3.1. (Continued) Stephanie: I would say, “as long as the people in the Firehouse are not disrupting the work of the Firehouse.”

F: Any other concerns?

55.1.9.3.2. Crn: Stephanie: [I am concerned that in putting up the tent, there will be conflict with other people’s tents being displaced.]

R: The tent for the Firehouse is already in place, and was it was consulted with Town Planning, and [the people inhabiting that area] helped us make a space.

PoI: This tent is next to Sustainability.

F: I’d like to close stack for concerns.

New F: We are now opening stack for FAs.

55.1.9.4. Friendly Amendments

55.1.9.4.1. FA: I see that it says the generators must be twenty feet from any tent, when there is administrative code that clarifies a radius of ten feet from flammable material for any tent. I would like to propose a FA to align this piece of the proposal with the relevant administrative code, which I have with me.

R: I do know that the National Lawyer’s Guild was supposed to release a memo today informing us of the relevant code.

Amender: It’s fine as stated, as long as we corroborate [the proposal with the code]. [Accepted]

F: Any other FAs?

55.1.9.4.2. FA: Stephanie: I have two FAs. [The first is that, unless a future GA decides otherwise, the Firehouse tent will remain open to the general public, as long as people are not being disruptive of the work.] Do you want to respond to that first or do you want to hear the second one?

R: [I’ll respond to that one. I accept, with the understanding that disrupting the work is up to the discretion of the people working.]

55.1.9.4.3. FA: Stephanie: [My second FA is to remove the line that says, “Ensure that tarps and tents coming here are made of flame-retardant materials,” because I think we need to accept any donations we get. I wouldn’t want to see us refusing tents because they’re not flame-retardant.]

R: [I accept, with the caveat that there will be no fires in non-flame-retardant tents, and that non flame-retardant tents will be placed far away from the generators.]

[side comment – what about cigarettes?]

R: [I don’t mean cigarettes, I mean open flame. No bonfires in tents!]

F: I’d like to close stack on FAs.

55.1.9.4.4. FA: One amendment. I did not hear a mention of ash trays, which seems like a very obvious fire source.

R: I would respond that this document reflects the work towards bringing generators back. The People’s Firehouse working group may propose further proposals in the future. Perhaps one of those could address ash trays as a legitimate fire concern.

F: So in the interest of building consensus, I’d like to move to taking a temperature check on this proposal. Justin, please restate the proposal, with FAs, as quickly and concisely as possible.

55.1.9.5. Justin [reading from document]:

#1: Establish a People’s Firehouse staffed by trained experts with NY state fire certification.

#2: Buy a safety container to hold the fuel.

#3: Limit the handling of flammable liquids to individuals trained in their careful use.

#4: Offer training in the handling of these materials to anyone who wants it.

#5: Ensure that generators that are used are as far as the code requires from tents or other structures within the park.

#6: Clear areas around the generators flammable materials.

#7: Open up paths of egress for for exiting the park.

#8: Strategically place fire extinguishers around the camp.

#9: Create a volunteer firefighters’ group to join the People’s Firehouse.

#10: Hold regular teach-ins about fire training and emergency preparation.

[“Ensure that tarps and tents coming here are made of flame-retardant materials” has been struck.]

#11: Communicate this plan to the mayor’s office and the FDNY.

#12, finally: Have an interim plan for powering the Media center while we’re enacting this plan.

F: Were all the FAs included?

Stephanie: For #1: “Establish a People’s Firehouse…” With the understanding that it is to remain available as public space, to anyone who is not disrupting the work of the Firehouse.

R: Yes.

F: Temperature check on this proposal. [positive] Any blocks? [none] The proposal passes!

55.1.9.6. Consensus.

New F: Last item on the agenda is Occupy Within. Are they still here? [no] We invite them back to another GA on another night. Wonderful patience. We appreciate you being here!

New F: This GA is now closed. We’d like to end with a unity clap. Oh, first, are there any WGRBs or Announcement?

55.2. Working Group Report Backs and Announcements

NSp: I have an announcement.

F: We’d like to open stack for announcements. We’ll put WGRBs and Announcements in the same thing.

55.2.1. Katie: Hi, I’m Katie! Occupy Queens is having its first GA tomorrow, Friday, November 11, from 7:00 to10:00 pm at the Dewey Center of Jackson Heights, 3607 77th Street. Visit www.occupyqueens.net for more information! We would like to have speakers from Direct Democracy, Outreach, Facilitation, and Direct Action. I’ll be by the red thing, contact me if you can speak. Thank you.

55.2.2. NSp: There will be a supported by Veterans Support OWS concert from 1:00 to 5:00 pm tomorrow at Foley Square. Joan Baez will be playing, Michael Moore will be there, and Sergeant Thomas, who had something to do with Union Square. Thank you.

[CQ, indistinct]

R: I do not know if it’s a march or purely a concert, but it is supported by Veterans Who Support OWS. Foley Square is just down Broadway.

PoI: It previously was going to be held at Central Park and then it was going to be held at Washington Square. So tell fellow occupiers it has been moved.

F: Any more announcements?

55.2.3. New F: I have a garbage bag! I’m passing it around.

New F: Any more announcements? 55.2.4. NSp: Tomorrow night at 11:11 pm in the southeast corner of Central Park there will be a multi-faith prayer circle. We will be praying until dawn. If anyone wants to come and pray and then leave when the police ask them to, they are very welcome. If anyone wants to come and pray and help us hold Central Park, they are even more welcome! Thank you.

F: Any more announcements? [none]

New F: Seeing none, we’d like to end this GA with a unity clap. This means we start out slow and get faster. [unity clap]

[GA concludes 10:40 pm]

**NYCGA Minutes 11/12/2011**

Posted November 12th, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 57

Date / Time: Thursday 11/12/2011 / 7:00pm EST

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators (F): Christine, Brett

Stack Taker: Sean; Stack Greeter: Christina; Time Keeper: Doug; Facilitation Greeter: Sophie

P = Proposer; F = Facilitators; PoP = point of process; PoI = point of information; CC = clarifying question

AGENDA

57.1. Agenda Items (Emergency Proposal from Sam, Breakout Discussion from Things We Love, Finance Budget Proposal, Labor Outreach WG Proposal)

57.2. Working Group Report Backs

57.3. Announcements

Mic check

F: If it’s okay with you all, we would like to start the general assembly. We have come here as a little team to offer ourselves to you all to help facilitate. Facilitation is here to help process, make sure people stay in process, and make sure that everybody is being respectful, and everyone is being heard. With that said, we would like to introduce ourselves and what our role means and ask you all if you’re cool with us being in that role.

F: I’m Christine and I would like to be one of the co-facilitators. Is that okay with all of you? [Consensus] Thank You.

F: Hi. My name is Brett. I would like to also be a co-facilitator. If that is all right with everyone here? [Consensus] Thank You.

F: Hi. My name’s Sean. I’d like to take stack. I’d like to talk also about what stack is and the progressive stack system we use. We use progressive stack along with a concept known as “Step Up Step Back” which means we all exercise personal responsibility, awareness of

voices that have been traditionally marginalized and might be moved up in stack and also people who are speaking a lot exercise step back and don’t marginalize the conversation at hand.

F: Hi. My name’s Christina and I would like to be the stack greeter tonight. That means that I will help you get on stack. How does that sound?

F:Hi I’m Doug and I’ll be keeping time for you tonight as well as the facilitation process and its important to remember that we need to keep our statements short, concise, and to the point. Thank you very much.

F:Hi. I’m Sophie and I would like to be the facilitation greeter which means that if you have questions about the process and would like to ask somebody who has a understanding of how the process works, please try to get my attention and I will do my best to get to you and answer your questions. Thank you.

F: So I have a logistical question. We need a timepiece. Would anyone like to give us one?

F: Does anyone have a smart phone?

F: Doug: Unfortunately, my phone was stolen two nights ago. Sorry about that.

F: We have a timepiece.

F. During this general assembly we use a series of hand signals to communicate with each other how we’re feeling and about process so that we don’t have to speak over each other but we can still communicate. The first one is this. Hand up – fingers wiggling. This means, “I like what I’m hearing. I agree with this. I’m happy.” The next hand signal is this – hands out in front of you, fingers doing a dance. This means that I’m not really jazzed about what I’m hearing but I don’t totally disagree. This one – hand down, fingers’ dancing means I’m not jazzed. I don’t like this. I disagree. This is a point of information . One finger up. This means that I have factual, again, I repeat, factual, information that pertains to what we’re talking about right now. This is not to address a concern, ask a question or give an opinion. If you have a question, and you need clarification, throw up this sign. It’s a C for clarification. This is a block. This means that you have moral, or safety concerns about a proposal that are so strong that you would consider leaving the park or working with OWS. This is serious. The next one is this. A triangle. This is point of process. If you feel that the conversation has strayed, if someone is addressing a concern but we are at the point of asking for questions, that is an appropriate use of point of process. With point of process, and point of information, we ask that those are non-verbal. So you don’t have to also say point of process. When one of us sees that, we will halt the process to have that addressed. If you cannot hear, please do this. Make sure it’s moving so we know it’s not a point of information. Please do not yell “mic check.” please let the facilitators do that.

F: Does everyone feel clear? There is one more. Like this. Your fingers cycling. This means we understand your point, things are clear, please wrap up. We ask that you use this motion with compassion. Thank you.

F: So now we would like to tell you the proposals on the agenda.

F: First up we have an emergency proposal after that we have a proposal and breakout groups, I forgot who that’s from, I apologize. It’s from What We Love.

F: Next we have a budget proposal from Finance working group. After that, a budget proposal from the Labor Outreach working group. After that, a budget proposal from the Co-op working group. Five things on the agenda. After which, we will have report backs from working groups and then announcements. Announcements are not times for states of opinion. They are factual announcements about meeting times or actions or decisions that have been made from other occupations. Thank you.

F: So we would like to hear the emergency proposal.

57.1. Agenda Items

57.1.1. Emergency Proposal

F: Also, I see some people sitting. If you would like to sit, please do so more people can see and make it easier to hear.

57.1.1.1. P: Hi, my names Aaron. This is Sophia. We represent the people. Yesterday, in Ocean Parkway, a number of cars were burned out, swastikas were scrawled, KKK signs were scrawled, and hatred was rampant. The Daily News is trying to pin this on us. Now I think we have to condemn these sorts of actions. This is bad. Anti-Semitism and racism are not okay. I think we need to, as a group, take a leadership role in our community with some of the other leaders and officially condemn this. We need to write a statement that we do not support these acts and we would like consensus on that. All in favor?

F: Point of process (PoP). In order to reach consensus, we have a process. Facilitation would like to bring you through that process. First we open it for questions. If you have a question, please get put on stack. Stack is now open.

57.1.1.2. Clarifying Questions

57.1.1.2.1. Hi my name is Troy. I live 4 blocks from the incident. It would be really great to see this leadership on the streets of Brooklyn.

Response (R): Sophie: To answer your point, there is a march scheduled for tomorrow at noon that will be meeting at Ave J on Ocean Parkway. In Midwood, as you told me, you can take the Q train to Avenue J or the F train to Avenue I. We hope that many of you can make it and that we can show unity and diversity within our group.

57.1.1.2.2. CQ: What time?

R: Noon. Tomorrow. Avenue J and Ocean Parkway. I will go to Kinko’s, print up a bunch of flyers and distribute them to everybody as soon as this is done.

F: PoP- That comment brought out something really great. I appreciate that. I assume we all appreciate that. Please remember that stack is open for clarifying questions. Thank you.

Next on stack is Brad. Next on stack is John.

57.1.1.2.3. John: Hi. My question is who will write the statement?

R: Sophie: A group of us from different working groups who happened to come together today to deal with this situation and were asked to participate in a press conference to distance OWS from these events have already written a statement. I can read it, but it’s a little long, so it’s your choice.

F: Next on stack is Tony.

57.1.1.2.4. Tony: My question has to do with instead of stating that we do not support the horrific actions saying that we strongly condemn those actions. So having said that, I would like to ask GA to consent that the statement is read in its entirety.

F: PoP. This point of process is because that was not a clarifying question. As amazing and as in agreement as I am with it.

Stack: I have one more person on stack. Two more people. So we’re going to start closing stack for clarifying questions. Next on stack is Evan.

57.1.1.2.5. Evan: I’ll start by saying I’m in full support of the proposal and the march. My question is what were the nature and the basis of the Daily News’ accusation that we were in any way connected to it

R: My name is Melanie. I was a part of the press conference. I have read the article and it refers to a teacher that works locally who made a comment stating that she had witnessed a sign that was displayed down here at Wall Street. That was an anti-Semitic sign and that she thinks that it may have had something to do with us. The Daily News decided to print that.

Stack: Next on stack is Anthony

57.1.1.2.6. Anthony: My question – since we’re evidently not going to read it –

F: PoP – we were going to suggest after clarifying questions and see how you felt. Would people like to read it? Great. That looks like yes.

R: Yesterday’s anti-Semitic acts that occurred on Ocean Parkway in the Midwood section of Brooklyn and the attempt by the Daily News to link us to these heinous acts have compelled us to release this statement. When an act of violence and bigotry occurs in our community, we need to take a leadership role as a group and stand with other community leaders and fellow new Yorkers to speak out in opposition to these acts. History has taught us that silence can be interpreted as approving or condoning the bigotry. Today we condemn the reported acts of torching three cars and defacing other property with anti-Semitic messages. Specifically, it has been reported that 8 nearby benches were sprayed with Nazi swastikas, SS, KKK symbols and other inflammatory remarks. The media has attempted to implicate OWS in these criminal acts while offering zero evidence to support these claims. This ignores the fact that OWS’s values and daily activities demonstrate openness, inclusiveness and equality. We represent a wide array of political beliefs, races, religions, and sexual orientations. OWS mirrors the diversity of our city. We are growing and highly inclusive and these aspects make

it possible for those who so choose to mischaracterize, defame, and vilify this movement.

Consequently, we are inviting all New Yorkers to march with us tomorrow in solidarity

against anti-Semitism, bigotry, and hatred. We will meet at noon tomorrow, Sunday,

November 13th, 2011 on Ocean Parkway and Avenue J in the Midwood section of Brooklyn.

Let’s stand together and show the world that acts like this will not be tolerated in our

community.

F: We will now open stack for concerns on this proposal. If you have a concern, put your

hand up so we can get you on stack.

57.1.1.3. Concerns

Stack: First on stack is Nina.

57.1.1.3.1. Nina: Hi. Great statement. There are two places where I’m concerned where

something is missing. Where there’s an anti-Semitic mention it should say also “Racist.”

F: Before their reply, I want to emphasize the importance of the human microphone. If you

can hear me, repeat it back. We have a very large group here. And we want everyone to be

included in the very important work we’re going to do together. Thank you.

R: Sophie: I don’t have an issue with your suggestion. The only problem right now is we

don’t have a computer and we want to print this out as soon as possible. So I would ask you if

you think that your revision is not completely essential to the printing and distributing of this

flyer if you would be okay with us not making it. It’s a horrible thing to ask, and the reason

this is an emergency proposal is we’re trying to act on this very quickly.

F: we have a point of information (PoI)

PoI: If you guys are going to Kinko’s, they have computers where you can edit your

document.

F: I’m going to ask that if you have specific changes that you would like to see to please hold

them for amendments. Right now, we’re taking concerns. Thank you.

Stack: I have two more people on stack. Next on stack is that man over there, but please see

me if you want to get on stack.

57.1.1.3.2. I’m concerned that it may be unnecessary to write a statement as originally

proposed with what you’ve just read seems acceptable to most people here.

F: The statement was written for the GA but it was also written to share with the press once

approved by the GA.

57.1.1.3.3. My name is Josh. I have a problem with the term “anti-Semitic.” Anti-Semitic

does not mean anti-Jewish. I am an Arab, but I am also a Semitic. Why are you playing into

that term when so many Semitic people have a problem with also being tied into this? So

maybe you can say, anti-Judaic.

F: We have a PoP.

PoP: Midwood is filled with Jewish, Arab, Southeast Asian, and Puerto Ricans. We are all inclusive because we are all affected by the symbols written on those benches.

F: PoP. If you do this, you are saying that we are off process. This is not to say an opinion. Does that statement address your concern?

PoP: Not exactly. My problem is why are you picking one ethnic group when they’ve all been affected.

Maybe a way of dealing with it would be to accept your proposal and replace “anti-Semitic “ with racist.

Can you hear me? I’d like to address a concern of the Arab brother over there. The Arab brother is grammatically correct. Indeed, the term Semite contains more than one nationality of Semitic origin. It is only for Semitic people if you.

F: PoP – everyone can’t hear. We would like to propose a 2-generation mike check so the people down here will repeat first and then we’ll go another one. So with me, we’ll now do 2 waves.

(Same person as before) F: So Semite is either an Arab or a Jew. So therefore when you state that someone is anti-Semitic, that someone must have a dislike for both Arab and Jews. Otherwise the term does not apply. We speak different languages. If the terms are not used according to the dictionary, we will not have an understanding. I am a foreign person. English is my third language.

F: I’m seeing lots of “wrap it up”

(Same person) I know my terms.

F: The proposers have already agreed to change the use of anti-Semitic to “Racist”

(same person) Which is even less correct

F: we’ll now open stack for friendly amendments.

57.1.1.4. Friendly Amendments

57.1.1.4.1. My friendly amendment concerns the part where you say that the population here mirrors the diversity of NY. I think that’s something we want but I don’t think that we’re there yet. I would feel better if the language said we were striving to achieve that. And that is based upon report I’ve heard from people in NY who don’t feel included in this group.

F: It’s up to the proposers to decide if an amendment is friendly and therefore accept it.

R: I understand that the last amendment was addressing a lack of diversity. I’m not sure exactly what that meant. However, in the interest of saving time and moving on to the next proposal, would anyone who has edits or additions, please meet us right over there in the center of that group and we will take your edits or additions. Thank you.

Stack: Next on stack is Charlie.

57.1.1.4.2. Charlie: my amendment involves replacing racism with “white supremacy.”

F: PoP

PoP: Building consensus doesn’t mean that we consent on the proposal and then change it afterwards. We should really consider friendly amendments as an important part of the process.

R: As a point of information, I neglected to say that if you had a re-write, or a small addition, after you voiced it over there, we can rewrite and come back at the end of the proposal period with a rewritten statement. Would you be amenable to that? Is there anyone who has a concern about that?

When we come back, we’re just going to do this again. We should just hear everyone out.

Mic check 3X

We should just hear everyone out and go through the process together once.

F: we’re going to continue with the stack on friendly amendments

I have two people on stack. We’re going to start closing stack but see me if you’d like to get on stack.

F: We have a point of process.

57.1.1.4.2. (continued) Charlie: is my amendment friendly? To replace anti-Semitism into racism into “white supremacy”

F: PoP it seems like this needs to be put on stack. PoP means that you think we are off process.

F: Clarification

F: This wasn’t asked that we return to an unresolved amendment. So now, we are going to let the proposal group reply to the previously stated amendment.

R: I don’t think we should limit this to just “white supremacists.” Perhaps use both or not. We don’t know who did this except that they’re bad people.

Stack: Next on stack is Tony.

57.1.1.4.3. Tony: I would like to suggest that we strike references to the media because the reason why we condemn these actions is not because the media asked us to, it’s because they’re wrong.

R: I would agree with you if it weren’t for the fact that many other horrible, racist, condemnable acts happen in this city all the time and unfortunately this GA cannot react to all

of them. And the reason we’re reacting to this one is because the media is trying to tie us to it as part of a campaign of misinformation.

Stack: Next on stack is Mike.

57.1.1.4.4. Mike: I have a very friendly amendment. Since this GA probably is against anti-Semitism, I propose you publish your statement exactly as you read it to us originally. That’s all.

R: Would you be okay with us adding the word “Racist” in addition to anti-Semitic?

Mike: Yes.

F: We had a concern that the first friendly amendment about changing wording to state that we are striving to represent the diversity of NY wasn’t addressed.

P: Could you please repeat your concern?

57.1.1.4.1. (continued) So my friendly amendment is only to make people aware of the fact that we understand that this is not entirely a representational group of all of NY because I have heard reports from various marginalized groups that they don’t feel included here. So therefore, the language might say that we are striving to create a diverse group.

R: We’re down with that.

Stack: Next on stack is Gabriel.

57.1.1.4.5. Gabriel: I have a friendly amendment. To properly conduct this meeting I ask that we include two things. A mandatory clarification of the terms. The second thing is time to discuss the concepts of words introduced on their meaning merit, which does not mean we will not review any other political considerations that anybody may have. However, we cannot use terms improperly.

F: PoP Sorry to disrupt but we have a few PoPs.

R: I don’t disagree with what you’re saying but it’s not a friendly amendment. Sorry.

I think that this is an extremely important opportunity for us to introduce the issue that terms in general such as anti-Semitic, racist, and all of the baggage that language carries and which is so complicated and colonized itself that defining what those terms are is a really difficult task.

F: it is clear to me that this is something that needs lots of talking about. Unfortunately, I don’t think that this is a space that we can do that. I would like to remind everyone that right now we are taking friendly amendments. No one is on stack. Someone is on stack now.

57.1.1.4.6. My amendment would be to consider simply identifying these crimes as hate crimes as a term that we can all agree on.

R: We will add the words “hate crime” to the letter. Is that okay?

57.1.1.4.6. (continued) Yes, but I was trying to resolve the outstanding issue with a few of the other terms.

R: I propose that we don’t quibble over two words and take the time that other people and other working groups need with all of us. If it’s just a matter of the Semitic vs. racist, I propose that we simply use racist and move on.

F: As facilitation team, we would like to close stack. We have one more person on stack. Then we would like the proposers to state what they have accepted as amendments without re-reading the whole statement. Last on stack. No one’s on stack.

P: The amendments we will switch “Anti-Semitic” for racism. We will state that we strive to mirror the diversity of the city. And we will include the term “hate crimes.”

F: We have a PoI. Before we take it I would like to remind us that PoI is only for factual information.

PoI: Are Jewish people not a part of white race?

F: That is not a PoI and we are seeing lots of wrap it up going up. Remember we’re doing two generations. Now we would like to take a temperature check to see how we feel about this proposal. Temperature check. That looks pretty good. Now I’d like to ask do we have any blocks. We have a block.

57.1.1.5. Blocks

57.1.1.5.1. Block: from what I understand, OWS has been accused of condoning what is commonly known in the mainstream media as anti-Semitism. I believe that even though we’ve been through this, specifically addressing the allegation and refuting the allegation of anti-Semitism directly is important.

F: I’m seeing lots of PoPs.

PoP 1: In my opinion this is not a serious moral ethical concern and therefore it does constitute the basis for a block.

F: Do you keep your block?

57.1.1.5.1. (continued) No.

F: That seems like consensus.

P: Can we include everyone in our symbolic group hug? We hope to see you tomorrow at the march, 12 o’clock at Ave J and Ocean parkway. Q train to Ave J or F train to Ave I. And I will be here within the hour passing out flyers. And bring some signs.

57.1.2. Breakout Discussion from Things We Love WG

F: we’re going to continue with our agenda. I want to thank you all. That was a great discussion and we should all be really proud of the statement that we’re making as a

community. Next on the agenda we have a breakout group discussion from Things We Love working group. We will break out for 10 minutes and then please designate one person from your group to synthesize your discussion and give a 1-minute report-back to the assembly.

57.1.2.1. P: Hi I’m Steven. My cohorts are all sick. So here we go. Things We Love is a new working group and this proposal is to introduce ourselves to the GA, to solicit a round of nominations of things we love from this assembly, and to inspire your participation. Here’s what we need. With all that is wrong in our society and culture, and with all the problems that the occupy movement has begun to address, there is no doubt that there are many things, things that already exist, that OWS feels very good about and with all the world asking us who we are and what we’re doing here, Things We Love believes that OWS has a huge opportunity to focus light and attention on a very wide range of things in our world in a way that is positive and uplifting and reflective of our movement. Our basic process is this. Anyone and everyone can nominate a thing we love. Our working group will thoroughly research the particulars and each time we have a well-rounded collection of such things consented upon within the working group, we will bring them to the GA to ask for overall consensus. When consensus is given, that collection of things will be released to the media so that journalists and bloggers and interested parties can investigate them on their own to shine light upon and draw attention to things we support. We ask the GA tonight to break into groups as described. To get you started, and we thank you in advance, here are a few of the nominations we are currently looking at in a few different categories. Under “Practices and Ideas,” we have Transition Towns and Local Living Economies and Eye Contact. Under “New York City,” the Highline Park has been nominated. Under “Legislation,” HR808/S1756 to establish a US Dept of Peace has been nominated. Under “Programs,” the DOBA? DOMA? Brothers enacting Human Potential and Transformation in maximum-security prisons has been nominated. As you work in your groups, remember that nominations of things we love are for things that already exist and are not limited to the categories I just mentioned.

F: I see a PoI. I also see a PoP. Would we like to go back to one generation? One generation please.

PoP: I have a PoP, which might also be a question. You tell me. These sound a lot like endorsements, which is something we recently voted we do not want to do. If these aren’t endorsements, for instance endorsing the legislation in the house and senate, how is this different?

P: I’m not sure.

F: I saw two PoIs.

PoI: Who brought it to the Highline Park there was a campaign to stop the project because the wood used in the project comes from the endangered species in Ghana.

PoI: My understanding is the statement the GA passed about endorsements only stated that it hasn’t endorsed anything.

F: At this point, we will continue with the breakout groups. We’re going to stick to 10 minutes so please make sure you write everything down, pick one person to quickly synthesize, and give a 1 minute report back.

PoI: Perhaps we should do a temperature check about breaking out.

F: Temperature check. Please give us a second to think. Okay. The proposer has agreed we’ll pass his forms out, fill it out on your own and he will make himself available to take your forms. And then we can move on.

P: Also on the forms is our email address. Thingsweloveows@gmail.com and one more thing our next meeting is Monday at 5 at 60 wall street please come if you’re at all interested.

57.1.3. Finance Budget Proposal

F: Thank you everybody. We’re going to move on. Next we have a budget proposal from finance.

57.1.3.1. P: Hi everybody. My name is Sam. You may have noticed I am not actually on the finance committee. I am one of the attorneys who have been helping out here in the occupation in various ways since the first week of the occupation. Ok. So back on October 24, we got calls at our office from the finance committee and also from members of other groups and these asked that I mention that Aaron who was up here earlier and is even now running back here was the first one to call us and tell us that we needed to lock down the trademark for OWS on an emergency basis. I can see some cold temperature about this so before I go on let me tell you all a bit about what trademarks is because it’s different from other forms of intellectual property. Copyrights and patents are given based on discovery or authorship or a creative or scientific work. There’s Aaron. Trademarks, on the other hand, are used to protect source identifiers. Most source identifiers are commercial so that you know that the stuff in the bottle labeled Tylenol is really Tylenol. However, source identifiers are also used by nonprofit groups and other organizations so that you can tell for instance that a website with the banner OWS actually contains information from OWS. We filed a trademark application for OWS on an emergency basis. Our office did this free of charge but we laid out $1300 for the filing fees. It was pretty lucky that we decided to do this and then get authorization later because 3 hours after we filed our application, a T-shirt company from Arizona filed their own application for OWS. So to be clear, that doesn’t mean that if we hadn’t filed that T-shirt Company would now be able to make you change your name. A year down the road, however, that may be the case. Now to be clear, I really don’t care how OWS chooses to use its trademark or identity but I want all of you in the GA to be the ones making those decisions. Just to clear up a few procedural points before we open this up, I want to say that I presented this to the Legal working group on Sunday of last week. However, consensus wasn’t reached at that time to support or oppose the proposal. Perhaps in part because about half the group left to go to other meetings before there would be temperature check. Though I do understand that this is an issue that’s very polarizing and people believe, some very strongly, that OWS shouldn’t even recognize the American intellectual property system. I think there’s some merit to that idea I just don’t want you to get your name taken from you because you’re not participating in the system. So if its ok with you all I would like to open stack just on authorizing the filing first and then form there go on to some minor points which include thanking the people in Long Island whose initial trademark application brought this to our attention and who abandoned their application once they found out that OWS was handling its own business. Thanks.

F: We would like to open stack for CQs.

57.1.3.2. Clarifying Questions

Stack: First on stack is Evan.

57.1.3.2.1. Hello and thank you for your work. Is there a possibility that this trademark could be placed in what I understand is called an irrevocable trust and can you explain what that is.

R: Well there are a variety of forms of irrevocable trust. And as understand it, a trademark is property that can be maintained by a trust. Currently, the application is in the name of the OWS unincorporated association and so as I understand it you all could put it in an irrevocable trust or do just about anything else you’d like with it.

Stack: Next on stack is Jared.

57.1.3.2.2. Jared: hello what are the limitations of whom in the GA can use this trademark where it is applicable.

R: That is for the GA to decide itself or to delegate as it sees fit. However, I should point out that having the trademark doesn’t mean that the government is going to start enforcing it for you. Mark owners police their own marks as they like and to the extent they like and so that would be a decision for all of you.

Stack: Next on stack is Bernie

57.1.3.2.3. Bernie: Hi everyone just a point of clarification is there any possibility of establishing a trademark on the public commons in order to prevent other entities from claiming the term but still leaving it in the common use.

R: That’s a really interesting question. Let me explain that trademarks are awarded based on a showing that someone is using a mark or intending to use a mark in whets commonly referred to as the stream of commerce which basically means in everyday life. So if OWS was using the term in public commons to designate the identity of the source of particular ideas, that would be possible. However. I’m not sure if the term “the public commons” is in and of itself distinctive enough to merit trademark protection because generic words in and of themselves aren’t trademark able unless they develop a secondary meaning based on use.

F: I’ve got four more people on stack. First we have a PoI.

PoI: Hi everyone. PoI for the questions about decision-making about the trademark, is that the NYCGA is not named as a decision making body for this trademark in the filing. It is named as the friends of liberty park GA that is the unincorporated association that does banking for us. Therefore the questions about decision-making legally are not NYCGA.

P: Direct response. The trademark application itself which I don’t have a copy of with me expressly states that to the extent possible under the law ownership and control of the mark is to be vested in the GA. Do you mind reading it because I don’t have it in front of me. The misc. statement on the application says “to the extent that is it is possible this application is intended to vest trademark rights in OWS in the unincorporated association OWS as a whole, not in the individual applications as joint applicants per se. Any usage of the OWS mark

herein claimed are and will be authorized by the majority vote of the GA of OWS or a duly designated agent or agents thereof.

PoI #2: This Bernie again. I’m sorry I think you didn’t understand my question. I was asking about the concept of the public commons. Not talking about using the term “the public commons”

F: This means that you have factual information that you would like to share with the group. However it seems that this person’s question was not answered.

P: To answer your question, no, you can’t trademark concepts. I apologize. There is an argument to be made that OWS could exist as a mark in the public commons. However, would the agreement of all other entities that could and have attempted to claim the mark as their property that would be impossible?

F: Now I see three PoI. Let’s hear them as I’ve seen them, okay?

PoI # 1 What you read from the application said that we operate by majority vote. We do not operate by majority, we operate by consensus.

P: Duly noted. And you are free to do so. I apologize for any imprecision that was embodied in an emergency filing but the spirit of the statement is to vest control over OWS in OWS.

PoI #2 hello everybody it is a fact that OWS is already a trademark owned by you. It is the registration of that trademark that is at issue so do not be discouraged to think that somebody in Arizona simply by filing papers can take your name and effort away from you. Thank you.

P: That’s right. It’s not simply by filing papers. Its also by long and costly litigation where OWS would have to prove at some later point through means admissible to the court that they were using the mark in ways that are recognized by trademark law before it was being used by whoever registered for it. Trademarks registration serves as what’s called prima ficia evidence of use of the mark and so the registration is not necessary it is prophylactic.

Stack: Next on stack is Daryl.

57.1.3.2.4. Daryl: My question is if say someone had a t-shirt that said OWS for Romney or OWS for Misogyny, what would be our recourse and what would be the advantage of having a trademark vs. not.

R: I’m glad you asked that question because another one of the points that I wanted to address after hopefully getting the initial authorization is locking down all of the variants of OWS for the use and control of OWS. The current application is only for the words “OWS’ used as a group. We would need a separate application to attempt to trademark OWS THE INITIALS and the earlier application of the folks from LI was for “Occupy Wall St” and I would like to propose since they have been gracious enough to abandon their filing that we both pick it up and thank them for being good citizens.

57.1.3.2.4. (continued) Daryl: My question was what is the difference between filing with the trademark and without.

R: Ok there is big differences. First a trademark is prima ficia evidence of ownership and use of a mark so we wouldn’t have to go in and prove at the outset that we were using the mark first. We would have that already set out. Being somebody who litigates these sorts of matters when civil rights lawsuits aren’t keeping the lights on, I can tell you that it’s a lot harder to get a company’s attention and show them that you mean business without a registration. It’s not impossible but it’s a lot easier if you have it.

F: We have four more people on stack and I’m going to start closing stack but you can still get on it. Next on stack for CQ is Charlie.

57.1.3.2.5. Charlie: have you looked into the creative commons license as an alternative to a trademark and if not, please do.

R: I’m familiar with creative commons. It applies to copyright, for works of authorship. Trademarks are not copyright. There is no equivalent to creative commons w/in trademark. There is just registration or non-registration.

Stack: Next on stack is Steven.

57.1.3.2.6. Steven: How long is the trademark good for? Does it have to be redone every year and financed and what if you wanted to add on to it or change it?

R: Trademark renewals are either every five or seven years but I don’t remember off the top of my head. There is a renewal fee for class of use and you can amend a mark to be for additional classes meaning use in additional things, as you like for additional flees. Additional marks would need to be applied for individually.

F: Stack is now closed. Next is Bill.

57.1.3.2.7. Bill: I want to respond to questions about registration vs. simple trademark. Isn’t it a fact that the cost of engaging in trademark litigation will be substantially identical whether or no the mark is registered? Also the filing by the person in Arizona is prima facia evidence but they would also have to demonstrate use, which they cannot. Also disclose to us how many classes have you filed in and how many additional trademarks. Do you think will be necessary to protect the registration you seek. And how many additional classes in each?

R: That was a lot of questions. Let me see if I can start from the beginning and work my way through. I’ll ask this gentleman to let me know at the end if I missed any of his questions? The cost would largely depend on what basis you had council representing you. Obviously if you had pro bono council you’d be paying nothing regardless of whether a litigation took a year or was resolved with one letter. Registration offers the benefit of allowing many of these matters to be resolved without litigation, which necessarily limits costs and could also shorten litigation by limiting the issues of fact that need to be resolving. I believe unless I’m mistaken that you have a printout of the registration of the application in your hand. And you could probably tell me better than I could. Off the top of my head we applied in 4 classes – websites, periodicals like newspapers, clothing, and bags. We did both clothing and bags because the applicants in LI also applied for both clothing and bags. This is a good point to segue into your next question about what I feel is necessary in terms of trademark filings. I think we should try and lock down Occupy Wall Street in the same four classes because a lot of the t-shirts here say “Occupty Wall St.” not “Occupy Wall Street.”

F: Just to interrupt while that is an important distinction, in the interest of time we need to focus on only what this proposal is addressing,

P: I am proposing five things: 1. The GA authorize the filing. 2. The GA authorize finance to reimburse us for our filing fees. 3. The GA authorize us to extend their thanks to the couple in Long Island who did the right thing and backed off-process. 4. The GA authorize us to pick up their filing in the same categories. 5. To authorize filing fees for that, another $1300. Total would be $2600

F: Two more people on stack for CQ

Stack: Next is Carrie.

57.1.3.2.7. Carrie: Forgive me if this has been gone over I was in a meeting. I am wondering what kind of legal agreements the people that are directly included in the process are going to undertake if they are going to undertake any legal responsibility for implementing anything to do with the trademark.

R: I don’t really understand the question. If I could take a guess, the trademark will need to be assigned meaning that its ownership will need to be transferred by agreement to whatever other sort of formation OWS may adopt for conducting its affairs in the future.

57.1.3.2.7. (continued) Carrie: I am asking whether the people directly involved were going to take personal and legal responsibility through legal agreement.

R: Who are the people involved in your mind?

Carrie: You.

R: I am a hired geek. In the context of the filing, I am just the guy pushing the buttons. I don’t have any ownership or control beyond what you give me. We needed to have individuals who were signers to the unincorporated association included by name on the filing but getting back to my initial comment on this, the extent of legal agreements that they will have to enter into are simply to assign ownership and control of the mark to the GA by whatever means the GA feels is warranted. Does that answer your?

Carrie: No. What legal agreements are they signing with OWS?

R: The people that signed are both on the finance group, one of them is still on the finance group the other one, Victoria, is dealing with other stuff. But they were the people who were the signers on the unincorporated association which was the entity that applied for the mark, and again, there is no intention for the unincorporated association or for Victoria or for Pete or even me and Wiley as lawyer to have any control over this mark other than to effect the will of the GA AND the extent of legal agreement that will have to be entered into are simply to assign the mark. Has that answered your question?

Carrie: No.

R: Can we speak after this?

F: We have a PoP.

PoP: If your question hasn’t been answered with that much talk, you might want to stand aside or block the proposal at the end.

Stack: Next on stack is Susan

57.1.3.2.8. Susan: you keep referring to a “we” that started this filing for a trademark which to my understanding never went thru GA, is not back ed by the legal working group, so who is the “we” that filed for this.

R: As stated in the proposal which has been on the nycga website, the finance committee and members of other groups such as Aaron here called our office and told us to do this on an emergency basis.

Susan: Which other groups?

R: I’m a hired geek. I did not receive every phone call. However, I am aware of support from Internet, Media, and members of the legal working group although there is apparently something of a schism which, rather than addressing this prior to this meeting, has been presented in the form of a concerted ambush. So I would suggest that we move on from CQ to objections because it seems that the 5 or 6 individuals sitting here have quite a few that they would like to share with you.

F: PoP the facilitation team is empowered to move the discussion forward. I have a PoI.

PoI: I would like to corroborate that Sam and Wiley did move on this because Internet, finance, and media, to my knowledge, were aware of people trying to use this mark in ways that do not benefit us. They are trying to us this mark to make money for themselves. Jay Z is now printing “Occupy Wall STREETS” with the “w” slashed out. This was something that deeply concerned us. We do not want to see this body co-opted in any way.

PoI: There was a misquote in the media about Rocawear. Jay Z doesn’t own Rocawear anymore. Furthermore they said they didn’t know what they were going to do with the money they didn’t say they were going to keep it but other people could do something like that

P: And have expressed intentions to do so.

PoI: As far as I understand this is the GA and the GA has not been co-opted. The brand OWS originated from some other company or organization, not the GA.

P: That’s absolutely right. However trademark is awarded based on use not creation. I would say OWS is using OWS and should be controlling uses of OWS.

F: Since stack has been closed. I’d like to move us forward to concerns. Please get on stack. Just a reminder after this we have two more budget proposals. Just reminding you.

57.1.3.3. Concerns

F: First on stack for concerns is Susan,

57.1.3.3.1. Susan: my first concern is the language in the file for trademark that says that nay uses of the OWS mark herein blah blah blah will be authorized by the majority vote of the GA of OWS etc. we don’t vote at the GA, we come to consensus. I think this shows among a number of things that there is no understanding of our directly democratic process here at NYCGA. Second. Using the word “occupy wall street” I consider that to be the people’s words and fuck if everybody else uses them, that’s what we fucking want, right? We want people to use it because this is a popular movement and to trademark it might be a little off message.

R: Your first point was previously addressed and I think that in the context of a very rapidly done emergency filing a mis-statement that really has no controlling affect should be noted as a mis-statement not as a reflection of some lack of understanding of OWS. Your second concern – I personally agree that OWS should be used, as people like. The concerns of the groups and individuals who asked us to do this were that that decision would be taken away from OWS and placed in the hands of, for example, a t-shirt merchant form Arizona the general assembly by consensus can opt to authorize any use they like of the mark. That is not at question here. Having the trademark does not come with any duty to use it in any sort of capitalist ways to provide protection against other people exploiting it or using it to distribute misinformation.

F: Six on stack, closing stack for concerns. Next is Jared,

57.1.3.3.2. Jared: my concern was addressed.

57.1.3.3.3. Teet: my concern is with the monetary allocations in the proposal. A lot of people here are spending a lot of their own time and money to build this movement without any monetary returns. We do this because we think it’s important and not because we want money. My concern is that some groups are privileged and receive money for the work they do in support of OWS and others don’t. Lawyers often work on a pro bono basis. What I would like to know is would you be willing to it pro bono?

R: I am doing it pro bono. The moneys involved are entirely filing fees that we paid out of pocket to the US government for the registration but we are helping OWS on a pro bono basis whether we’re getting people out of jail, finding out about the legal status of this park or at the request of WG of OWS undertaking legal filing. This is a proposal. To make our work into a break-even proposition to the extent of money that we laid out of pocket because fundamentally our offices support of OWS has lost us tons of money. Because we’ve been here helping you all instead of working on stuff that makes us money.

F: Next on stack is Anthony.

57.1.3.3.4. Anthony: my concerns are many but I’ll keep them brief. The unincorporated association and the individuals such as Aaron who contacted Sam usurped the power of the GA. I’m also concerned about Sam’s law firm and the way that they have gone about everything having to do with OWS. Also, regarding blowing off the lightness of word choice, I’ll point out that as a lawyer I’m sure you’re aware that exact word choice is very important. Finally I will suggest that claiming ownership over this is entirely off message to the OWS.

R: I’m going to address you concerns out of order. As for word choice, in a binding legal document, word choice is very important. However, in a miscellaneous statement to a

trademark application I would submit it’s not as important. It’s not like the trademark office

will come here and tell the GA that they cannot control the mark because they are going by

consensus instead of majority. Similarly, I would say that if any persons have any issues with

the manner in which my office has been assisting with OWS, that they bring that up with us

rather than waiting and ambushing us in a public forum. I first addressed this GA 54 days ago

and I asked for the right to assist you all to stay in the park and get shelters even though our

retainer was dissolved several days later we’ve continue to assist how we can. As for the

groups that have contacted us to take action and any assertion that they have somehow

usurped the prerogative of the GA by doing so I would say that this is why we are here now

because at that time patricians in OWS saw a need for immediate action. They asked us to

take immediate action and so we did. And now, we are seeking your approval for that. If you

don’t give your approval we will abandon the application and we will be out of pocket $1300.

However, that in and of itself will not deter us from continuing to assist OWS because the

expression and protection of your 1st amendment rights are much more important to us than

bullshit parliamentary politics. As for our other concerns I believe they have been addressed

several times at least over the course of this proposal.

PoP: Point of affection and point out that raising concerns is not an ambush but just the way

we do business here. If you say that raising concerns is an ambush its points raising concerns

in a very negative light, it discourses dissent and it encourages people who feel comfortable

talking in front of a large group of people to plow whatever they want through the GA. This

is kind of how congress works and it’s also a load of shit.

R: Brief direct response – I generally agree with that however I met with the Legal working

group on this issue and the proposal has been on the website without comment.

PoP: Most of us here have zero access to Internet.

F: Two PoI and one PoP.

PoP: Generally direct responses don’t happen with presenters in proposals.

PoI: The ambush he was referring to, or the content thereof, had nothing at all to do with the

proposal on the table.

PoI: Information from legal. In our group meeting he’s referring to, we decided by consensus

we could not support the retroactive authorization of the filing they already filed. We did not

consensus upon approving the filing he’s asking us to do now for “occupy wall st”

PoI: what the attorney here is saying is 6 months of legal training. This won’t be able to

answered all in one general assembly. It’s a very complex legal process I’m not talking about

the filing, but the potential legal repercussions.

PoP: That doesn’t sound like a PoI

Renee: I’m not sure about talking about copywriting OWS – trade marking. I feel there’s a

difference and I’m not sure that everyone here knows the difference. I’m not really sure that I

do. I do know that I feel that OWS that is trying to be trademark can be used as long as it

benefits OWS as long as it’s used appropriately. I don’t get the issue. As long as it benefits us,

and as long as it’s not helping someone who is not involved with us its good. I have other issues like safety. I don’t know if I can bring that up right now.

F: I think they’re going to work on clarifying if this is a concern. If it is we’ll come back to it

R: Briefly, copyright is awarded to works of authorship and provides exclusive rights to the author trademark is awarded to the user of marks in the stream of commerce and protects that mark as a source identifier saying that particular thing which can be tangible goods or intangible ideas like messages on a website come from a particular source copyright is based on creation and trademark on use.

F: Let’s take a second to pause and think.

Mic check 2x

F: I hope that break was nice. It seems like these folks are still clarifying. Until then, our friend over would like to talk about our vibes.

F: We draw consensus process partially from Quakers. The Quakers will often take some moments for reflection so this time isn’t necessarily wasted, it’s for all of us to reflect and center around where we may stand on this issue. When we come back we’re clear and centered for ourselves. We also trust that everyone else has also done that and is equally valid in their position so we want to respect that so that’s what we mean when we talk about taking a few moments for reflection.

F: Please remember this is a collaborative process. We like each other. A lot. That’s why we hang out so much. And all of our brains are going to come up with something really good because we collaborate.

F: Two more on stack.

57.1.3.3.5. Michael: I think that everyone here means really well. I think the concerns that caused everyone up here to take action were very valid. At the same time I have some concerns w what’s happening right now and with what might happen tomorrow and next year if we consense to this. I would like to see if we really feel that we need this protection that we file for it in such a way that we ensure this legal right to the trademark will never be used to exclude people from this movement because no one can say to any person, anywhere, you are not part of the occupation. We are all OWS. We are all occupying DC. We are all Occupy Oakland. Thank you.

F: In the interest of time we need to keep stack closed.

R: To respond to the last point, and its beautiful rhetoric, I’m not sure if the slippery slope that Mihal mentioned at first as with relation to procedure or the filing itself. Semantic issues about the error use of the word majority instead of consensus aside, I don’t see anything in the application already filed that would exclude anyone except if that were the will of the GA. With respect to parliamentary procedure, it’s my understanding that the Spokes Council is being formed right now as a venue for finance and emergency decisions. I may be mistaken. It appears that concern is already being addressed.

57.1.3.3.5. (continued) Michael: allow me to clarify. My concern is this. We already had a question earlier about what would happen if the Romney campaign printed OWS on t-shirts. So there are already ideas that came up in the last hour about restricting the use of the phrase OWS and related terms. Who gets that power?

R: You do.

Michael: that needs to be in the proposal. I would love to se the Legal working group come up w a proposal that includes that so we don’t have to take it on faith.

F: If you have specific requests for this proposal please hold them for amendments. We have three PoI.

PoI: We do not use parliamentary procedure. We use consensus.

PoI: One of the reasons the groups that requested this went to Sam and Wiley is that it’s almost impossible to find the legal working group.

PoI: I’d like to speak to that. We recognize it’s been difficult to find us. We’re working on that. All the attorneys involved have known how to reach us individually and did in fact right after you decided to file. Second point is while we did not come to consensus on whether to support the additional filing they wish to file, people in our group have continued to consult with other trademark attorneys because we continue as a group to discuss it. Also lets keep in mind its not up to the legal group to approve or deny. Our role as per the proposal passed on Oct 20th in this GA is merely to coordinate information to give to al of you to make informed decisions and make sure GA has consensus. Period.

F: Last person on stack. After that we would like to open it to amendments.

57.1.3.3.6. Frank: I’m concerned by a number of things. Firstly what is the name of this movement? The name is Occupy Wall Street. Everywhere you look in this park on the website we refer to ourselves as OWS. I’m concerned that if we don’t take steps to protect our right to use this name that somebody else will take steps to get the use of this name for them. What is our second choice? Do we have another name we want to use if somebody else tells us we cant use this name? If you snooze you lose. And if we don’t have the legal right to use this name, because we didn’t take action to protect it. Others could sue us

Mic Check PoP: your concerns are valid and I appreciate it but they are not concerns with the proposal. You are expressing support of the proposal.

Frank: I am concerned with how we treat the people who help us.

F: I see lots of PoP so we need to move forward.

F: Now let’s move to friendly amendments

57.1.3.4. Friendly Amendments

57.1.3.4.1. Katie: can we publish a statement if we trademark is saying that we are not excluding anyone and we remain inclusive and will not use trademark to exclude people from identifying with us,

R: You could do that. I would advise that instead of saying that you’re not excluding anybody that you say you’re not excluding anyone not using the mark for proper purposes because if…

R: I’m withdrawing point 3-5 of the proposal because clearly it is the will of the Legal working group that they pull the trigger on future decisions of that sort. I’m very happy to let them do that. This is just now to authorize the filing that’s already happened and to reimburse us for our expenses.

PoI: I’m saying it again because I don’t think Sam understands. Legal is not looking to pull any trigger. We don’t have or want that power.

F: Next on stack is Sergio. Never mind. Next on stack is Carrie.

57.1.3.4.2. Carrie: Hello. I would like to make a friendly amendment. We would maybe love to pay you. Can we pay you?

R: No. Your money is no good with us.

F: It’s my understanding that that amendment was not finished.

Carrie: The $1300 and not say whether we’re okay with the rest of your proposal.

R: I’m declining that as a friendly amendment I would like to suggest instead that we split the decision into two parts. First. To reimburse expenses. Second to authorize the filing.

F: Next on stack is Teet.

57.1.3.4.3. Teet: can we add the thank you note to the people on Long Island back into the proposal?

R: I would love that.

57.1.3.4.4. I would like to make a friendly amendment. Why not change the name into Occupying Wall St. then it will come from the GA and be our property.

R: I’m going to decline that amendment although I do appreciate the idea behind it thank you

Mike: My friendly amendment was the same as yours. Thank you.

57.1.3.4.5. Katrina: I would like to acknowledge the work that you’ve done for us pro bono and to put an amendment of gratitude into the proposal.

R: I’ll accept the amendment thank you that’s really sweet I really appreciate it.

F: No one left on stack, give me a minute to thank please. We will ask him to restate the proposal with accepted friendly amendments and then a temperature check.

P: I’ll say them all together once and then I suggest we do a temperature heck on each part together the proposals are: 1. Reimbursing the $1300 in filing fees. 2. Authorizing the application. 3. Thanking the couple in long island for doing the right thing by OWS. 4. Making me blush a little thanking Wiley and me for our work on behalf of the occupation.

F:Temp check on reimbursing $1300. This seems mostly positive but there are other responses so now we would like to ask if there are any blocks. Three blocks. We will ask them explain.

57.1.3.5. Blocks

57.1.3.5.1. Block 1: I am anti-capitalist. Not everyone at OWS is. A lot are. I am not using the master’s tools. I am not selling OWS on the NY Stock exchange or opening an investment firm.

57.1.3.5.2. Block 2: His is for the reimbursement. We don’t believe the filing was an emergency. I personally believe it was an abuse of professional power and also the entire filing was out of process as per a proposal that legal put forward a week before that.

R: The filing was out of process that is why we are here now and why I met with your group last Sunday and have been taking strenuous efforts to meet with your group since the date of the filing itself and I would be happy to produce documentary evidence to that effect.

PoI: I’ve known Sam since the 1st week of this occupation. We also have been talking about the trademark since legal found out it happened, which is a couple of days after it was filed we asked Sam to meet with legal in no way was it difficult to find us. We sought out you have my phone number.

PoP: So you can have your block and the community respects that. The proposal maker can try to address the block but we don’t have to get into an argument about justifying or not justifying people’s blocks. Everyone has the right to block.

F: I’ve been informed that there are actually four blocks.

57.1.3.5.3. Block 3: Susan: my block is based on the fact that although this claims to be an emergency or the result of an emergency I don’t believe a subjective assessment of the word emergency legitimizes the abuse of process. We have had emergencies before they were not dealt with quite in this manner.

R: I disagree I get calls far more often than I would like with emergencies. Most of those calls are people who have been arrested and asking me to get them out of jail. I do not go to the GA FOR Authorization before I do that. When members of groups and entire committees contact my office and ask us to do this on an emergency basis, I don’t ask for the GA’s approval in advance. I do it.

Block 3: that doesn’t address my block whatsoever. Individuals contacting a lawyer have nothing to do with the making a decision that affects everyone at this occupation and potentially everyone in the movement across the country. That is my block.

PoP: I am concerned that every time you’re challenged about why this was an emergency you say it wasn’t your fault, you simply acted on orders. So why aren’t the people who made this decision up there defending this decision.

PoP: That was a question. This means that we’re off process.

F: Does everyone feel its ok for me to ask for the last block?

57.1.3.5.4. Block 4: I put my block in late after realizing I’m still very on the fence about the filing. Regardless of that, money was spent on an organizations’ own volition and was not approved by the GA. Therefore, regardless of everything else, we cannot allocate funds that are asked for in return retroactively.

R: Why not?

F: There are now five blocks and two PoI

PoI: Two PoI. There action was taken on god faith. If he does not get authorization tonight, the application will be withdrawn.

PoI: I have attended for Gas where someone was reimbursed retroactively. I was at a GA last week where the GA authorized to spend $8000 to buy Internet domain names to protect the name OWS and the way that that name is used.

PoI: The decisions that were just referred to were brought forward as proposals by a WG. Hello? I don’t see a working group up here so the decisions that were referred to have nothing to do with the matter at hand.

P: I have been the one up here talking on this finance group proposal because I know more about trademarks and how to explain them than folks from finance. But in fact, Pete from finance has been here all along, Aaron from the Direct Action working group has been in and out as he could be.

Susan: I’m from DA and we did not consensus or discuss this.

F: Mic check. I think we need to take a moment again to calm down.

PoI: it is my understanding that anyone can bring a proposal to the GA.

57.1.3.5.5. Block 5: As a GA, before any decision is made, they should get our consent first. They did not do so. I felt, as an occupier and part of the GA, that I was disrespected before they put this on the table. I am sorry Sam. I like you as a person, as an attorney, but they are things I need to do to the guidelines the GA set that we need to follow. Nobody’s perfect and nobody’s special. Sorry.

Point of Clarification (PoC) by Aaron: I heard that people were trying to take the trademark. I went to Legal I could not find anybody somebody gave me Sam and Wiley’s phone number. I passed it out in the media tent to a bunch of people. They called. I am part of media. I have worked with DA as well but I did not represent DA when I made that call. I was acting as a protester. If anybody else made that call on behalf of their WG, it had nothing to do with DA. I think people assume because I have done things with DA in the past that it was a DA think but I also work with media and as an individual.

P: I apologize for any confusion.

PoI: I’m part of media and attend most if not all meetings but I was never aware of this at any media meeting.

PoI: It is my understanding that the working groups are empowered to make some autonomous decisions that we have a trust with the other working groups in this GA. As the Finance working group we consensed that this was an important thing that related to our fiduciary responsibility t the whole group. We could not find legal which is why we turned to Sam and Wiley’s office. And this was a very time sensitive matter.

PoI: It is a fact that if this filing is not made someone else will make it and they will sue us if we use the OWS name.

PoP: That’s not PoI, it’s very steeped in potential and it’s not a fact.

57.1.3.5.6. Block 6: I agree with Susan’s block about the use of so-called emergencies to allocate funds. It concerns me because its abused it seem s like to me. I don’t know all the facts in this case. I wanted to say that I now withdraw my block.

F: There are two new blocks.

PoI: Emergencies are subjective. That is a fact. Had this been filed three and half hours later, different owners of this mark might exist.

F: PoIs are facts, not speculative or opinions or what very well might or could possibly happen.

Block 6: Everybody knows Marina. Most of the lawyers know Marina. She’s part of the Legal working group. She’s a phone call away. It was us who had to actually contact you to be part of the process. That’s all.

57.1.3.5.7. Block 7: I’m in favor of OWS owning a trademark. I didn’t know there was an emergency action going on trademark so there wasn’t consensus on it in finance. The other thing that probably needs to be addressed is changes to the entity that controls.

F: Mic Check: mic check is breaking down lets try to keep it going id like to remind all of us that we’re talking about the reimbursement of the money that’s already been spent. ONE MORE block and then I’d like to step in as a facilitator.

57.1.3.5.8. Block 8: I agree with the trade marking but this is supposed to be a leaderless movement so why were the decisions

Mic Check: While we were marching, our friend who is one of our marchers got arrested. We don’t know why but he’s going down from what we understand to the 7thprecinct so the marchers said I could be facilitator and so we had a vote. The vote was to march down to the 7th precinct. To support our friend. And we want more people. That’s the announcement.

F: Thank you.

Block 8 cont: Basically my issue is the fact that this was made not as a group but by an individual person. But I agree with the trademark that was filed. I am withdrawing the block.

F: I’d like to keep going. Do you?

PoP: These last two blocks which were withdrawn after stated are an abuse of a block. A block is an ethical or safety concern. It is very serious. It is not an excuse to express a late concern.

F: When you block you cannot block and then unblock right after to voice a concern. When you block you are looking for some kind of resolution or statement to make you feel better so that you then can put down your block. I see another PoP.

PoP: Stack was closed on concerns before all concerns were aired. There is actually a procedure for emergency proposals of which this apparently was one somehow. But now there’s another one.

F: If there’s an emergency proposal I beg you to speak to the facilitation greeter they can then come to the facilitators and we’ll see what we can do.

F: Please give me a second to figure this out.

Mic Check. to reiterate the emergency proposal was if you want to leave right now to go on this march and support those people who were arrested it wasn’t just one person it was 5 people now id like to move on.

F: I’m a little unclear on the count right now. Can we get the blocks restated? Show us your hands if you’re blocking. I’ve counted 6 blocks. We’re supposed to use our modified consensus process and see if 10% of the people are not okay with passing this. Do people feel that I’m correct?

F: At this point, we’re going to ask anybody that does not support reimbursing $1300 to put one hand up and keep it up until someone directly acknowledges you. Everyone please raise your hand. We will go around and count you please keep your hand up until someone directly addresses you.

MIC CHECK

F: Fourteen people were not in favor of this proposal. Ninety-eight people are here. Because we used modified consensus that means that we have not reached consensus on this proposal. Remember that was just about reimbursement. We have other things to address. First, PoP.

PoP: I was under the understanding that the 9/10 is the number of blocks is over 10% not the number of people who are against the proposal. Because you can be against the proposal and still let it pass. I’m not sure.

PoP/PoI: In the 1st week the GA came to consensus that if there were any number of blocks we would then move to a vote and the proposal would pass if there were 9/10 or more or 1/10 against. It’s not 10% blocks.]

F: As a facilitator, it has been my understanding that when we move toward modified consensus people can show that they’re no in favor even if they weren’t blocking before. Let me ask you is that how you understand it to be true? I’m seeing almost all twinkle up but I did see some twinkle down and I have a POP.

PoP: It is my understanding that it is not people not in favor that is counted for modified consensus. It is the number of blocks.

P: With the permission of the group I would like to withdraw this proposal in its entirety for this evening and go home with my wife. We may propose it again in the future if that’s aright with you. I apologize for wasting so much of your time and thank you all very much for your attention and commitment to the cause.

F: As Facilitator I’d like to emphasize that although this has taken a rather long time I don’t think it was a waste of time. We’ve had a great discussion here. That is very important. Right now I am seeing a PoP. PoI and tw CQs.

PoP: This is a CC, my bad, but if you leave now, what happens to the filing. Does it get withdrawn?

P: Not right now

PoP: Then my PoP is we’re about to decide if we’re going to block you doing that or not or we’re going to consent to it.

P: We have plenty of time to make that decision. Right now, it been filed and it will be 3 months before an attorney is assigned to review the application and even after that it can still be withdrawn at no additional cost. I feel that a number of people who are in support of this have left because its 11 o clock on a Saturday night and a march went through. Is it okay if I step down, thank you, have a good night.

F: Let’s chill!

PoI: Thank you Sam for going thru this process. That’s the whole point of all of this. That being said, we’ve gone thru this immensely long process and at the moment of it looking like it’s not going to pass, you’re leaving. If you’re going to leave now and withdraw it, myself who has blocked it and other people would like you to abandon the trademark. If you won’t abandon it tonight then stay here and completely the process till we come to consensus or not.

P: I think that’s a willful mis-statement of the GA process in order to exploit current conditions. I am unaware of anything in the GA process that indicates that a proposal even if

it is defeated once cannot be brought again. So I think you have presented a false choice in order to force a decision in your favor.

F: As facilitator I’d like to tell you what I’m hearing. I’m hearing that people are okay with some of the proposal being withdrawn. I’m also hearing that people aren’t ok with the entire proposal being withdrawn. Does it seem appropriate for us to address whether the trademark is withdrawn. Imp seeing downward twinkles, which means I’m wrong thank you I’m also seeing 2 POP.

PoP: It is my understanding that a proposer can table a proposal at any time.

PoP 2: Me too

F: So it seems that this proposal has been withdrawn. And we might see it later. I have a PoP.

PoP: When we see this later, it should be the group that’s proposing it, namely finance, defending it.

57.1.3.6. Proposal Withdrawn

F: Wow I think this is done for now. Just to let you know that as facilitators and this is meant to be funny, we allotted thirty minutes for that proposal. We were only two hours off. We’re learning and growing. We thank you for your patience. I see everybody’s leaving. We have two more proposals. They’re budget proposals, the first from the Labor Outreach working group and the next from the Co-op working group. Those groups do have the option of tabling till tomorrow and they will be first on agenda for tomorrow but it is their choice. We have heard that labor proposal is time sensitive.

57.1.4. Labor Outreach WG Proposal

57.1.4.1. P: Hi I’m mark long night I hope this will be a fun proposal everyone likes. Mic check this proposal has changed slightly from what was posted on the GA website we’re asking for less money.

The labor outreach-working group is asking for funding to support the evening portion of the November 17 day of action, an action OWS has been coordinating with labor to produce. The specific portion of that action needs support is the reclaiming of the bridge for the 99% (The Brooklyn bridge), which will also serve as the 2-month birthday party for OWS. This will entail a massive spectacle of light and video projections on the Brooklyn Bridge, pedestrian walkway. The vision is to fill the walkway with 10,000 people all holding LED lights in addition 4 mobile video projection teams will be in the crowd projecting a bat-signal like image that reads 99%. The 10,000 LED lights have already been purchased by organized labor at a cost of $7000. The Labor Outreach working group would like to partially match this. We are seeking funds to purchase three deep cell marine batteries and two power invertors that are required to run the projects. Artists sympathetic to OWS have loaned us two such inverters and one battery. At the completion of the action all of this equipment will be donated to the Sustainability working group which has assured us they very much need all of it and its all compatible with what they’re already using. We are also requested $750 to hire a boat for the evening for photo and video documentation. In addition to this we need a small budget to transport and staff some of the gear. And to purchase some additional decorative

material to make the walkway feel like a birthday party. So we are asking for $2450 broken down as follows. Inverters $600 to revert to the encampment batteries $600 to revert to the encampment charter boat $750 transporting $150p staff or 1 projector $100 and decorations $250

PoP: For GA meetings we give allotted times for proposals. We vote on those times once we pass that point we vote on whether or not to continue. That has not been done and I suggest we start to do that.

F: Would you all like to set a time limit for this? How do ten minutes sound? Are there any questions? If so please get on stack.

57.1.4.2. Clarifying Questions

57.1.4.2.1. My question – do we need that much money for me I see it’s a waste of money when we can use that money to do something that’s way better and more productive than wasting on parties.

R: I believe that massive spectacle and art project an image of OWS to the world that encourages and inspires more people to become involved.

PoP: Although there was a question at the beginning I believe that that was mostly a concern. If you have concerns, please wait for the concern portion of stack to open.

57.1.4.2.2. Deet: Did Labor Outreach working group do fundraising for this before coming to the GA?

R: I believe that going to organize labor, specially untied New York, and them giving us $7000 already, constitutes substantial fundraising.

57.1.4.2.3. Jeff: so you said that we would need to purchase 10,000 LED lights.

R: Not correct unions bought THAT.

Jeff: Exactly how much are you asking?

R: $2450

F: Stack is now closed. Now we’re moving on to concerns.

57.1.4.3. Concerns

57.1.4.3.1. I believe that the party atmosphere could potentially take away from potential direct action and more of a serious mindset.

PoI: there are many direct actions scheduled for that day. I feel that the party atmosphere at the birthplace of OWS may be an appropriate

F: Let me clarify, at the beginning that was a PoI. There are a lot of direct actions happening on that day. Other than that, it was an opinion.

F: No more concerns. Let’s move to amendments.

57.1.4.3.2. The $150 for transportation – we can’t transport in some other way.

PoP: That’s a question. An amendment would be a suggestion of an alternative to something proposed.

F: any amendments?

57.1.4.3.3. I think there should be some kind of bat-signal

R: I accept that.

F: Now we will ask the proposer to restate the proposal with the friendly amendment of the bat signal.

P: It won’t be a literal bat signal it will be a gigantic projection of 99%. That is our bat signal. I’m asking for $2450 and $1200 of that is for equipment that will stay in the encampment.

F: Temperature check on this. That looks mostly good. Are there any blocks? I see a block. Lets keep in mind that a block means there is a moral issue you are seeing with the proposal or an ethical or safety concern.

57.1.4.4. Blocks

57.1.4.4.1. Block: my block is that we could use that money wisely by using it for something important, not wasting it the way they want it.

R: I ran this through some people in finance. They thought it was a good idea.

PoP: That block, while I respect your opinion, sounds to me, like a statement of preference. Whereas a block should pertain to a violation of principle. Key difference.

F: Based on what you’ve heard do you want to keep your block?

Block: yes, I do.

F: Modified consensus again. Raise your hand if you are not in approval with this proposal. I’ve been told there is another block. Because this block has chosen not to unblock, we’re just counting the blocks now and not voicing all of them because this one can’t be resolved. Please raise your hand if you are not in agreement.

PoP: I don’t think facilitation can say somebody cannot voice their block because that may influence other people involved in consensus to agree or disagree.

F: That’s a great point you’re right I appreciate it and apologize. Anyone with a block, we will let them voice that block.

CQ: are we at 9/10 or still counting blocks?

F: I propose we move forward with modified consensus. I thought I had consensed to do that. If we did, I don’t think its appropriate to go back and hear from blocks because that’s a time that people can show that they disagree w the proposal, just in a different form. Also, we’re past 10 minute now, so I need to ask you all if you would like to keep talking about this. Only one twinkle down. I’d like to move forward w modified consensus. If you do not approve of this proposal, please raise your hand really high. I count four. Now we’re going to count everyone here. I count 68. We have reached modified consensus. Yay.

57.1.4.5. Consensus!

F: We have one more proposal. The proposers are requesting a GA temperature check on whether you’d like to hear it tonight

P: Not technically time-sensitive, but I’ve been waiting so long. Not just tonight.

F: So, it’s not time sensitive but still wanted. Temp check. This proposal will be first on the agenda tomorrow. At this point in the meeting, we open it up for working group report backs. After that, we open it up for announcements. We would like to ask if there are any working groups that have report backs and if so, we beg you to keep them at a minute. Please get put on stack.

57.2. Working Group Report Backs

57.2.1. Anthony from DA: DA is hosting a meeting tomorrow at 60 Wall St. from 2-6 to discuss theory and praxis and DA’s place in the overarching movement. Please come if you’d like.

57.2.2. Allen from Kitchen: Hi GA. We the Kitchen working group needs volunteers to cook in the kitchen that’s in Brooklyn. If you have time, Monday thru Friday from 2-5pm to cook with us, please let me know. I’m right here. You can just cook once a week. That’s fine too.

F: Any other working group report backs? I don’t think so. We’d like to take stack for announcements. As a reminder, we ask that you keep announcements to factual statements of one minute or less.

57.3. Announcements

57.3.1. Gabriel: The formation of an anti-human trafficking, drug trafficking, abuse, intellectual violence and slavery-working group. It’s an operational group designed to help the occupants here and elsewhere to conduct the process of occupancy with the best possible outcome for all. The second group is called Religious Life Support Assistance Local and Global. Its for any religious person, any affiliation. Thank you. Here in the park, an occupancy or not, and around the world. So basically if you want to go to the march Friday, Saturday, Sunday or any other day you celebrate and you cant go because of this reason, I will work with you to arrange something so you can hold your religious and participate and enjoy.

57.3.2. Ashley: Hello, right now in my hometown of Salt Lake City, they are being cleared out of their occupation. 20 have been arrested and they are using bulldozers to clear out the remaining tents. They have been occupying since October 6 and they’ve had a hard time but

they have maintained joy and resolve and held up a good example in solidarity with us here and I am recording myself saying this so we can show them OWS considers themselves as one with Occupy Salt Lake City so please sparkle if you agree, if you will not back down, and we will keep growing this movement. Thank you.

57.3.3. Sophie: I was asked to make this announcement for someone who had to leave. Occupy Rochester was granted the right to occupy Washington Square Park in Rochester, NY on Thursday, November 10th.

57.3.4. Abe: A few days ago, Movement Building passed a proposal for $29,000 to send 20 people to Egypt for a purpose that is slightly unclear. I am going to try to get on the agenda for tomorrow to repeat this proposal because there weren’t that many people at that GA, and it is the largest sum of money that we have ever passed.

57.3.5. Jessica: I do support with community watch and community alliance here at Zuccotti and we need people to sign up for shifts to help be the eyes and ears of the park and keep the park safe so we can support his movement and keep it going. This is very important, obviously, so please, if you want to sign up, take my number. Shifts are 10pm-2am, 2am-4am and 4am to 6am. My name is Jessica and my number is 646 662 5430. Please text “I want to sign up for community watch” with your name. Thank you.

F: We have a small addition from Abe.

57.3.6. Abe: Based on the minutes that I read there was a block for the Egypt proposal and it was discounted by the facilitators so they didn’t move to modified consensus and the person who had made the block left.

57.3.7. Echo: Hello family you might have noticed there’s not a lot of room to walk. Sometimes people can be a little sensitive about putting their heads in the corner of their tent and then getting stepped on. Oops. Let’s think about neighborhoods. Let’s think about the beauty that we know inside and bringing it outside. Talk to your neighbors if you sleep here – try to find a local consensus about how your area fits into everyone’s experience here. Also I need volunteers – SIS and many others need volunteers. Specifically, right now a few others and myself collected lots of beautiful leaves, American Autumn, Arab Spring, American Autumn. We’ve collected 2 large garbage bags and those leaves need to be carefully pressed, which means hours of time and the more people the merrier. Once these leaves are pressed they will be laminated and stamped and sent to donors. We have an artist that made the fist with the leaves, his name is Tall and he’s made a little stamp for us, not sure what it says yet, maybe ‘love from liberty plaza thanks for the support sorry you couldn’t be here, but here’s a little piece of American Autumn.” Please come see SIS or me any of the next few days.

57.3.8. Rocky: I have a power source you can buy at Home Depot for $99. You can have a radiator, cell phones, heating blankets, and TVs off these. I suggest a few for each tent.

57.3.9. Steven: Hi I’m Steven I just came from McDonald’s someone felt the need to graffiti from wall to wall. Very very bad. McDonald’s is getting fed up with it. I spoke to the manager. I offered to clean it he said no, but they are going to try to stop us from using that bathroom. And the urine. The smell of urine is coming back.

57.3.10. We have three urinals we bought next to SIS anyone can use them. They’re port-a-potties. With the security guard, go down Broadway, turn left on Exchange, turn right and on the right are port-a-potties.

F: We’ve come to the end of everything on schedule. For those of you that stuck it out, be real proud of yourselves. We did a lot of great work tonight. On behalf of facilitation, we want to thank you and would like to invite you to join facilitation. We need people desperately. Doesn’t this look like fun? We meet every day at 4pm at 60 Wall Street. We have a teach-in about facilitation and intro to direct democracy at 5:30 at 60 Wall St. I invite any of you with feedback about tonight to talk to me now, or I promise I will be there tomorrow at 3:30 before our meeting if you would like to talk to me then and just go home now.

**NYCGA Minutes 11/15/2011**

Posted November 15th, 2011 by Ows Minutes & filed under Assemblies, General Assembly Minutes.

NYC GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY 60

Meeting Date/Time: 11/15/2011 / 7pm EST

Location: Liberty Plaza

Facilitators (F): Sully, Ross, Nyshevastar

[Introductions to the hand signals]

AGENDA

60.1. Announcements

60.2. Compilation of Breakout Group Ideas

60.1. Announcements

F: The first announcement is from the Legal working group

60.1.1. Legal: The rules say you can’t bring several things into the park no tents, that’s what the rules say, no big boxes, and a long list of other things you can look up the rules, the park remains open 24 hours a day!

Legal: The judge says the police can control whom comes in, we can film them all the time, but the park is still ours. We can decide all together how we will act, how we are going to let you know how to get your property back. Unfortunately they only gave us two days, tomorrow and Friday. If you lost something or it was taken bring photo id and your receipts and photographs to Manhattan district seven. West 66th 12th ave. 8 am-4pm tomorrow Wednesday and Friday only. Fill out a claim, give very specific descriptions. Try to have lawyers here to help our friends who are still in jail last night and this morning. About 220 people were arrested, some of them are out. At least 59 people won’t get out of jail tomorrow, they will be processed at 100 Center Street starting at 830 tomorrow morning. If you know someone who is now in jail you can help them get out a little faster by making sure that we know their names. Here is the phone number: (212) 679- 6018. And now here comes the hard part. We have to decide together what legal strategies, if any, we want to use to limit the police in this space. We need the working groups to talk. The first thing about the medical tent and you want you to really understand our options right now our options and be clued in. Trying to hold the city in contempt for ignoring the injunction, appealing the decision and

going forward with the case or dropping it and doing something else. That’s the basic framework. Thank you Legal! (Much clapping)

CQ: Please repeat the address where people can pick up their possessions.

A: West 56th street between 11 and 12th ave. So that’s what we know we’ll have some time later to consider responses but we know this.

F: Now a repot back from Medical

601.1.2. Medical: Hi, my name is Paulie. We are with the OWS medical clinic. I see a lot of new faces. I want to tell you what we are here for, but first I want to say that we are very proud to serve this community. Give yourself a pat on the back. We are here for everybody, including NYPD. We are also here for those who may not be able to afford healthcare. We have a staff who are very committed doctors nurses and medics. We also have people who are psychologists and psychiatrists and social workers. I also want to say, when you guys go out on marches we have a very dedicated group of street medics who are there for you as a first response. I am going to tell you what is going on with Medical right now. We are in the center of the park. Unfortunately almost our entire clinic was taken so we want to help you any way we can, just so you know we really only have equipment to deal with life or death situations. Even all of our old medications were taken so we can help you there also or any other police brutality. We also have a group called Jail Support that is there to treat and assist all that are coming out of jail. If you are coming out of jail let us assist you. We now know a lot from this whole situation, we are going to learn from this whole situation.

F: As many people as possible please sit down. Next a report back from the Kitchen working group.

60.1.3. Kitchen: Good evening everybody, my name is Sam. I am speaking for the Kitchen. So we lost a lot last night, we’re still in operation. If anybody is hungry please walk two blocks south on Broadway and stop in front of the Trinity churchyard. We are working on a new point of distribution for the kitchen to remain in compliance with the new rules and you will get the food you need. That’s all and I am so thankful to see all you here tonight.

F: Next up, we have an update about housing.

60.1.4. Housing: Please listen carefully. We have 300 places to sleep; however some of them close at 10pm. In addition you need bedding for some of them the storage space is going to be closed in forty minutes. If you need a place we need five minutes at the red cube. If anyone from SIS is here please come help us. We love you all!

F: We have another sweeping announcement.

60.1.5. Hi there, my name is Drew, I am from Occupy New Haven. We have ample room. We meet at the red cube in five minutes, thank you.

F: Next up, Info.

60.1.6. Info: I want to thank all the groups who helped last night. I’d like to thank you all for staying calm and listening to one and another we will be set up on that side of the park all day

all night if you are in a working group please find me we will help everyone get resettled according to the community plan.

F: Mic check.

F: We are wrapping up, please don’t mic check except from here. there are more groups that would like to make announcements but in the interest of time we are going save those for the end of the meeting.

F: We know there are a lot of issues that are time sensitive but you all have empowered us to keep this moving so we you respect our judgment and trust that we are doing and working and moving on behalf of OWS as a whole. So now that we know what our status is we need to talk about what comes next?

F: Mic check.

F: There are some things we know: so here is an announcement from the Legal working group about what is happening on Thursday.

60.1.7. Legal: This is incredible, I love you! On Thursday we will be marching on the New York Stock Exchange! I have been asked by the affinity groups organizing this action to call upon you, this GA to call upon all people threatened by eviction either in their homes or public places of assembly to join us this Thursday morning with this simple request: we are non violent but determined that we gather in the streets and public places of every city and march on the edifices of power that we each carry a simple cardboard sign that tells our story in a few simple words and those who wish to risk arrest do so by sitting in civil disobedience we ask this because our voices together and our stories combined give us hope from despair and give us strength in our multitudes. That is our proposal. So Thursday is our next big chance for a show of power. Are we ready?!

F: In the mean time working group are still working to still trying to meet our basic needs if you’re in a working group make sure there is up to date information on where your meeting and when on the NYCGA website and that the info desk there also be a spokes council tomorrow night at DCTV on Walker Street. In light of our situation that may have a different agenda than the one we have been using.

F: So we are getting tapped in to keep things moving but we still need to figure out what this means for the big picture. So what we are doing right now is we are going to take fifteen minutes and break into groups of ten or less the question you will be asking is: what are the decisions we as a community need to making right now? What are our creative strategies and where are our strengths in your groups? You will choose one person to report back to the group at large we will ask you to pick one idea that your group was most excited about and try to not be redundant with each other. Once you select your person at the end of 15 minutes we are going to have those people move forward so break out now. We will call you back.

F: We need everybody to bring it back.

60.1.8. Housing: I have another update from housing. We have a church if you are in dire need meet at the red cube across Broadway.

F: We have an update from the Legal working group.

60.1.9. Legal: We just talked to the community affairs officers they are the nice guys and they say that as long as we follow park rules the park stays open twenty-four hours the park has rules some of them are very specific and some of them are a little vague we know we can’t have tents we know we cant bring in big boxes there is a working group here that’s figuring out what else we can or cannot do. For now we know we know we know we can stay here what we don’t know how the police will react if people try and sleep here.

F: We are going to give you the opportunity to talk now. We can fill this park with tents right now, we can fill it with our bodies, we can fill it with our ideas. So here is what we are proposing for tonight we are going to keep this space open right here for people who want to get on stack with announcements, but we also need to start talking to each other so outside of this meeting we are still asking people to get into groups. We are still asking people to figure out what sort of strategies and decisions or movement needs right now we can talk to each other all night we can start to build plans so even though stack is open we’d like you to start talking were taking announcements about how we can and should move forward.

F:[missed part of this announcement] About a celebration and about our planning we encourage you to write it down and bring your papers and bring them to the facilitation team. Start talking.

[at this point some people were talking and some were listening to the announcements and it was hard to hear….]

60.1.10. Women Occupying Nations: We are greatly concerned for their well-being, we need to draw attention this unjust action, and violation women’s rights ….

F: If you have announcements I would advise you to come speak with Ashley.

F: Mic check.

60.1.11. Announcement: In one of the working groups that assembled tonight a gentleman came up with a brilliant idea he said that we cannot sleep in the park that we occupy in shifts overnight.

F: Next on stack is Ivy.

60.1.12. Ivy: I live in New York city vie been here all my life. If you have too you know that we have been through it worse, organizing did not start OWS organizing will not stop with OWS. If we keep waiting for GA then when they break up the GA we will have no movement. If you were pissed today and if you were looking for information and wondering what to do you should have gone to the hood, you should gone to the place where they lock up black and brown people, where people live in poverty every day and found out what you could do there you can talk ideas all day. We need action now, we need to connect to people that have been thorough this work. We need to connect to groups who have been doing this work so when they think the cut off the head fifty spring up. We have to be everybody so take your ideas and take your nap sacks and go occupy the hood. If we wait for more permission and more injustice we will never succeed!

Ivy: My suggestion is to talk to each other and find some people who are going to keep the work going outside of OWS. We need to occupy everywhere. There are buildings in the Bronx there are empty stadiums. Occupy everywhere!

F: Mic check.

F: Next on stack is Jethrow Black, we have a lot of people on stack right. Usually we try to limit announcements to two minutes, try to keep that in mind.

Out of Process announcement: Or some people or all of us and solidarity with everybody that got fucked up last night march.

F: Mic check. We would ask people even though they have valuable input to please follow stack. At this time it shows respect for the group as a whole. We have eight people on stack right now. I would like to close stack. If you would like to make an announcement please come see me. If you have paper form the earlier breakout group please come forward and give them to Facilitation.

60.1.13. Somupa: My name is Somupa, am from the Visions and Goals working group and the Outreach working group. I am happy to announce there are several GA’s every week throughout Brooklyn, throughout Staten Island, throughout Queens and Uptown Harlem and Washington heights. We have GA. I’d like to also announce that Bloomberg, we are going to be even bigger. My announcement is there is an action on November 17th. Occupy your block; occupy subways to shut the city down. Get involved! We will close the subway stops

F: Next is Tim.

60.1.14. Tim: My name is Tim. I was arrested last night. Right before I was arrested I gave my backpack to my sister [the rest of the announcement was drowned out by noise-I believe he is looking for his backpack].

F: Next on stack is Jack.

60.1.15. Jack: I understand that many people have made very good suggestions about how we can move the encampment, but are there more logical locations This is well and good however I think for the immediate future it is to our advantage to have a continuous presence here in Zuccotti park, even if this means taking shifts. Assuming the police ban sleeping here it will help to keep the media from selling this a as successful eviction. We need to show Bloomberg he will not kick us out of Zuccotti.

F: We are a very large group right now so please sit down so the people in the back can hear

F: We are collecting the ideas from the breakout groups; we’ve received a lot already. We are going to put out a summary, maybe in the middle of the night, and we can keep talking form there. Consensus takes time. So as long as you want to stay here keep talking.

60.1.16. Announcement: Those of you that have conventional jobs on Thursday and cannot for whatever reason break way a do general strike I encourage you to be unafraid to bring up these issues with your coworkers. Simply ask them, what do you think of the values of the OWS? Let the cat out of the bag. Musician caucus tomorrow.

F: We have had a PoP that people in the back can’t hear with one generation so we’d like to move to two. So let’s try that. Mic check.

60.1.17. Enrico: Hi I am hearing a lot of awesome talk about general strikes and arrests and what our demands should be. This is all stuff that needs to be discussed but what I think is most pressing is establishing permanent space outside the park, perhaps in doors and use the money we have to more efficiently become a true non-profit origination that will remain radical, horizontal, transparent, and governed by the general assembly. Anyone who agrees with me should come to the spokes council tomorrow

F: Next on stack is Jackie.

60.1.18. Jackie: My name is Jackie. This is my first time addressing the GA although I have been before. I agree we need a core at Zuccotti even if we don’t sleep here, so I will stay awake all night right here five nights every week and someone here can have, someone one here can have my bed for that time. I live in Harlem, I believe NYC residents who are willing to stay here awake at night and give their bed to others who need one can maintain Zuccotti as the heart of this movement. Even if ten communities are established. Thank you.

F: Next on stack is Felicia.

60.1.19. Felicia: Hi everybody my name is Felicia! I am a member of the Hunter CUNY GA and I am a third generation CUNY student and I want accessible and affordable education. For we the people on the 21st of November Hunter College and all CUNY schools will be marching in solidarity to Baruch College at 4pm. Where the board of trustees will be holding a hearing on five year tuition hikes for CUNY schools and for health insurance or the lack thereof for adjunct professors who only an average of $3,000 a semester. We will not accept that, we do not accept that. We invite you to march with us at Baruch college at 4pm on November 21st. If you have children, if you student debt, if you cannot afford an education, this is your moment. Education is a right. Thank you.

F: Some quick house-keeping as of now you are in the Sanitation working group. We have to keep our park clean. Thank you.

F: Also, we still have groups talking. We have groups that are planning on talking all night. So keep bring your papers up to facilitation or you can email facliation@nycga.net.

F: We are going to put out a summary as soon as possible. Tomorrow is the Spokes Council (SC). We are going to try and get on further on group about our immediate logistics. This summary we are going to make of ideas or the group is going to be the starting point for the decision we are going to start making at Thursday GA. Also Saturday and Sunday we are building the power. We need all of you to keep showing up. Thank you!

F: Next on stack is Omar form Occupy Newark.

60.1.20. Omar: Hey, we come from the other side of the river. This Friday we start our occupation in New Jersey’s largest city, where unemployment is 30%, where 25% of the residents are illegal immigrants. And the high school dropout rate is 50%. Where the prisons and immigration centers are owned by Wells Fargo and other corporations. Starting this

Friday we invite you to come bring your tents bring your signs, bring your drums. Come occupy Newark NJ.

F: Next on stack is Lopi.

60.1.21. Lopi: Hi I am Lopi. Judson Memorial Church has offered an EMT shelter for 100 people for three days. Judson is located at 55 Washington Sq South. That’s it. Thank you.

F: Next on stack is Karen.

60.1.22. Karen: There has been some concern about housing for women and transgender. Please go across the street to the red cube and see Autumn so you have a place to sleep tonight. Thank you.

60.1.23. Will: Almost two months ago we occupied the park. This park. We started a movement and the eyes of the county are on us. The 99%, our power is our #’s. That’s the only way we fight. Wall Street represents 1% and the police who serve them. We change discourse in this country. Now we realize we have classes. The poor and the rich. Our power like I said is our numbers. On Thursday the 17th. We need to bring everybody to this park and hope that we will be able to reoccupy, reoccupy. Reoccupy.

F: Next on stack, National Lawyers Guild (NLG).

60.1.24. NLG: My name is Kelly and I have an announcement regarding property that was confiscated from this park last night. You have two days this week to retrieve property from the NYPD. You can retrieve items from the hours of 8am-4pm on Wednesday, November 16th or Friday, November 18th. At 56th between 11th and 12th avenues protesters should be as specific as possible about the features of their items. The department of sanitation suggests bringing long receipts and pictures if available. Please share this information far and wide and I encourage anyone who remembered what the park looked like before it was cleaned to show up and describe our possessions to the best of your ability. I look forward to taking it to the streets with all of you on the 17th. Tell your friends. I’m not a lawyer. I just play one at OWS.

F: Mic check. I am losing my voice, so Christina is going to take over as stack taker, next is Hunter.

60.1.25. Hunter: We are the 99%. We are the 99%. The reason why they raided this park is because they are scared we might succeed. There are more of us than of them, we are the 99%. This country is ours, this government is supposed to take care of the people. Please tell me what everyone in this park has the solution. But this government can’t. This system is corrupt. And no matter how much we protest if we don’t kick them out nothing will change. We are the 99%. We are the blood of this country. This country can’t live without us. Let’s take control. I say we start our party we call it the occupy party. And we sever all ties to the corporate, the Republicans and Democrats are all a part of the same party. They are all being paid by the same person. I say we start our own party. With our own system. That’s controlled by the 99%. And I say we say we can win this war and get rid of the companies that say they control us.

F: Next on stack is Colby.

60.1.26. Colby: I am Colby. I have been working with a group organizing up in west Harlem for the action on Thursday. We need support. We are going to meet outside the blue line on 125th and outside the red line on 137th for actions on the train at 3pm. We are going to distribute copies of the new OWS journal. It’s the poster addition. We are going to poster the shit out of the city. On the red line we are doing the 1 train west Harlem at 137th. At 3pm.

F: Next on stack is Ken.

60.1.27. Ken: Thank you! I do an environmental radio show on WBAI FM. There are people at the station who have been there since the Vietnam War days, this occupation has energized a lot of tired old activists. People who are phoning in to their shows are showing again why they have a great reputation. And it’s thanks to this occupation. There are cynics and pessimists that are turning into optimists. Thanks to you. There are people here leaning green jobs skills there are people here who are learning from the homeless how to survive outside. Information is flowing in many directions. I’ve been an activist for thirty years and some of the mistakes we made back then you’re taking care of a lot quicker than we did. The end of the Vietnam war we got civil rights, we got women’s rights, we got gay rights, we shut down nuclear power plants and we are going shut down the 1%! You guys are inspirational. Thank you.

F: Mic check. We have seven more people who would like to speak tonight. We would now like to close stack so please come up and see me if you would like to also get on stack to speak.

F: Medical with an EMT announcement.

60.1.28. Medical:

F: Next on stack is Mateo.

60.1.29. Mateo: Hello guys, I represent one of the small groups that gathered before. We think that we should be less attached to a physical space. The movement is in us. The movement is in us. In our unity, in our life, in our passion, the …of this square. We are alive though, we can occupy a different place every week and it’s not going to take anything out of us. In this way we will even have more exposure.

60.1.30. Alfonso: Hello, Alfonso is my name, I am working at Arts and Culture. I am here to announce we now have a Music working group. For our march on Thursday we are putting together a gigantic Occupy marching band. This will be led by the drummers that previously drummed in the back of this park. Unfortunately their drums were stolen by the NYPD last night. So we are asking for your help to donate to drums. If you can help meet me under the tripod right after this or post a thread. One more time, meet me under the tripod or post a thread in the Arts and Culture group on nycga.net. Thank you so much.

60.1.31. Collette: I know it’s been a crazy couple of days. There is a lot going on but I want to talk to you about another occupation that got raided. Occupy Tijuana. Nobody knows about them, they are in a total media blackout. Press were not allowed near their tents, their laptops were stolen, there are only thirty people. They were supporting Occupy Wall Street during our media blackout so maybe since the whole world is watching us we can let the rest of the world know about Occupy Tijuana. If anybody wants to help, come see me. Thank you.

F: Those of you who put down your ideas, please bring them forward before you leave tonight and we will get them on our website as soon possible. Thank you.

F: Please use the people’s mic. I see a lot of pole over here maybe not participating. It’s how we hear each other so please use it. Thank you.

F: Next on stack is Wellness.

60.1.32. Wellness: Hi, I’m Huddy from Wellness working group to facilitate our communication, our positive communication and strengthen our resolve. Wellness will continue to offer mediation classes at 3:30 and 6pm at the Tree of Life, the northwest corner of the park. All are welcome.

F: So stack is closed. All that means is that I will not be here to collect names. The people who have given me their names will still be able to speak of course and after there can be a soapbox which is a self-facilitated discussion. So next on stack is David.

60.1.33. David: Hi I am David, I was working last night with the Medical group when we got trashed. We had treatment plans for people among the homeless as well as among the OWS people. They trashed the medication that the people need. I will put my cell phone number on the net and here too if possible or Polly has my number. I will try to finish up the treatment, long live Occupy Wall Street!

F: Next on stack is Lex.

60.1.34. Lex: Do not be discouraged by what happened here today, this is just the beginning. Through this movement we have to be able to do things at the same time. The first thing is we have to disrupt the business environment at the same time. We have to rebuild in our communities. Next Thursday during the Thanksgiving parade let’s have a parade of our own! The second thing in your community find a building to occupy and make new hubs, this one everywhere.

F: Mic check. Next on stack is Ashley.

60.1.35. Ashley: Hello everyone, earlier I made a suggestion on behalf of Women Occupying Nations. Fifty women plus me were arrested. They threw us into a cell for women to a cell with one bench and one toilet. We were asked to use the restroom in front of our inmates but what was more uncomfortable than that is that sporadically and unexpectedly and against our consent male police officers would walk down the female only corridors and so while we were exposed while using the rest room sitting up or standing down many times male police officers would have full view of unprotected and exposed women against their will. This is a sexual violation. This is cruel and unusual punishment and this assault must be addressed now . Half of us were released this afternoon but unfortunately we had to leave half of our sisters behind. They are still over there being violated by the police officers. They risk their freedom and their protection for you. They got arrested and violated for you. But they did sign up for the violation so in closing in five minutes a bunch of us are assembling at the red structure and we urgently implore you all to please have compassion for these women’s safety and march with us only a few blocks down to the precinct to remind the police station that it is against protocol. It is a human rights violation for male police officers to be in view of unprotected women.

F: It looks to me that a lot of people have moved away. I see a lot of space up here, I wonder if we could all move closer and hopefully cut down to one mic generation.

F: We still have eight names on stack, next on stack is Libby.

60.1.36. Libby: This is my first time here. I popped my OWS cherry. The actions taken this morning really pissed me off. No one can take your voice. You have inspired me and you will continue to inspire. You are making change, we are making change. Do not give up, we are the 99%, thank you!

F: Next on stack is Kesan.

60.1.37. Kesan: This isn’t my first time, this is my first time doing stack. I wanted to implore you all, thank you all for what you’re all doing. I know I look young but I am father of two so here I am occupying Wall Street so they can have a future. Years ago a man by the name of a Philip Randol said to FDR, “We want change.” FDR and the 1% said to him, make us change. So here we are today with that same spirit challenging the 1% together tonight, that for 60 days plus we will continue to show the 1% and the world we are not playing games, we will not beg, we will not plead, but we demand change. We want our rights, we want our country, we want our children, we want our families, we want our future. The 1%, the 99% serves you notice that your time is coming to an end.

F: Next is Annie.

60.1.38. Annie: Mic check, Brookfield gave us this space the public. …In the term privately owned public property it is stated the public partly owns the poetry and takes partial responsibility for policy-making regarding the property. Police’s concerned this property should be made with our consent. This is our space we are not leavening.

F: I just found out that the march that was just announced will be leaving after these announcements.

60.1.39. Zach: My voice is totally shot. Two waves would be great. I wanted to share with you all an idea for DA that came up in one of our groups. A number of people were excited about the idea of using the mass this Thursday and the momentum that we’ve garnered from the raid and also subsequent events. Launch a citywide general strike. Of the kind we saw in Oakland in response to the raid on their encampment. I am wondering if there is anyone here from DA who can meet with a group of occupies who are interested in this idea to discuss its feasibility. Can occupiers who are interested in the idea of a general strike and or DA members meet with?

60.1.40. Announcement: Seems like we have such a big general assembly it’s never really about the place, it’s about the discussion. As winter approaches the park is just assembled discussing is what counts what I think really happened is Zuccotti park is simply too small for us.

F: Next on stack Oscar.

60.1.41. Oscar: As a south America journalist and father I come to present my respect in the name of the south American people. Do not be afraid, anything is possible. We had done this

ten years ago and we achieved change. Two very effective ideas: 1. Stay home and do not buy presents for Christmas, love your loved ones, love your family do not give them more money. You have control. 2. Get everybody to support the movement, make noise bang pots.

F: Quiet hours start at 11, its 10:45. We will end at 11 so we can stay in this park. We can continue to talk without the people’s mic.

60.1.42. Jason: I have been here on and off since day 3, I had the most meaningful conversation today with fellow occupiers, we think we need one decision, one message, one idea and the idea we would like to present is for us to demand to get big business out of politics. Many believe this will solve many of our issues…

60.1.43. Phillip: I have just been released from 100 Center Street. I bring a message from those who will be sleeping in a disgusting cell. They are our brothers, they are our sisters. They made beautiful sacrifices for all of us last night. I met one of our New York City councilmen, Ydanis Rodriguez, last night in jail. He was struck down by NYPD two blocks north of here for no reason. His face was bloody, he is a beautiful man and he is an inspiration to all politicians. I will leave you with a quote from a 92 year old Pete Seger after marching 55 blocks: “Be weary of great leaders. Hope for many, many small leaders. Occupy!”

F: That was the end of stack. It’s been lovely. The GA is over, good night!

60.2. Compilation of Breakout Group Ideas

60.2.1. Breakout Group 1.

Establish physical space to meet organizational and personal needs

(use org contacts, not money)

60.2.1.2. Use space/occupy Zuccotti Park during day for teach-ins/ Working Groups

60.2.1.3. Keep space occupied at night by shifts, not necessarily sleeping

60.2.1.4. Focus Working Group energy on actions not on maintaining park as sleeping space

60.2.1.5. So occupy park through action, not through sleeping

60.2.1.6. Also need to challenge legally police ability to screen people in park

60.2.1.7. Branch out to do General Assemblies at other places

60.2.2. Breakout Group 2

60.2.2.1. Hello. I am working to organize dancers to do a marching dance on Nov 17th

Occupy Dance is a place to find some dancers but more are needed. Poemdancer@aol.com Cleo

Breakout Group 3

60.2.2.1. Our group discussed having a radio transmittal coupled with many battery powered radios. Occupy radio would allow us to communicate more seamlessly. There may be unknown legal implications

We have the materials to build it. Sam.ash4d@gmail.com; 917-685-5469.

60.2.4. Breakout Group 4:

60.2.4.1. Bloomberg Action Suggestion: Occupy Mayor Bloomberg’s residence where he lives; not Gracie Mansion. His Address is on the North side of 77 just off 5th. Ise79occupydemo!

60.2.5. Breakout Group 5:

60.2.5.1. Create shifts for people to be here

60.2.5.2. Start an OWS Credit Union

60.2.5.3. Outreach to tourists and visitors to Zuccotti Park

60.2.5.4. More education – rights, principles, economy, finance

60.2.5.5. Outreach for disabled / most vulnerable

60.2.5.6. OWS Credit Union similar to REDDIT.COM

60.2.6. Breakout Group 6:

60.2.6.1. I believe that the fastest way to achieve non-violent change is to start electing Occupy supporters to local, state, and federal offices and to start an Occupy Political Party.

60.2.7. Breakout Group:

60.2.7.1. Hello Occupiers. I representing one of the groups we think that we should be less attached to a physical space. The movement is in us, our unity, and in our life. The rocks of this square are dead. We can occupy a different place every week. In this way we will have more exposure. We need a donated space for our meetings.

60.2.8. Breakout Group 8:

60.2.8.1. Organize block by block the entire city holding hands for ten (10) minutes on Sunday at 3 PM.

60.2.8.2. Ana-E

Breakout Group 9:

60.2.9.1. Let politicians maintain a day job and be politicians as a civic duty. Not as a career.

60.2.10. Breakout Group 10:

60.2.10.1. Balance between keeping site and growing elsewhere.

60.2.10.2. Mic check at CUNY, Board of Trustees, any public meeting spaces. Organize on website and do one Mic check per day.

60.2.10.3. 24 hours per day shifts, 4 on , 4 off, divide night in half.

60.2.10.4. Due to impending cold weather, there should be restrictions on sleeping in the park.

60.2.10.5. Better communication with west coast movement.

60.2.10.6. Strategies to movement stronger through winter.

60.2.10.7. Strong west coast movement in winter can feed into east coast movement.

60.2.10.8. Find indoor spaces to protest in addition to outdoor spaces.

60.2.10.9. Graceful exit strategy from Zuccotti Park. But the park has symbolic value – shows that we triumphed over the police.

60.2.11. Breakout Group 11:

60.2.11.1. Legal Strategy: Keep in streets v. in the courts. Tents are not essential to the movement?

60.2.11.2. Occupy multiple spaces.

60.2.11.3. Legal rights – question laws with civil disobedience? With and without arrests.

60.2.11.4. Different Public Relations strategy.

60.2.11.5. Building movement: Against cutting social security and Medicare. Global boycott of News Corp. Subset Protests. Millionaires tax in NYS. Related action (march).

60.2.11.6. Issue specific Occupy Wall Street action.

60.2.11.7. Lines of action to tilt the balance in OWS favor. Raise issue of involving unions – Transportation union, organized labor, and call a general strike.

60.2.11.8. Contingency plan in case of leaving park.

60.2.12. Breakout Group 12:

60.2.12.1. Library in the [Zuccotti] Park.

60.2.12.2. Kitchen in the [Zuccotti] Park.

60.2.12.3. Medical [in the Zuccotti] Park.

60.2.13. Breakout Group 13:

60.2.13.1. Shifts to keep presence in Liberty Plaza in one central spot. People staying here overnight. Can’t leave it empty. Tables, a kitchen, library, food, info.

60.2.13.2. Flash mobs at Bloomberg’s house. Moving picket lines there and other locations around the boroughs.

Lakshman. 516-859-0405

60.2.13.3. Create off-sites on the perimeter of the park for media, library, food, and info.

60.2.14. Breakout Group 14:

60.2.14.1. Let’s declare victory and move the primary Working Groups on-line to create a proprietary content hub. From there we can plan, interact, and sort out ideas.

60.2.14.2. Physical meet-ups can be organized as well so that we don’t lose the impact of person-to-person interaction. Brandon and Sarah.

60.2.15. Breakout Group 15:

60.2.15.1. A few of us feel the positive culture of OWS seemed to deteriorate when the park became overwhelmed by tents. The park used to be a place where communication and movement was easy and ideas flowed well. It was an enjoyable place to exchange ideas.

60.2.15.2. When the park became overcrowded with tents, this special culture was jeopardized. We would like people who need housing to be appropriately housed. Sleeping in the park when there are better options may not be the best way to fight for housing rights. Melinda. Melinda\_isabella@yahoo.com

60.2.16. Breakout Group 16:

60.2.16.1. Digital human mic. Steve Ratty

60.2.17. Breakout Group 17:

60.2.17.1. Let’s squat in some abandoned buildings!

60.2.18. Breakout Group 18:

60.2.18.1. My discussion group felt that it was important that the financial committee be given the ability to allocate $40-50,000 immediately for emergency purposes without needing to take these to the General Assembly first.

This will be for whatever might be needed. Vans, office rental, first aid[e], replacements, legal fees, and so forth. This is an act of faith [,] an act of trust. We trust them to know what to do with the money.

60.2.19. Breakout Group 19:

60.2.19.1. To Occupy Wall Street, The park was given to “the public” in exchange for using more sky space, further shadowing our city. Regulations were circumvented in exchange for the space. The term “privately owned public property” implies a joint ownership. Therefore, the public, the people, have the responsibility and prerogative to be deciding the rules of the park. The public at least partially must decide how to use the space. When the public faced the violations to its rights, it became necessary to use the space to gather and address the grievances. The public also has a right to property, and this park is at least partly regulated by its rightful property owners. The public possesses the responsibility to make and fulfill policy regarding the park. Sincerely, Marianna J. Flick. Trapzistence@gmail.com; 610-212-1323

60.2.20. Breakout Group 20:

60.2.20.1. Interfering with rush hour to spread awareness and pressure Bloomberg. Marches, etc.

60.2.20.2. Use the eviction to become more mobile and quick-moving.

60.2.20.3. Spread to college campuses: mobilize the students.

60.2.20.4. Building coalitions with international revolutions such as: Yemen and Nobel Peace Price recipient Tawakol Karman (who is currently in the USA).

60.2.20.5. Organize Global Labor Walk Outs of Factories to hit corporate bottom lines, i.e., China/Apple.

60.2.21. Breakout Group 21:

Days of protests around specific issues. Instead of one march with a lot of people all advocating for different causes, which keeps the message confusing, have a day with multiple protests around the city, each one focused on a specific issue. Have one central place with people holding placards plainly stating what each protest is about and illustrating how they’re connected. Use the issues to TELL THE STORIES.

And/or a day of protests centralized around a real-life situation. For example, a foreclosure. Illustrate what’s systemic injustices created the situation and may keep people down.

If this idea is interesting to you, feel free to contact me. Jessica Stuart; jstu13@gmail.com

Breakout Group 22:

Get Bloomberg out! Demand the immediate resignation/impeachment of Bloomberg and start legal action in the pursuit of SUING the city, NYPD and Bloomberg, for the plethora of unconstitutional, low-blow schemes they have taken against us.

Relocate to “their territory.” Not only should we march against NYSE, but also to City Hall, to have sit ins, small flash mobs, and general civil disobedience to bring more attention to our demands of Bloomberg’s removal. Also consider doing this daily until our demands are met. Also could occupy banks!! And also police precincts!! Immediately expand on the OWS website, creating an RSS feed where people can come to share / gather continual information. Also recreate the library on-line thru talks, documentaries, good alt news sources, etc. Start doing TEACH-INS, holding educational seminars in main areas (City Hall, bank lobbies, etc.)

Branding OWS Advertisement. For those willing to be arrested, we also suggest some civil disobedience tactics to start organizing, such as: (1) occupying Bloomberg’s personal life, heckling him @ home, work, and any and all public events; (2) Engaging in street art brandings of any BANK. This includes stenciling / wheat pasting on bank billboards, buses, bank buildings, money. www.Occupygeorge.com; Coming up with a consensual slogan for stencil art and posters. OWS Public Service Announcements

Gather more support and refocus on our biggest picture. Seek to gain more support from universities nationwide. Possibly find a building to squat in?? Find city buildings that support Occupy Wall Street and will allow us to use their spaces for General Assembly, etc. Establish the need for NON-ARRESTIBLES to come and support/record/document/create a larger group while ARRESTIBLES do their civil disobedience displays/movements.

Divide and Conquer. Work on spreading/breaking apart the police state by: creating mini chaotic movements throughout the city to pull them away from Zuccotti and keep them busy. Ten (10) different groups of 100+ people spread around the city simultaneously wreaking havoc to pull the police away. Start OCCUPYING POLICE PRECINCTS!

60.2.23. Breakout Group 23:

60.2.23.1. 2012 Election – Candidate OWS

60.2.23.2. Local Central for Communication about rallies, etc.

60.2.23.3. Self-policing small groups during marches to prevent dispersing and promote safety.

60.2.23.4. Petition for funding for technology for GA – i.e., Sound.

60.2.23.5. Agreeing on strong legislation which can be moved quickly.

60.2.23.6. Gold standard

60.2.23.7. Direct Action occupy First Amendment

60.2.23.8. Logo for OWS

60.2.23.9. Boycott mortgage nationally 2 out of 3 months

60.2.23.10. org.ows@gmail.com Shen, Tyler

60.2.24. Breakout Group 24:

60.2.24.1. Designated shifts for occupying Zuccotti Park.

60.2.24.2. Designate specific daily time for critical mass organizing.

60.2.24.3. Direct Action for Black Friday.

60.2.24.4. System on-line to allow individuals to pledge specific blocks of time.

60.2.25. Breakout Group 25:

60.2.25.1. Scheduling Rotation: target night hours. Occupiers sign up for time slots to maintain critical mass.

60.2.25.2. Open up Spaces Outside Zuccotti Park. Combine 1 and 2 for a Dynamic Occupation. Create conversations not just actions but “regular work,” e.g. off-site Teach-Ins, Block Parties, OWS at libraries, flash mobs. 60.2.25.3. Brief occupations for example at Central Park.

60.2.25.4. Decentralize physically and personally. OWS branding selves when not in Zuccotti Park, e.g., wear buttons. Promote the ideas of OWS outside, e.g., commit to hours per week to discuss with work colleagues… volunteer. Make it cool! Do OWS by volunteering at organizations that support our values. Some have resources drained/diverted to OWS.

60.2.25.5. Raise our profile. Expand / affiliate OWS with bigger actions. MTA subway, etc. shutdown, and General Strike.

60.2.25.6. Basic values / visions. Help movement spread. Less focus on demands.

60.2.25.7. Immediate stuff: Think a step ahead. Guess officials next move and options. Create contingency plans. Where is media attention? Support Working Groups who may fray. Don’t let them break our unity. Do other actions elsewhere; imply action against OWS NY? See beyond immediate crises. Proactive not reactive.

60.2.26. Breakout Group 26

60.2.26.1. Occupy your life, your habits, and your actions, be aware of yourself, and be mindful. How do you contribute to the movement in your everyday actions? How do you contribute to the problem?

In six months when the public spaces are no longer occupied, how will you continue to participate?

60.2.26.3. Reduce consumerism.

60.2.26.4. Selective boycotting

60.2.26.5. Continue spreading information

60.2.26.6. Buy local, independent

60.2.26.7. Run a sustainable home

60.2.27. Breakout Group 27:

60.2.27.1. Need people at Broadway and Morris at the Bowling Green now!! If lose location go to the entrance of Battery Park. Eviction response. Be there by 3:10 AM.

60.2.28. Breakout Group 28

60.2.28.1. Continued presence of protestors. They can be rotated. Enables this space to be an idea generator instead of a campsite.

60.2.28.2. Daily flash mob protests targeting random corporate locations (Verizon, Citibank, and Starbucks) anywhere.

60.2.28.3. Know legal rights. How long we stay there. Film it. Put it on You Tube. These should be daily actions.

60.2.29. Breakout Group 29

60.2.29.1. Some people are being denied park access. Can we hold meetings near the fences?

60.2.30. Breakout Group 30

60.2.30.1. Andrew, Sabrina, Deborah (mdeborah827@gmail.com ), Martin Ideas for building consensus:

60.2.30.2. Bombard various legislatures with petitions regarding reinstating the Glass-Steagall Act.

60.2.30.3. Target corporations with the most egregious workplace practices with a boycott campaign. (Apple computer). Maybe a national day of boycotting where we buy nothing. If successful, extend it. Each time we buy from corporations that use slave labor to create cheap products that are sold for huge profit margins, we feed the corporate monster. They turn around and use it against us.

60.2.31. Breakout Group 31

60.2.31.1. More mic checks during public invitation meetings and speeches by people who need to hear why we’re protesting and why they’re actions are wrong, unfair, and/or contributing to our country’s problems. It’d be good if the mic checks could also include a short idea of a solution.

60.2.31.2. Also create a way for people to submit ideas for where these mic checks can occur and a toolkit for creating effective mic checks for events.

60.2.32. Breakout Group 32

60.2.32.1. Coordinate w/other occupy groups. Unified symbolic actions / marches.

60.2.32.2. Plan for weather. Important to occupy 24/7 even if in shifts. List of gear. Sponsors.

60.2.32.3. Flood Bloomberg and other authorities with letters.

60.2.32.4. Hold police accountable for actions and hold authorities accountable for inconsistent logic and thinking.

60.2.32.5. Brainstorm other social forms that facilitate easy involvement like this park.

60.2.32.6. Focus on outreach.

60.2.32.7. Target symbolic / strategic places to occupy Black Friday.

60.2.32.8. Forms a boycott Working Group.

60.2.33. Breakout Group 33

60.2.33.1. Occupy an indoor space / school / Essex street market (old), charas.

60.2.34. Breakout Group 34

60.2.34.1. Agitation for a General Strike. Macro strategy. Mobilize over time.

60.2.34.2. Flash mobs – decentralize. Continuous outreach (subways, boroughs, etc.). Flyers, stories, etc. Make any action positive (perception).

60.2.34.3. Police rely on system[s] that can be jammed.

60.2.34.4. Alerts / texts / etc.

60.2.34.5. Constant choreography in various neighborhoods. Show of force through beauty. Antagonizing / provocative actions, too.

60.2.34.6. Cooperative anonymous component actions (banksy!)

60.2.34.7. Workplace sabotage.

60.2.34.8. Mobilize towards longer term General Strike.

60.2.34.9. Centralize ourselves to use texts / alerts / etc. to keep all empowered.

60.2.34.10. Flash mobs as intermediate actions.

60.2.35. Breakout Group 35

60.2.35.1. Make it illegal for anybody to profit from anybody’s health or well being or sickness.

60.2.35.2. Make any and all records of government funded programs available the second they are made. No more secret programs or experiments.

60.2.35.3. Make being linked to secret societies or clubs an ineligibility to run for any government office or state positions.

60.2.35.4. Stop the manipulation of the stock market to dissolve the wealth of the people and buy whole businesses for pennies on the dollar.

60.2.25.5. Get corporate funds out of government.

60.2.26. Individual Comments

60.2.26.1. Have OWS be a source of “horizontal goals” or “horizontal suggestions” to reflect the horizontal democracy of OWS. Thus – a series of problems – suggestions. Not weighted. In a sense, let OWS be an alternative media source to cover what the media ignores. And these media releases (after consensus) could be posed as: (1) problem: (i.e., for instance, money in politics). Posed as a question: Why is there so much money in politics? (2) suggestion: limit lobbies, repeal Citizen United as possibilities, not demands. In sum: (1) problems – (i.e. money in politics / corporate deregulation / tax inequities / bailouts over jobs, phony housing foreclosures/ etc. (2) suggestions – even multiple suggestions. And these might all be framed as an alternative information source, which is now not being addressed by the mass media. A kind of Z. F. Stone Weekly, if I can be a senior citizen’s example. Thanks OWS, Nick.

60.2.26.2. Create an educated, transparent flexible organization capable of shifting the national discourse toward real social change especially through education, and provides an example of the power and accountability of a fully transparent organization. Our long term goal will be to educate ourselves and others, and transform our various systems of governance into entirely transparent organizations, which we believe will solve systemic inequities.Create a not-for-profit think tank which develops real solutions to societal problems, and uses the protest, media, and social media to support our platform.

60.2.26.3. Establish legal control over the space as a trust for the public, operated by the Friends of Liberty Park, a sub-organization developed by OWS. This space will serve as an agora, a public meeting house of ideas, and ongoing discourse that serves the community, with a specific focus on financial trainings and the purpose of government.

60.2.26.4. Create an identity program for occupiers, meant to also bring in functioning homeless folks who want to help, and willing to put in the work. We will require a picture, plus whatever name you choose (public) government name (private) Define full membership as housing-and-food-provided, on sites, as well as occasional recreation (minimum of once per week) at least 20 hours per week of logged hours and 5 hours of education (10 is preferred). A minimum of one working group, and a maximum of three, to be declared by the individuals no later than Thursday, and assignments to be made on Saturday. Every one must

take American Revolution through Articles of Confederation through Constitution class, as well as Accounting and Finance 101, and alternative energy and systems is the third required afterwards everyone. Create a profile system that keeps everyone’s skills, equipment issued, and educational level.

60.2.26.5. Create a winter program. Acquire live space (rent / own? / occupy) for people to sleep, shower, and get away from the park(s). Also a live/work space with event space inside. Work with established groups, like Picture the Homeless and Take Back the Land, to begin reclaiming unused space and converting it into homeless shelter and rehabilitation programs, that provide work by growing food.

60.2.26.6. Create internal by-laws, and further develop organizationally, with the help of outside consultants, initially mimicking the U.S. system of governance, with the exception that specific recall criteria are put out for all positions (60% vote of no confidence on consecutive weeks). President and Spokes Council are answerable to the Public Assembly in a specific meeting each week. Other Public Assemblies are for work, shopping, polling public policy analysis breakout groups and education. President has control of discretionary funds budget, and Executive Action (license to occasionally break the rules); every Executive Action must be reviewed at the next Public Assembly. The President has the option of delaying the Public Assemblies’ response to an Executive Action for a week, but not the discussion, and he must announce his intention to do so before the next Public Assembly.

60.2.26.7. Bring in experienced people to help us structure our departments/working groups.

60.2.26.8. Establish a grievance process, by which a mediation session is required when enough complaints are received, and the discourse and contents of that session are made public. This process is administered by a group of 9 individuals, trained in the by-laws, as well as mediation. This group rotates every 3 months, and has 9-18 additional individuals to swap out of the body.

60.2.26.9. Rename the park Liberty Plaza.

60.2.26.10. Create a platform for ideas which must be enacted.

60.2.26.11. Create a stances group, nominated and voted on by General Assembly that decides on the official stance of the whole group. It is continually rotating and meant to be demographically representative. All members speak with one voice.