# General Assembly Minutes 10/17/2011

October 17, 2011 at 1:54 am.

Posted by [desiluna](https://occupyoakland.org/author/desiree/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

General Assembly 10/17/2011 Occupy Oakland

*1. Open Forum*

-How to deal with issue’s of Respect?

-no touching with out consent

-people need sleep to function

-empathy for each person’s world view

-Clean up

-Accessibility of the walk ways

-SF raided last night

75 riot police under the pretext of park regulations raided camp and stuff was taken. One person was hospitalized, several were beaten including a medic.

SF Needs people tonight, expects to be raided again. Also needs supplies, batteries, water etc.

-Not being heard people not listening to each other and allowing each other to value their different experiences

-More Respect the process of democracy/consensus desired

-Preparedness for eventual raid. Not being intoxicated. Not knowing how to defend themselves and others from the police.

*2. Committee Announcements*

–Outreach: Meets at 3:30pm.

-Plans to make info packets to give people a sense of what we do.

-Actions throughout Oakland with groups already serving Oakland.

-Flyering.

–Workers group: Build worker co-op to fund this occupation 6pm

–Events: Meet at 11am,  info on board by Info tent. Updated Daily

–Homeless youth committee: 11am Tuesdays and Thursdays

–Nonviolence caucus: @6 by Children’s Village.

-How ppl can respond nonviolently when there are issues going on that are disturbing them

–Logistics: meeting 9:30am near north plaza by trees.

-Removal of Magic Tower. Peer Support & mediation.

-Discussion of the process of facilitation.

–Safer Spaces committee: Behind medic supply tent.

-Wearing green arm bands.

-Peer support and confrontations. Will not break up fights however.

-Everyone should be involved in anti oppression work as well.

-Meeting tomorrow at 5, if changes will be written on the board.

–Med team: check in at 6pm.

-Reminder to clean up after dogs, sanitations issues. Keep shoes on, wash hands and sanitize.

-Distributing first aid kits.

-Not a primary care area. For serious injuries please must go to doctor/hospital/etc.

-Supply needs: two walkie talkies, head lamps for helping people at night.

–Raheime brown free school:

-Yoga at 8am amphitheater.

-Aquaponic organic gardening @ 4.

-5pm history of Black Panthers.

-Wednesday 3-6 martial arts techniques.

-Friday 5pm Ken Nab workshop on occupation

-TBA members of The Commemorator (Black Panther news paper) talk—check wipe bored for details.

-Conflict and mediation/resolution tomorrow—check wipe board for details.

-Supply needs: book shelves, table and folding chairs, books on Oakland history, brochures racks, people to photocopy brochures

–Supply tent: Wears black arm bands.

-To get a tent in advance put name down on supply tent.

-If need a tent immediately go to info tent for spaces available.

–Media: 3 and 9pm tonight talk about frequency of meetings.

-Need more people.

-Mainstream media free zone.

-Ethics of Media

*3. Action announcements: autonomous actions that maybe planned*

-Need ppl to go to occupy sf movement

-Obama coming to town. Protesting Obama Oct 25th at 3rd n Howard

-need truck to pick up dirt for garden

-write occupy on paper money to circulate message

-queer march tomorrow at 5pm meet at the info tent.

-First tent has been pitched at Snow Park. 19th n Harrison. Invite more campers to come down and expand with us. Expansion committee.

-Oakland city council meeting tomorrow Tues Oct 18th public comment on any subject is permitted. Sign up at Oaklandnet.com eloquent, precise, comment.

*4. Proposals*

-Proposed letter to the Mayor in response to the letter sent to us on Oct 16th.

Should we send letter or not?

Should we form a committee to edit the letter to something everyone on will like?

End of notes, but not end of meeting. Due to technical difficulties I was not able to get the end of the GA. Does anyone have the answer to the proposal? What exactly was voted on concerning the letter? What was the answer?
Any other proposals?

# GA Minutes 10.18.11

October 18, 2011 at 11:50 pm.

Posted by [Facilitation-Committee](https://occupyoakland.org/author/facilitation-committee/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

Oakland General Assembly

10/18/11

Arrival: 8:01 (I may have missed some parts that occurred earlier)

*Terms: FORUM is an open discussion centered around a topic that is affecting the group.  COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS are updates and reminders by committee reps.  GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS are open announcements under unspecified topics.  ACTION ANNOUNCEMENTS are new to this evening meeting; I am not sure of what they are.  PROPOSALS are items that are voted upon.  ???? denotes sections that were unclear or confusing to transcribe.  Italicized sections are my thoughts.  All bullet points are essential points made by speakers.*

FORUM: What are ways that OO can be used to positively influence conditions in Oakland?

* It’s anticapitalist!  “An injury to one is an injry to all!”  Long live the OO movement.  More power to the people.  (lots of applause)
* How do we outreach to Oakland: We need to solidify our demands.  I think we need to focus on those so we can come together.  There was a political organization meeting about Oakland Schools – we did it during school hours and we need to make it more accessible.  We need to stop gang injuntions.  We need to stop foreclosures.  Overall, it needs to be accessible to the 99% of Oakland.
* It’s going to get cold. Are you ready? We are going to have a birth!  We have a children’s facility – among the first in the nation to do this.  Is there any romance?
* I’ve been working to preserve public services and public education.  I’m hearing a lot of comments about how we can mobilize this energy.  Here is something we can do (we may propose this on Thursday): 11/9, 11/10 Board of Ed and Community College Board will meet.  11/15- 11/7 Regents will vote on budget decisions.  11/16th Cal State Long Beach, UC SF.  We want to shut those down.
* This spaces need to be cop free.  We need to be against curfews and gang injunctions.  Maybe we need to occupy buildings too!  Free clinic for Oakland!
* **COPS ARE AT SNOW PARK.  WE NEED PEOPLE TO GO OVER THERE AND BE PEACEFUL.  (19th and Harrison)** (*Point of Process : is this an action that is a proposal? Should this be voted on*?)
* *????*
* Don’t cat-call please.  I’m here for the people.  Keep each other in check, don’t let each other cat-call each other. *(other comments…not sure???)*

COMMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

* We had the first meeting *regarding…???*
* Night watch committee is here.  This is what you need to do if you hear an alarm (give directions).  Last night, cops came to the plaza because there was a medical call.  We need to be able to tell the difference between a regular altercation and an emergency.  Meet at the flagpole at 11:00.
* The working committee is trying to raise revenue to maintain the park.  We are thinking of: online store, cooperatives, etc.
* Media Committee: We need video content with up to the minute information.  We are running on pedal power so please help us out.  We want to communicate with other groups.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS/ACTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

* This is a political statement.  Little kids running around troubles me.  Cops can show up at nay time.
* We need conflict resolution.  We have non-violent communication training.  We’ll do it at 1pm daily.  If you want training, come on down.
* We are going to Snow park now if you’d like to leave.  (8:29)
* They (the cops) are intimidating people.  Campers are negotiating with the police.  They can’t get anything done.  They need help.
* I was evicted without notice.  I have demands and I am staging a demonstration.  Give your support if interested.

PROPOSALS

* I think as a collective, we are messing up.  We aren’t protesting as hard as we should.  What if the police came now?  Are we prepared to defend or escape?  People are partying, conversing, and barbecuing.  We are meeting regarding demands.  We need to decide what we are going to do. Let’s meet right now.
* **REPORT BACK: I think there is a fight.  There is someone who is fighting with everyone.**
* “We offer our support for all those who are striking.  We wish to send a message that if you are fighting back, then we got your back!”  We want to send this message out to work places.

ENDING REMARKS

* I think we should close off the meeting because there isn’t quorum.  We need to postpone this til tomorrow.  (applause)

CLOSING

*Approximately 8:45 pm*

# GA Minutes 10.19.11

October 19, 2011 at 9:38 pm.

Posted by [a\_small\_voice](https://occupyoakland.org/author/oakkoa/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

General Assembly

10/19/11

Arrival: 7:33 (I may have missed some parts that occurred earlier)

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WARMUP: Stand-up Comedy

FORUM: How do we build solidarity?

* Be brief and concise and wrap it up.
* Make sure that this movement represents the 99%.  This includes all of us, and it includes government workers, city workers, and the police.
* We need to live in a liberated society.
* We have our own problems, similarly like other occupy-sites.
* This is happening all over the world.  We should have an uplift Oakland movement.
	+ **We are going to restate the question.  (facilitator restated question for the audience)**
	+ We should be in communication with other groups so we can share best practices and strategies for organization.
	+ You are the youth we are waiting for.
	+ Let’s look at other other Occupation movements and see what they are doing right and what they are doing wrong.  The police aren’t part of the 99% until they join this movement.
	+ We need to see ourselves as part of a global uprising.  The democrats aren’t part of the 99%.  We need to be clear about who is behind this movement and who is really for the capitalists.
	+ OWS wants to set up a conference, invite the other occupation groups, and potentially set up a list of demands through a voting process.  We also need to stay safe to keep it going, so we can grow in number.
	+ We need to rebuild and create something new – we shouldn’t use the tools of our oppressors to build what we want.  I encourage everyone to join me in fasting in recognition of the wrongful death of my friend.
	+ We need to remember RESPECT.  We are all here with our own personal motivation, but we were brought here for a common cause.  When we are talking with a person who has an opposing viewpoint, we must stop and channel our anger.  RESPECT EACH OTHER, AND WE WILL WIN.
	+ There is no liberation in being restrained by the police.  Oakland has the ability to resist the police – that’s a strength.
	+ Reach out, build bridges to the labor movement.  Consider Jean Quan as an ally.
	+ Help and assist OSF.
	+ Labor is from the people, and the people create wealth through labor.  We can build our own.  We need to build collectives.
	+ Bring the community out to OO, so it is more of a people’s movement, where they are killing our people, the schools are suffering, etc.
	+ Tie together everything and find a broader issue.  Focus on it.
	+ 11/11/11 @ 11:00 OSF will occupy the Golden Gate Bridge as an action.
	+ We need to plan a day for a General Strike.
	+ Document this movement and pass on the word.  Use the technology you have to let people learn about this movement.

COMMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

* Gardening: We are setting up planter boxes.  Please donate containers, boxes, seeds, equipment, etc.
* People of Color: We don’t need the police.  This has to do with history and reality. We will have resources available to address conflicts (conflict resolution, mediation, integration and inclusion of others)
* Media: If you have content, please submit it to the website.  We need input, help at the tent, and ideas on how to deal with the outside media. Remember that you may refuse to be filmed or photographed by outside media.
* Homeless Youth Committee: 11am Meeting tomorrow.
* Working Occupation: We are a committee group interested in forming a worker’s coop (time banking, alternative currency).  We meet at 6pm daily.
* Facilitator’s Working Group: We need volunteers.  We’ll have workshops twice a week at 6pm on Mondays and Thursdays.  We meet daily at noon, during which we refine the process, talk about suggestion, etc.  We need notes posted online from the noon meeting.
* Events: We need more people to get involved.  If you see harassment going on, handle it without violence.  You ARE security.
* Outreach: We now have an outreach team.  We are working on making a flyer (from this info packet).  It’s a general call to come down, a description of the facilitation process, a list of committees, and a map of the layout.  There is some footwork to be done in East and West Oakland.  I need people to put in work and get new people involved.  We meet at 3:30 in the amphitheater daily.
* New Committee: In response to women, trans and queer people feeling unsafe in the camp, we are going to take this space (near amphitheater) and set up camp here.  We will meet each other, organize, and make sure to eliminate sexism from the space.
* Medic Tent:  We need any medical supplies and people with medical experience.
* Raheim Brown Free School: We need contributions from people who knew Brown.  Various workshops, lecture, and discussions are going on at the school.

AUTONOMOUS ACTION ANOUNCEMENTS

* I call all males to meet and talk about how we can monitor our behavior in solidarity with the women’s/trans/queer contingent of OO.
* Let’s defend families who have had homes foreclosed upon.
* 11/5/11: Withdraw funds out of corporate banks or redirect it into a safe local institution.

OCCUPY ANNOUNCEMENTS IN GENERAL

* None

PROPOSALS

1. General Strike Proposal: We propose an endorsement of the statement: OO supports all people on strike.
* Clarifying question: What kind of support?
* Answer: It would depend on what we wanted as a group.  Minimally, we would verbalize support and attend pickets.
* Con: If you do a blanket endorsement of all strikes, it might lose its meaning.  It might have more meaning if we target a strike.
* Response: I agree, but we won’t know how to target support until it happens.
* Pro: I agree that we should do this.
* Con: I think we need to add something about collective bargaining,
* Response: That kind of support would fall under this proposal.

**THIS PROPOSAL HAS PASSED: (yes: 82; no: 0; stand aside:8 )**

2. General Occupy Oakland Action: October 22nd : Rally at 11:00 am.  March at 12:00 noon – Snow Park, Farmer’s Market, Lakeshore area banks.  We’d like to have a working group and we’d like to create a flyer for this event.  We encourage others to make content as well.

* Clarifying question: How do we protect this camp while we are gone?
* Answer: We can have working meetings over the next three days.
* Clarifying question: Will it block traffic?
* Answer: No.
* Clarifying question: I didn’t hear the answer to the first question.  How will this camp be protected?
* Answer: Other people outside of the camp could join the march.  We could make a plan for those who would leave the camp and those who would stay.
* Clarifying question: Could this be a continuing event?
* Answer: Yes.
* Pro: This is a good action to bring us together.  We could touch upon the lives that have been stolen in recognition of October 22nd – Oscar Grant’s life, our lives taken by banks, etc.
* Pro: This march could be extended to East Oakland and West Oakland.
* Pro:  We could pass out flyers about this as we march.

**THIS PROPOSAL HAS PASSED:  (yes: 99; no: 1; stand aside: 3)**

GENERAL ANNOUNECMENTS

* Yoga classes and meditation classes are available.
* We’ve been at Snow Park, come on down.  Support us.  We have a different stance than others here – we’ve had a peaceful approach toward the officers present.
* I’m interested in gardening.  We are going to have a discussion about gardening actions around the city.
* Massages will be offered.
* See the movies that we’ll be screening.
* The megaphones disappeared – please get them back to the supply tent and share them.
* Car keys/house keys found.
* Thank you for making meals at OO.

CLOSING

*Approximately 9:30 pm*

**4 Responses to “GA Minutes 10.19.11”**

1. a\_small\_voice[October 23, 2011](https://occupyoakland.org/2011/10/ga-minutes-10-19-11/#comment-192)

Thank you. I’ll email the link to this page to the people at the Free School so that they can get in touch with BOP.

1. Paula[October 21, 2011](https://occupyoakland.org/2011/10/ga-minutes-10-19-11/#comment-163)

In response to the Raheim Brown Freedom School, the Black Organizing Project, under the Center for Third World Organizing has been organizing around his death and speaking with local community members, many of whom knew him, many of whom were family. They can be found on the web!

1. a\_small\_voice[October 20, 2011](https://occupyoakland.org/2011/10/ga-minutes-10-19-11/#comment-159)

thanks for the correction. the results of the vote has been changed and updated in the minutes that i took. you’re right that this was communicated to me, but for some reason i made an error there.

1. Joshua C[October 20, 2011](https://occupyoakland.org/2011/10/ga-minutes-10-19-11/#comment-149)

As Crowd Advocate last night I wanted to make a minor correction. There was a single ‘no’ vote last night (which was tallied and relayed to the note taker) on the second action – it is important to make minor corrections like this to facilitate transparency.

Thanks for the amazing notes – its hard to get it all 100%!

# GA Minutes 10.21.11

October 21, 2011 at 10:57 pm.

Posted by [a\_small\_voice](https://occupyoakland.org/author/oakkoa/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

General Assembly

10/21/11

Arrival: 7:37 (I may have missed some parts that occurred earlier)

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INTRODUCTION: **This is how consensus works.  This is how the proposal process works (explains and gives examples).**

* What is the difference between voting and consensus?
* Consensus is about collective wisdom.  If there is one person that disagrees, they need to make their ideas known.
* In New York, the process is different.  It includes everyone, including dissenting voices.

TOPIC: “Violence in the camp” – Shea’s open letter (*paraphrased)*

* This isn’t utopia.  Here is a new perspective: we are trying to undo oppression here.  We’ve been experiencing violence and verbal attacks in the form of racism, sexism, etc..   We need to communicate, check ourselves, and check each other.  We can’t oppression outside if we don’t end it inside the camp.  Show respect, show compassion.

ACTION: The March

-Let’s make the camp clean and organized for the public tomorrow morning.

-11:00 am Rally: speakers (Teamsters, ILWU, IWW, OEA) bands in attendance

-Flyers will be available.  Feel free to make your own, interface with the public.

-Route: Go down 14th, Harrison, on to Snow Park.  Continue up around lake to Farmer’s Market.  Come around the other side of the lake, and return to the camp by 2:30-3:00 pm.  Brass Liberation will march with us in the parade.

-When everyone returns, there will be performances and a lecture/discussion about police brutality.  Ending the evening will be a presentation of a play, followed by a DJ.

-This is a non-permitted march.  Be prepared, but be aware that every other non-permitted march has been fine.

FORUM: New letter received today: Any thoughts?

“You do not have permission to lodge overnight in Frank Ogawa Plaza.  You must remove all tents, sleeping bags, tarps, cooking facilities and equipment and any other lodging material from the Plaza immediately.  Your continued use of the Plaza for overnight lodging will subject you to arrest.” – City letter dated 10/21/11

* Stay strong! We can do this.
* There needs to be a plan for the march – we are leaving ourselves open.
* We need to not be afraid of arrest.
* Let’s stay strong and keep going on.
* We’re all equal.  We are all struggling.  Let’s love each other.
* I’m tired of getting letters!  We’re right here – come out and talk to us.
* We have a responsibility to this camp, and a responsibility to communicate to combat the lies being told about OO (rats, fires, hygiene, etc).  We need to be here for the long haul.
* I love this camp and I want to see this going.
* I’ll defend the camp, but I’m not going to put myself in harm’s way.  I’ve been to prison and I’ve felt the nightsticks, but I won’t throw a brick at a cop just to prove something.
* A raid is possible, but the police have to mobilize.  Expect intimidation.  There is a split between the police, mayor, and city council.  We will see and feel more pressure, and we need to be prepared – but don’t panic.
* Everyone wants to fight and protest, but we need to teach the babies because they are the future.
* Everyone needs to remain calm and have faith and hope.  We all knew what the obstacles were, but we need to just let it flow.

COMMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

* Training with medic tent.
* Gardening: We need donations: planter boxes, mails, starter plants, etc.
* Campers: Come to the meeting each day.  We are having a kitchen work party, so please come!  We encourage more people to get involved with security.
* Security: Meet at the flagpole tonight for the briefing at 10pm.  This is what you will do in case of police presence (*gives instructions*)

AUTONOMOUS ACTION ANOUNCEMENTS

* None

OCCUPY ANNOUNCEMENTS IN GENERAL

* None

PROPOSALS

1. Finance Committee: Interim Fiscal Sponsorship – We would receive donations from people who want to give to the movement through checks and internet donations.  Longhaul wants to sponsor us as an interim sponsor . We need to choose people to monitor, collect OO funds.  Supply, Food, Medical, Medical, Communications would volunteer to take on these duties.  There are restrictions on how the money can be spent (no beer).

* Clarifying Question: Could this money be used for bail?
* Answer: No.  It is not a part of Longhaul’s mission.
* CQ: Is there a limit to the members ?  Does it come back to GA?
* A: The GA is going to appoint this committee.
* CQ: Would the money come from Trader Joes or other corporations?
* A: When it’s time to talk about allocations, we will.
* CQ: Who is Longhaul?  What is their mission statement?  Why do we need their sponsorship?
* A: It’s a nonprofit organization.  We cannot have a bank account now, so we need a fiscal sponsor.  Their mission is to provide food and medical supplies to disadvantaged members of the community.
* CQ: Would representatives do this?
* A: Committees would select people to serve and the GA would appoint them.
* CQ: What rights are the committee members going to have to make decisions?  Are there guidelines or bylaws for making decisions involving finances?
* A: The goal is to be 100% transparent.  We would use this for porta potties, ice, and propane.
* CQ: What is fiscal sponsorship?
* A: They open an account with a bank under their name and set money aside for us.
* CQ: Isn’t Longhaul associated with terrorists and communists?
* A: I don’t know.  They are currently suing the FBI.
* Direct Response: I am the president of the Longhaul.  We are not associated with communists nor are we on a watchlist to our knowledge.
* CQ: Could LH get sued for things that happen here?
* A: I am attorney, and I can do some research about that.
* CQ: Aren’t you doing the same thing you are fighting against?
* A: We all need to eat and we all need to shit.  We are going to make this our process.  We are feeding and housing people who are being ignored by society.
* Con: 501 c3’s are a slippery slope.  Bank accounts are complicated.
* Pro: we need to get something set up right away.
* Con: I am against this – banks are out to get people.
* Response: We will not be putting it into a bank.
* Con: I am against this.  I think it leaves OO out to being used by someone.
* Pro: This is a good organization and we’ve been working for the public for years and we are a part of this occupation.
* **Voting results: YES: 121; ABSTENTIONS: 12; NO: 10 THIS HAS PASSED WITHOUT AMENDMENTS.**

GENERAL ANNOUNECMENTS

* The Bay Area Free Clinic: here to give free HIV testing.
* Vocal stylings (sings “What’s Goin’ On”)
* I remember my cousin, Oscar Grant.
* Occupy Berkeley needs some help – donate supplies.
* Tomorrow at 5pm, Berkeley Copwatch will offer some training in knowing your rights.
* Text blast servicing has been set up.  Bayaction 41411.
* Join the working group to respond to the city.
* Lost: Student’s backpack – email rbfreeschool@gmail.com
* Let the police take those things (*from the camp*).  You can sue them later on.
* If you need to protect yourself from arrest, be smart, talk to an affinity group, and stay connected, rather than getting directly involved.
* Tools are now in the supply tent – borrow and return when you need them.
* There will be a faculty strike on Nov. 17th, at 6am, so we invite you to join us at Cal State East Bay in Hayward.  The students will be occupying the campus in solidarity.
* Sunday: Black Panther potluck at Bobby Hutton Park, on Sunday at 2.
* Community Outreach from Sac.: we want to strengthen solidarity and lend support.

CLOSING

*Approximately 9:40 pm*

# GA minutes: 10.22.11

October 22, 2011 at 1:13 am.

Posted by [a\_small\_voice](https://occupyoakland.org/author/oakkoa/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

General Assembly

10/22/11

*Start Time: 7:37*

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INTRODUCTION: **This is how consensus works. (explains and gives examples).**

FORUM: None

PROPOSALS

1. Good Neighbor Policy Proposal: **No one from this committee is here to present, so this proposal will be postponed.**

 2. Letter to the City Of Oakland: (paraphrased) We know that the city officials would like to communicate with us.  They may express their concerns during the General Assembly.  They will need to follow the process, and will be treated like anyone else in attendance.

* Clarifying Question: Does city council know what time the assemblies will begin?
* Answer: We don’t know.
* Con: You need to let them know when the assembly will begin.
* Response: Yes, we will.
* Con: We said we wouldn’t dialogue with the city.  What is the implication of this action?
* Response: We need to respond, because we haven’t responded before.  The need to do it according to our rules.
* Pro: This tells everyone how to get involved.
* Con: I like the idea politically, but I worry that the council will manipulate the process in their favor.
* Response: The council might try to bring in blocs of people to vote, but they won’t do that every night.  We could start bringing in more people as well.
* **Voting results: 90% YES.   THIS PROPOSAL HAS PASSED.**

3. March Against School Closures: OO should join the existing rally and march in opposition to school closures Oakland.  On Wednesday, 10/26, a contingent from OO would: gather at 3:30pm , meet parent groups at Mosswood Park for a rally at 4:15 pm, and march to Oakland Tech High at 5:00 pm.

* Clarifying Question: When is everything occurring and where do we meet up?
* Answer: We meet here at 3:30, BART/BUS to Mosswood at 4:15, and march to Oakland Tech at 5:00.  We meet at 14th and Broadway.
* Con: Oakland’s schools are too small – there aren’t enough students.  Superintendent Smith has an overall plan for restructuring schools.
* Pro: We should support Oakland.
* Pro: Charter schools and privatization of schools are the problem.  We should connect with this march because OO is against privatization *and unchecked capitalism.*
* **Voting results: 96% YES.   THIS PROPOSAL HAS PASSED.**

COMMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

* Facilitator’s Working Group: We are having workshops at 6pm on Mondays and Wednesdays.
* People of Color:  Communication Workshop on Sunday, 2pm-4pm.  Massage also offered on Monday, 2pm-4pm.
* Eviction Defense Committee: Have a plan in place for yourself when the police come (lock arms and make inside/outside circles, film officers, evac. plan, outside mobilization).  Think about it before you sleep tonight.  Further ideas – meet tonight after GA and tomorrow at the camper’s meeting.
* *More announcements may have been given – I did not hear them.*
* Coordinating Committee: involves members of all committees so that everyone can have clear lines of communication between groups.

AUTONOMOUS ACTION ANOUNCEMENTS

* None

OCCUPY ANNOUNCEMENTS IN GENERAL

* None

GENERAL ANNOUNECMENTS

* Text blast servicing has been set up.  Bayaction 41411.
* Just remember to keep calm – it may help to pray.  Peace to all.
* Sunday: Between 12 noon and 1pm, OO will march to 18th and Adeline. *Black Panther potluck at Bobby Hutton Park, on Sunday at 2.*
* Outreach to Oakland City Workers: 3pm (*day???)*
* Investigation of crimes against children is a campaign that has been on-going. Please join.
* Campers of  Snow Park have also received notices of “eviction” from the city.  We all need to be aware.

CLOSING

*8:37 pm*

 **0**

**5 Responses to “GA minutes: 10.22.11”**

1. anniequest[October 27, 2011](https://occupyoakland.org/2011/10/ga-minutes-10-22-11/#comment-475)

Michael Moore coming to Occupy Oakland tomorrow!!!

1. a\_small\_voice[October 23, 2011](https://occupyoakland.org/2011/10/ga-minutes-10-22-11/#comment-195)

Did you submit the notes that you took to a specific person, Desi? In the future, I suggest that you go ahead and upload them yourself. Otherwise, it will probably take a while to be posted online. You and I are currently the only ones posting notes online.

1. a\_small\_voice[October 23, 2011](https://occupyoakland.org/2011/10/ga-minutes-10-22-11/#comment-194)

I uploaded them, and noted that I missed some parts. If you would like to add or amend, please make suggestions. I took notes by hand in the dark, and had others next to me who were talking. It was a bit difficult to multitask last night, because I didn’t have a laptop.

1. desiluna[October 23, 2011](https://occupyoakland.org/2011/10/ga-minutes-10-22-11/#comment-193)

Hiya, I took notes last night but these are not those notes… There were many more committee announcements and a couple of autonomous actions… Who is uploading this?

1. Alex[October 23, 2011](https://occupyoakland.org/2011/10/ga-minutes-10-22-11/#comment-188)

Thanks for taking and transcribing notes. Really excited to see what looks like an efficient and effective GA last night.

# GA Minutes: 10.23.11

October 23, 2011 at 11:55 pm.

Posted by [Facilitation-Committee](https://occupyoakland.org/author/facilitation-committee/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

General Assembly

10/23/11

Approximate Start Time: 7:20 pm

Approximate Head Count: 113

*Terms: FORUM is an open discussion centered around a topic that is affecting the group.  COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS are updates and reminders by committee reps.  GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS are open announcements under unspecified topics. PROPOSALS are items that are voted upon.  ???? denotes sections that were unclear or confusing to transcribe.  Italicized sections are my thoughts.  All bullet points are essential points made by speakers.*

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

* Sanitation: (???)
* The Children’s Tent is still open here.  There is a sister site at Snow Park.
* Finance Committee: Meets tomorrow at 6pm
* Arts and Crafts: more supplies needed, please help clean.
* Medic tent: Please clean up after yourself.  Do not take toilet paper out of the port-a-potties.
* Garden Committee: We need support in composting.

AUTONOMOUS ACTIONS

* Union business is important to know about.  If they go on strike, we need to know about it.  They can support us.
* Tomorrow, Monday at 14th and Broadway, we will have a birthday celebration for our second week.  Bring cake, balloons, etc.
* Tuesday, there is a city council meeting.  We should meet together.
* Women, Queer, Transgender: Do not comment on women’s appearance.  Do not cat-call, or whistle.  Do not touch people, or go into tents.  Do not invite others into your tent.  Do not tell women to do things for you.  Ask to be included before coming into the circle.

PROPOSALS

**This is how proposals work: (explains)**

CQ: What constitutes a proper proposal?

**A: If you are making an autonomous action inside or outside of the camp, you can do it.  You can also choose to get the the endorsement of the group.  You can also get solidarity statements endorsed.  We also agree on things that affect everyone.**

1. Proposal to Change the Order and Structure of GA: We want to change the schedule to having GA on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Friday – GA;  open forum, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday. We’d like to change the structure so that we can sustain the process for individual facilitators, and get more people’s participation.  There isn’t enough time to have people express themselves freely in a forum.
* Clarifying Questions: Can we replace forums with emergency meetings?  How would that be determined?
* Response: The police will kick us out, might be an emergency.   Collectively, if the crowd needs it, we will meet as a general assembly.  Quorum is fifty people.
* CQ: How do we submit things if there is no GA?  Is there a psych team for people who need mental health support?
* A: You can still submit things to us by finding us during our meetings.  We don’t know.
* CQ: What about people who want to be part of this, but aren’t camping here?
* A: Look at the website, or come to the camp and look at the board.
* CQ: How will the open forum be structured?
* A: We are going to ask Events Committee to do it.
* On the behalf of security, I’d like to say we have a website at occupysecurity@gmail.com
* Con: Maybe reduce the number of days, but keep the forum in the GA.
* A: The forum during the GA is a focused topic.  What happens on the other days would not be our business.
* Pro: I’m pro, but with one concern.  The open forum is a critical part of community building and consciousness-raising.   I’m willing to help, but I can’t do it alone.
* A: We need to streamline and consolidate the assembly.
* Pro: I see a group of people who are really tired, and I see that they need more support.  I am also willing to step up tonight and take on Tue/Thur open forum.
* Con: I am totally against this proposal.  This assembly is the heart of the occupation.  This to me shows that we are losing sight of our goals.  We need to talk and listen to each other.  I don’t want a band to play every night.
* A: You’re misconstruing the proposal.  We want more speakers, and we want more dialogue.  I’m with you.
* Pro: I’m in events, and we are overtaxed. Join us so we can make this happen.
* Pro: We need music that is conscious and political theater.
* Pro: I agree with the previous speaker. We need to use the media to our advantage.

**Please remember to make your comments short and concise.**

**RESULTS: 90% YES.  THIS PROPOSAL HAS PASSED.**

2. Friendly Neighbor Policy: Zero tolerance for racism, sexism, harassment, violence.  Be respectful of all people and visitors.  Let our revolutionaries sleep between 12 am and 9am.

* Clarifying Question: Will signs be involved in this?
* Answer: We are going to make signs, and encourage people to check each other.
* CQ: The quiet hours are between 12 am and 9am right?
* A: Yes we can.
* CQ: How are you defining violence?
* A: If security has to touch someone, that is different.  This policy will help to avoid that situation.
* CQ:  How do we police each other, as you suggested?
* A: ??? (*too many sirens to hear*)
* CQ: How is zero tolerance going to be enforced?  How does this change anything?  Zero tolerance implies that a consequence follows.
* A: Maybe that could be a friendly amendment.  We want to adopt these as core values.
* CQ: How many people camping attend the GA?  How are we going to educate ourselves to know what these policies look like?
* A: We should see what the group thinks. This could be an agreed upon core value system.  Then we can facilitate workshops so that people can be on the same page.
* CQ: Can we call them mediators instead of security or policing people?
* **To clarify: we have a security team looking for police.  The Safer Spaces Committee is mediating.**
* But twice today, I saw a security person getting hostile with someone.
* **Point of Process: This proposal is about the policy, not about security behavior.  We encourage you to take your concerns to the GA.**
* **We are going to break into small groups to discuss this.**
	+ **Small group share-outs**
	+ We don’t want to give police a reason to come in.
	+ It’s dangerous and a bad idea.  The terms are undefined.
	+ It’s vague and the clarifying questions have been avoided.
	+ **Please make comments brief.  Please try not to repeat others’ comments.**
		- I agree with what has been said – this is vague and the language is loaded.  We shouldn’t police each otherThe times perhaps should be amended for weekends.
		- My group liked it and it’s symbolic of our values.
		- It’s a good proposal, but along with the proposal we should have workshops on how to treat each other.
		- This is a work in progress.  We are a community and we need to have something to live by.  What is the political seriousness here?  What is going on?
		- Violence is highly contested as to what it means.  In revolutionary times, violence is needed.  Abuse is not necessarily violence (as a concept).  I appreciate the sentiment behind it.
		- Sexism and racism exhibit themselves in specific behavior, which can be called out.  Whether or not it passes, it needs to be modified.
		- Realistically, those statements are not possible.  People can be educated, but to truly understand it, they need to go through it.  Everybody has different perceptions, and that is hard to understand that.  Be true to yourself.
		- This is an anarchy experiment, in a way, so what do we do about violence and harassment?  Society’s problems come in here.  All of us should feel like it’s our job to come together as a group and mediate issues.  We need to stick together as a group.
* **Voting results: YES: 63% (40) ABSTAINED: (13) NO: (23).   THIS PROPOSAL HAS NOT PASSED**

3. Marches Endorsed by Occupy Oakland: We want OO to march Monday at 7:30 am to the courthouse in support of a family of a person who is in jail.

* Clarifying Question: Why not invite us to do that rather than bringing it to GA.
* A: This is a national issue.
* CQ: How can this march positively affect OO?
* A: This protects other people.
* Con: The GA should not have a vote around a legal case.  People can do this individually.
* Con: There are some statements on that sheet I am not comfortable with.
* Con: OO is not an endorsing organization.
* Con: I agree with the other speakers.
* Con: Marches are organized autonomously from here.
* **Voting results: YES: 2; ABSTAINING: 16; NO: 33  THIS PROPOSAL HAS NOT PASSED.**

AUTONOMOUS ACTION ANOUNCEMENTS

* None

OCCUPY ANNOUNCEMENTS IN GENERAL

* None

GENERAL ANNOUNECMENTS

* Black smartphone taken at 9:24.  $50.00 reward.
* What will we do when the police come?  Let’s talk.
* Are we against or for incarceration? Who is the enemy?
* Film tonight: Zapatistas’ proposal
* Knitting and Crafting Circle coming soon.  Knitting Classes: Sundays at 2pm for the next four Sundays.
* Today we marched at Bobby Hutton Park. We learned about sanitation issues, composting/recycling issues.

CLOSING

*8:37 pm*

# GA Minutes: 10.24.11

October 24, 2011 at 12:01 am.

Posted by [Facilitation-Committee](https://occupyoakland.org/author/facilitation-committee/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

10/24/11

Notetakers: Alex and James

*Approximate head count:*200

*Facilitator*: [Requests for translation, smoking section, lawyer’s guild #] Tonight, we’re squeezed tighter together so we can be more engaged. Show respect for people speaking. Mess ups happen on stage because only a few facilitators are trying to facilitate.

There are no proposals tonight, so no explanation of modified consensus needed. Is there anyone new here tonight? [between 5 and 10 people raise hand, people clap for them]

Forum topic: How do we move forward in terms of protecting the camp, increasing numbers and creating a more effective movement?

*Break into groups*

[Groups reconvene and many speakers line up to report back and share their thoughts on the forum topic. Speakers are numbered to differentiate.]

1) Our immediate response should be cop blocking. Only three people are on security at night. We need more people, people on bikes and skateboards. We need back up – otherwise the security people on the front line get grabbed, arrested and get felony charges. Send e-mails and show people Occupy Oakland so more get involved.

2) Our plan should be to go and check in on unoccupied housing in West and East Oakland – we should place kitchens there and talk to people.

3) The agenda for meetings should be posted online. There should be a waiting period for proposals and they should be posted in the camp and online before being voted on at the GA. Invite other groups and organizations to join us.

4) We need a sober assessment of what our forces are and are capable of, and what the enemy’s forces are and are capable of. We can’t physically win the fight with cops. Instead, concede that outcome and decide how to lose. How do you want to be perceived by the community, the cops, by yourself? [Lots of shout outs from the audience re: negativity. reminder of the “one mic” rule] Security is the rear guard, but we need people and a centralized plan. there is a lot of prejudice against a centralized movement but they can make decisions in a flash when needed.

5) I have a hard time speaking in public due to my experience as a woman, as a person of color and as a queer person. The system keeps women, people of color and queer people silent, but here is a place to speak! We need to focus on commonalities. Language is important – if we can unify and be creative, better for us. This isn’t just about campers. We all have different forms of contributing. You can come and go and that’s okay. You can go home and wash your ass -really, it’s okay! [Tons of laughter and applause from crowd.]

6) Many people aren’t burning out yet, but they will. Affinity groups are an answer to that. For example, I have four people in my house. Some go to Occupy Oakland and some stay home some nights, but someone always knows what is going on and can inform the rest. We need to have lives or we’re fucked now and post revolution! Take care of ourselves, too.

7) Peace, peace! East Oakland – we don’t give a fuck. But that’s not useful. I am a person of faith. Faith community should be involved. Black churches were the backbone of the civil rights movement. All, believers and not, need to be involved, not just white anarchists. Talk to people in black churches and they think the protesters are all white, dirty, and on drugs. Draft a letter to churches and send to GA as a proposal. (Meeting by right side lightpost in ampitheater after GA.)

8 )  37% of country supports occupation but that stat could be flipped in Oakland. I’m from Funktown and everyone there is in support. People are sick of corporations running everything. People see a beginning here. Three of us went out to a truckyard in Oakland and got great support from the truckers. We should be going door to door, to workplaces – we need a mass workers march and rally. i’ve been pro-union, but they have been running to fail recently. we want their support but we can’t let them run this movement. union members are looking for real agitators again.

9) To protect camp in the case of a raid, we need something simple – utilize the media right outside the camp right now. the whole world is watching. Protect the camp by showing up.

10) Reiterating support for “kittens action” – groups of people fanning out into the public and talking to people in front of supermarkets and at busstops. Talks about effectiveness of “baby steps,” where people will take progressively larger and larger actions if they start small.

11) Agrees with the notion of liberating foreclosed/vacant housing. Part of Take Back the Land movement, which provides housing to people who have been foreclosed on. Mostly black and brown people are targeted by foreclosures. West Oakland is predominantly black and has strong labor roots because the residents were originally brought here by the port. If you’re going to liberate foreclosed homes, do research, find owner and call them and see if they are willing to have your help. Don’t just squat. Lots of squatters communities exclude black and brown people when they are squatting in predominantly black and brown communities. We can’t alienate people who aren’t like us – not mentally ill, queer, emotionally ill – even wingnuts are people. revolution is not romantic. anarchy can be a system. one note – people on probation shouldn’t be here during a raid. not everyone can be here, consequences are far different. don’t get your third strike!

*Facilitator*: Five more people to speak. new timers should make contact with these speakers to get involved!

12) This is not just about camp and campers. we need to defend OG Plaza but think beyond that. in 1946 abuse of strikers led to outrage that led to general strike. 2006, a teacher’s strike/campout was raided and it made people outraged. so even if the camp is raided, it will be a catalyst.

13) We need to grow communities – we should have after school tutorial programs. occupy wall street has 300k and we have shit. we want an rv to start an actual clinic. we should have crews of occupiers on buses creating free fare zones. real political action needed. only four GAs a week is stupid… if the facilitators are burned out, that falls on all of us! GA is a political tool. if we need facilitors i’ll facilitate every night. we’re good at infrastructure but not outreach. we tried to fix that by have political meetings from 1-5pm everyday, but no one went.

if you live in north oakland or west oakland, etc. and meet others here in your neighborhood, get those people’s #s and organize neighborhood assemblies and bring proposals to this GA.

14) Non-violent way of life is for courageous people. [Reads an excerpt from Dr. Martin Luther King speech – Letter from a Birmingham Jail]

15) I love you, Occupy Oakland! For everyone here, there are 50 to 60 people who support you but are busy working 2-3 jobs. I’m homeless and went back to Piedmont and Grand and said I had been at Occupy Oak, and it made me a celebrity.

US media is trying to shame people – you can have a movement in Tahir Square, but not in Times Square! You are genuine. I’m 63 and have never seen anything like this, not even after Kent. don’t let people down!

16) Occupy more spaces, more diverse spaces. not just pretty parks, but banks, federal reserve. down for housing liberation and i have experience. meet by the coffee station after the GA.

17) Non-camping supporter, marvelous to see what has been built. Oakland is flagship of Bay Area occupy movements! How to keep safe in case of a raid – those who are not campers can send messages to Quan and city admin. this comm should not be reluctant to talk to city if it keeps this camp here 24/7.

18) I saw the Indigenous Grandmothers speak. their message was pertinent – violence in self defense vs violence as a people’s movement. if people’ movement uses it, we lose. violence is a trick. decisions we make now will affect seven generations. this land is sacred. question how we “occupy” and instead “decolonize.” break the separation between peoples and be proud to be a human being.

19) I’m part of Food Not Bombs. Can we get support from churches? Yes, 1st congregational at 27th and Harrison . They have opened their kitchens to Occupy. We can use their big stoves. FNB cooks there every Tuesday. Invite everyone here to come and we’ll put you to work!

20) I’m a big supporter who can’t always be here. Have more organized committees and have them use notebooks. sign people up, invite them – get people to sign up for committees after the GA! it is time to expand and have a mobile occupation in addition to the camp. develop some propaganda. they are saying we’re dirty and violent, but these problems have always existed in oakland and this space is more peaceful and more clean than many parts of city. we can show them how these problems get solved!

21) In case of a potential police raid, it is important to keep in mind that this is not the end, but beginning. but, i have a strong feeling we can keep this spot. cops come in every night with 12 of them and then run away. bloomberg tried to end NYC camp – there were 300,000 calls within hours. call jean quan! this is BS!

22) I am an angel of the lord. he loves you. i am here today, formerly homeless, from foster care, survived rape, etc. after faith, i learned peace. nothing else matters. we are the 99%. why are we not winning? i came out tonight to show God’s love.

23) I’ve observed the collective state of people downtown on broadway and telegraph for years. they have looked happier since the beginning of our occupation. there is a ripple effect – this spreads!

24) How do we make camp more accessible? Reach out to orgs who have experience with issues that many of the 99% have, such as drug addiction, mental illness, etc. Get training on how to deal with these issues.

25) Words have power. “Go Home” might just defend our camp.

*Facilitator:* I’m taking off my facilitator hat for a second. Lots of people are showing up, saying their piece and leaving. Stay and listen! If you’re unhappy with process, work to change it!

*Committee announcements*:

*Safer spaces* – working on trauma support and safety concerns. it’s a huge challenge due to flexing population and crisis escalation. we’re trying the best we can to help folks. we’re also generating an anti-oppression framework to deal with what’s happening at camp.

there is a 3pm workshop [missed day?] – a meeting for all people interested in a consent policy and sexual harassment training. [sorry lots of commotion going on during this speaker]

*Security*: Defend the camp, but if on probation, probably shouldn’t participate. if defense doesn’t work, stay in streets and retake OG plaza. if we’re dispersed and all goes to hell, we’ll meet at 4pm on the steps of the oakland library at 14th and madison. we need people on the outside of the police lines, too. they are surrounded. can’t go for total violence with people watching from all sides. stay in the streets until 4pm, then meet at 14th and madison.

*Education committee*: we’re meeting wednesday, oct 22nd at 3:15pm at 14th and broadway. we’ll march up to a rally at mosswood park at 4:15pm, and from there go up to Oakland Tech high and attend the school board meeting at 5pm. they want to shut down five schools.

Best defense is a good offense. please show support for parents. pass out fliers.

*Women/Trans/Queer Caucus*: Sexual Harassment statement [got pieces but not whole thing, please get text from them!] Do not comment, catcall, whistle, touch without permission. do not expect women to do your work – we are not servants! do not go into tents or invite people into your tent in a harassing manner, do not ask whether someone is a man or a woman. No means no. this is important because people are leaving the camp due to this behavior. stop it

*Open Forum Committee:*meets at 7pm on non- GA days. we are also mixed on open forum replacing GA meetings. we are also meeting at 6:45pm tomorrow (tuesday)

*Raheim Brown Free School* – Check out the schedule on the web. encourage people to sign up to teach workshops. write rbfreeschool@gmail.com with information.

*Media:*submit photos/video at tent.  also ask for advice on how to deal with the media. ask media you see wandering around to check in with the tent. if you threaten media, you threaten the movement. let media team know about any media harassment of campers. they will be meeting after subcommittee announcements by the media tent.

*Body-Mind-Soul Healing*: has their own tent where they can be found, but they also meet officially from 4-5pm daily. we are a new committee and will meet for first time tomorrow.

*Coordinating Committee*: All subcommittees please send reps to meet with coordinating committee daily at 5pm on monday, wednesday and friday!

*Notetaker:* James.  Apologies for the delay.

# GA Minutes 10.24.11

October 24, 2011 at 11:58 pm.

Posted by [Facilitation-Committee](https://occupyoakland.org/author/facilitation-committee/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

Oakland General Assembly

10/24/11

Approximate Start Time: 7:20 pm

Approximate Head Count: 130

*Terms: FORUM is an open discussion centered around a topic that is affecting the group.  COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS are updates and reminders by committee reps.  GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS are open announcements under unspecified topics. PROPOSALS are items that are voted upon.  ???? denotes sections that were unclear or confusing to transcribe.  Italicized sections are my thoughts.  All bullet points are essential points made by speakers.*

FORUM: How do we move forward in protecting the camp and increasing in number?

* We need more people on the perimeter and more people on bikes monitoring the area.
* We need intentional centralized kitchens and programs.  We need to get out to the people and talk to the people out there in Oakland.  We need to occupy homes that have been foreclosed upon or are vacant.
* We need to reach out to existing organizations committed to this cause.
* Decide how you lose.  Decide how you will be perceived.  Sometimes there is no time for consensus – things need to be centralized.  It might help if you start this over again and intentionally structure leadership and decision-making.
* We need to come together, and unify.  We can come up with creative ways.  Everyone can contribute; it doesn’t matter!
* People are going to burn out – we need to make affinity groups so that we can share the load and share the information.  We have to be able to care for ourselves, and our own lives outside of this movement.
* The faith community can be more deeply involved, even if you don’t share those beliefs.  We all have similar goals.
* We need to organize the outside supporters who aren’t involved directly in the camp.  We need to do more outreach to different workers’ groups and different people.
* Engage the public in dialogue and get them involved.  Do this intentionally.  Think of token actions to get the public involved in some small part.
* Get all people involved.  If you squat, do it strategically.  People on probation should not be here.  For people who can occupy, do it.  Plan and strategize.
* We need more actions: make fare-free zones and work with the drivers . We need GA’s every night because it’s a political tool.  That needs to be re-voted upon.  We have political organizing meetings scheduled, but no one went.  We need to generate political content – and that is how we can move forward.  People need to organize neighborhood assemblies, create proposals that mean something to them, and have people come here.
* Occupy more spaces (other parks, banks, buildings, etc).
* First Congregational Church has opened its kitchen to Occupy Oakland.  Food Not Bombs uses it every Tuesday to cook.
* People need to actively sign up people on notebooks – don’t ask people to come, get them to sign up.  People need to plug in.  It’s time to expand.  The bigger movement is out there.  We need to develop propaganda.  We need to show the city where they are coming up short.
* Send messages to everyone we know.  Utilize technology – FB, twitter, email.  Send a letter to Mayor Quan so that this peaceful occupation can stay here.  Don’t be reluctant to talk to the city.  Try to come to an agreement.
* This is just the beginning – even if we lose this spot, this is just the beginning.  This is a popular movement.  Call Jean Quan (510-238-3141).
* Consider other ways to improve the area.
* Reach out to organizations who can support what the camp can’t handle – substance issues, emotional challenges, etc.
* Treat everyone like they belong; be friendly.  We should have a Friday noon meeting – that’s a proposal I may make later on, so talk it up.
* Show up!  Give your feedback.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

* Safer Spaces: We have been talking with folks – we want to implement some policies and interventions that we all agree upon.
* Security Report Back: Defend the camp.  If you are on probation, you probably shouldn’t participate.  If the defense doesn’t work, we will stay in the streets and retake the plaza.  If that doesn’t work, we will meet 4pm on the library steps.
* Stop School Closures: Meet on Wednesday, 3:15; March to Mosswood and meet larger march at 4:15.  March to Oakland Tech for a board meeting at 5pm, regarding school closure.
* Women, Trans, Queer Tent: Do not comment on appearance, do not command women to do things for you, no means no, go away means go away.  Speak up if you witness inappropriate behavior..
* Open Forum Committee: We will meet after GA.  We will be setting up on Forum days at 6:45 – come and talk to us.
* Free School: Join us for workshops or plan a workshop.
* Media: Affirm that this is a leaderless and decentralized movement.  Ask mediapersons to check in at info tent.  If you want us to send out a press release, come to us to release some media.  We meet after GA at the media tent.
* Facilitator’s Working Group: Meet daily at 12:00 noon.
* Healing Committee**:**Come to our tent for meditation and massage.
* Coordinating Committee: Meet every Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday.  (*time???)*

AUTONOMOUS ACTIONS

* Come and meet us and have lunch with us while Obama has his expensive lunch in SF.  11am @ Howard and 3rd Street.  I’ll pass out flyers.
* Turn the Whitehouse Green: we have some actions planned – Call the White House each Monday.  Come and call with me now.  Look for us on the web.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

* Clean up after yourselves.  Help people when you see them working.  Keep this place clean – people are disgusted.  Treat everyone like they belong; be friendly.  We should have a Friday noontime General Assembly to get the workers out here at lunchtime– that’s a proposal I may make later on.  Talk about it now and see what you think.

PROPOSALS

**No proposals tonight.**

CLOSING

*9:29  pm*

# GA minutes 10-26-11

October 26, 2011 at 8:26 pm.

Posted by [desiluna](https://occupyoakland.org/author/desiree/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

10/26/11

Arrival Time: 7:20 pm

Approximate Head Count: 2,000

*I may have missed parts that occurred before or after the starting and ending time.  I may have missed parts due to the fact that it was crowded, and there was low lighting.*

INTRODUCTION

* **You need to submit your proposals online.  Three people need to make the proposal.  A phone number needs to be included on the proposal.  We will collect any written proposals now.**(*for review???)*
* **We have cultivated a modified consensus making process. (***Explains)*
* **Facilitation group meets on the plaza by the trees near the steps.  This location may change to Snow Park – stay tuned.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

* **OSF may be evicted.  We will protect the camp, and we ask for your support.**
* **Any actions proposed here should continue whether or not the GA agrees to said actions.**
* **OWS marched in support of OO today and took the streets.**
* **OWS has donated $20,000 to Occupy Oakland.**

PROPOSALS

General Strike: We propose that people walk out of schools and jobs, and converge downtown to shut down the city on November 2, 2011.  We would have our first meeting tomorrow here at the plaza at 5pm.

* Clarifying Questions and Answers
	+ What about Kaiser Hospital? – We agree that this is a concern.
	+ Will Occupy Berkeley be invited? – Yes.
	+ Have labor unions been contacted? – OO is connected with them already.
	+ Does this proposal mean that we are not going to retake the plaza? – We are addressing only one proposal at a time.  This proposal doesn’t cancel out any other proposal.
	+ Pros
		- We need to strike while the iron is hot.
		- We need to continue momentum.
		- This is urgent – we can do this.  We support it.
		- Cons
			* We need a mission statement.
			* We need more time to plan this, maybe 2 weeks instead of one.
			* We don’t want to get in the way of other actions, such as the student action, Occupy Berkeley’s actions, or shutting down colleges/regents of Ca.
			* This will not hurt corporate America and may hurt small businesses.
			* We need to be careful about messaging.  What is the message?  Is this a strike or a rally?  Does this include a non-violent stance?
			* We need clear corporate targets.
			* Process: *People got into small groups of 20 and discussed the issue.  After the above comments and questions were shared, people got into small groups again to vote amongst themselves.  Reps from each group tallied votes and reported votes to the facilitators and their assistants.*

VOTING RESULTS

**96% in favor**

**YES: 1,484**

**NO: 36**

**ABSTAIN: 77**

CLOSING

*10:00  pm*

# GA Minutes 10.27.11

October 27, 2011 at 12:03 am.

Posted by [Facilitation-Committee](https://occupyoakland.org/author/facilitation-committee/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

Oakland General Assembly

10/27/11

Arrival Time: 7:00 pm

Approximate Head Count: 1,000

INTRODUCTION

* **We have cultivated a modified consensus making process. (***Explains)*
* **Submit proposals to occupyfacilitation@gmail.com, or submit in person on paper.  Three or more people must endorse a proposal and be present during its presentation to the GA.**
* **This is how we run the GA (***explains process, hand signals, vote count, etc).*
* **All are welcome to do autonomous actions with or without the approval of the GA.**

PROPOSALS

Kittens’ Action: We propose that people converge here at the plaza on Saturday at 11am.  During this meeting we would form small affinity groups and come up with actions to present creatively to Oakland citizens.  Our aim would be to engage people in dialogue about issues in their lives and about the movement.  We would meet again at 4pm to discuss outcomes of these actions.

* Clarifying Questions and Answers
	+ Who would train people to carry out these actions? – We invite you to cultivate your own leadership.  We can train ourselves.
	+ How will you ensure that groups have cultural affinity with neighborhoods they visit? – We ask for people to use their best judgment.
	+ What do we want from these conversations with community members? – Exposure and connection to the movement.
	+ Do we have a common message? – They tried to stamp us out, now we fan the flames regarding banks, the rich, societal problems, etc.  Talk, listen and spread the word.
	+ What supplies should we bring and/or use? – Bring information about the General Strike.  Be creative and contribute your own content.
	+ What does it mean to “use your best judgment” while visiting neighborhoods? – Start in your own neighborhood and then branch out.  We build the road by walking.  No one has all of the answers.
	+ **Temperature check: who is ready to vote?  It seems most would like to vote.**
	+ *People got into small groups of 20 and voted. Reps from each group tallied votes and reported votes to the facilitators and crowd advocates.*

VOTING RESULTS

**97% in favor. THIS PROPOSAL HAS PASSED.**

**YES: 684**

**ABSTAIN: 56**

**NO: 18**

2. Speak-Out Against Police Brutality: We propose that people support, participate, and organize a speak-out against recent OPD actions and police brutality in general.  We would like to hold this speak-out on Saturday, Oct. 29th at 6pm.

* **Now we’ll break into small groups to discuss this proposal. (***People broke into groups and discussed ideas and questions).*
* Clarifying Questions and Answers
	+ When does it end?  – 6pm-8pm.
	+ Is there an emphasis on peace? – If the police are peaceful, the people will be peaceful.  Channel your anger and fructrations.
	+ Could this be an outreach opportunity? – Yes.
	+ What about GA? – We will not have GA that day.  We are no longer in emergency mode, so we will return the 4x per week GA schedule as previously voted upon by the assembly.
	+ What are the goals of this event? – Education.
	+ Can those who have been brutalized speak out? – yes.
	+ Pros
		- This happens in Oakland’s poorer communities.
		- This fits with our communities and with our movement.
		- This will educate people with privilege who are in the movement.
		- This addresses the “99%.”
		- Cons
			* We want to be sure that this is a nonviolent action.
			* Public safety is a concern.
			* Voting Process: *People got into small groups of 20 and voted. Reps from each group tallied votes and reported votes to the facilitators and crowd advocates.*

VOTING RESULTS

**90.7% in favor.  THIS PROPOSAL HAS PASSED.**

**YES: 305**

**ABSTAIN: 43**

**NO: 31**

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

* **OWS marched in solidarity with OO.  OWS donated 200 tents to OO.**
* **Boston has a solidarity march planned.**
* **OO has received statements from Germany and Egypt.**
* **Occupy Dusseldorf had a spontaneous demonstration in response to OO.**
* **Occupy San Diego stands in solidarity with the General Strike.**

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

* Camper’s Meeting: Meets at 9:30 am
* Facilitation Working group: Meets at 12 noon under the trees
* Coordinating meeting – Meets 5pm@ plaza
* Support in Solidarity Committee: Addresses issues of law, arrest, bail, etc.  Meets 12 pm at the plaza.  Legal update from National Lawyer’s Guild: 10 people who were arrested will be released.  One person is still inside.  Help drive those back home from Santa Rita (in Dublin).  Two people were arrested trying to board BART the night OSF faced a raid.  Arraignment at 2pm tomorrow.  Bail = $5500 – contribute what you can.
* Media Committee: We need media, propaganda, and content.  Weekend help is needed.
* Finance committee: Meets at 6pm, T/TH at the top of the steps in the plaza.
* Supply Committee: Meets at the supply tent at 3pm.
* Kitchen Committee: Needs donations or food delivered.
* Sound Committee: Needs power amp or another PA system.
* Info Tent: Needs volunteers to staff the tent and help the public and campers, 8am-10pm.

GENERAL ANOUNCEMENTS

* If you wish, please donate money for bail to help those imprisoned.
* 5:30 Tuesday – political propaganda will be ready for distribution.
* OWS donated 200 tents, to arrive soon.
* Comrade from the movement was targeted by police and now his leg is broken.
* We are making a proposal regarding Mayor Quan.  We feel she needs to leave the office.
* March Saturday after Speak-Out against police brutality, at 8pm.
* City of Oakland says that people may receive citations for camping in the park after hours, but arrests are not likely.
* Call Dept. of Public Works to reclaim your tents, sleeping bags, or other personal items that were stolen during the raid.
	+ 510-615-5566
	+ 510-238-3021
	+ 510-238-3874
	+ 10,000 flyers and posters for the General Strike will arrive tomorrow at 5pm.
	+ Just to clarify any confusion: Mayor Quan came to the GA to speak after stack was closed.
	+ Parents of students whose schools will close are going to organize at Laney College on Sunday, 10/30, at 2pm in Room G100.
	+ Support the relegalize cannabis  hemp action; it is green and environmentally friendly.
	+ Lost phone – please reclaim after GA.

CLOSING

*10:00  pm*

# GA Minutes 10.30.11

October 30, 2011 at 12:05 am.

Posted by [Facilitation-Committee](https://occupyoakland.org/author/facilitation-committee/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

Modified Oakland General Assembly and Committee Coordination Meeting

10/30/11

Arrival Time: 8:15 pm

Approximate Head Count: 80

WELCOME

* Tonight’s GA will be abbreviated and will be focused upon introducing committee groups, plugging into a group, and staying tuned for announcements and actions.

COMMITTEE INTRODUCTIONS/SIGN-UPS

* These are general committees we have: Finance, Media, Supply, Safer Spaces, Peace Keepers, City Planning, Facilitation, Library, Free School, and more.
* Volunteer Coordinating Committee: help committees identify what their needs are and plug in where needed.  This committee does not require a lot of meetings.
* Gardening: we need soil, pots, etc.
* People of Color: We are here to represent diverse voices in OO.  We have a series of sub-committees
* Web Committee: The web site can now accept financial donations.

***People broke out into groups and signed up with committees.***

PROPOSALS

None

CLOSING

*8:45  pm*

# GA Minutes 10.31.11

October 31, 2011 at 12:08 am.

Posted by [Facilitation-Committee](https://occupyoakland.org/author/facilitation-committee/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

Oakland General Assembly

10/31/11

Arrival Time: 7:40 pm

Approximate Head Count: 300

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS (7:40)

* Finance committee: Meets at 6pm, T/TH at the top of the steps in the plaza.
* Sound Committee: Needs power amp or another PA system.
* Supply Committee: Meets at the supply tent at 3pm. 100 tents to be delivered tomorrow.  We will decide how tents are allocated at tomorrow’s camper’s meeting at 9:30.
* Camper’s Meeting: Meets at 9:30 am
* Info Tent: Needs volunteers to staff the tent and help the public and campers, 8am-10pm.  WE have lots of flyers for the strike tomorrow.  We need to get people involved to handle large influx of people.
* Gardening: We need wood, nails, soil, compost, etc.  we meet daily at 2pm.
* West Oakland Outreach:  We will occupy The Acorn (1000 block of Adeline)  for a few hours and offer free carwashes:  occupywestoakladn
* Support in Solidarity Committee: Addresses issues of law, arrest, bail, etc.  Next meeting at 12 pm Thursday at Santa Rita Jail.   Normal meeting meets 12 pm at the plaza.
* Sanitation: meeting tonight at 10 pm, near the front at info booth.
* Legal: 415 285 1011 HOTLINE FOR ARRESTS OR BRUTALITY.

FORUM OF FRIENDS (8:00)

**This is a chance for us to get to know each other, discuss a topic in depth, and to hear about what we think.  Today’s topic: How will I (as an individual) participate in the general strike as part of the occupy movement?**

PROPOSALS (8:20)

* **We have cultivated a modified consensus making process. (***Explains)*
* **Submit proposals to occupyfacilitation@gmail.com, or submit in person on paper.  Three or more people must endorse a proposal and be present during its presentation to the GA.**
* **This is how we run the GA (***explains process, hand signals, vote count, etc).*
* **All are welcome to do autonomous actions with or without the approval of the GA.**

1. Demand For Justice: I propose we write a formal demand including: all arrests as a result of the raid be dropped and every prisoner released.  We demand all bail money be reimbursed.  We demand that Interim Chief Howard Jordan and Mayor Quan resign.  If these demands are not met, we file a class action lawsuit against the OPD.  We could fund raise and work with the lawyer’s guild.  The legal team can refine the demands as needed.

* Clarifying Questions and Answers
	+ Do this or what?  What is our power?  – Class action lawsuit will take place.
	+ Who would replace Mayor Quan? – I don’t know.  She is up for recall.
		- The NLG is already compiling evidence.
* Has this been talked about with a legal team? – No.  We will do that as a part of the proposal.
* **Temperature Check: Who would like to discuss this?  Who does not?  Discuss with your neighbors and we’ll take stack.**
* Pros
	+ There needs to be accountability.
	+ We need to defend ourselves in all ways possible.
	+ More investigation is needed into officials and officers who were involved.
	+ We need to replace the interim chief and the mayor with our kind of people.
	+ Cons
		- Customarily, we don’t make lists of demands in this GA.
		- This should be an open letter.
		- This is a local issue and would not further our movement.
		- This is about people self-organizing to get things done.  We don’t need them to do it for us.
		- If Mayor Quan were to resign and if Interim Chief Jordan were to be fired, we don’t know who would take their positions.
		- We don’t want to make demands because they could be denied.
		- **Temperature Check: Who is for this?  Who is against?  (Many are against, no one is in support).**

**THIS PROPOSAL WILL BE TABLED.**

2. Solidarity with occupations: We commit to giving support to those who claim abandoned spaces in local communities.

* Clarifying Questions
	+ Does this involve finding housing for people? – No, but it isn’t excluded.
	+ What does material and political support involve? – The GA would decide, on a case-by-case basis.
	+ Could we encourage people who occupy houses to contact previous owners? – Yes they could, but we are not dictating what to do.
	+ Pros
		- We need to spread this beyond the plaza.  We need to provide the support for those occupations.
		- We need to investigate eviction fights going on and create a committee.
		- This prepares room for us to expand.
		- Cons
			* There’s a lot of subcultural punk- squatting in West Oakland.  We need to be sure that this would support people in the neighborhood.
			* We need to be wary of making promises that we can’t back up.
			* You don’t take territory that you can’t hold.

VOTING RESULTS

**95.6% in favor. THIS PROPOSAL HAS PASSED.**

**YES: 133**

**ABSTAIN: 5**

**NO: 6**

**Temperature Check: Who wants another proposal?  Who wants to table it?  OK, We’ll discuss the proposal.**

3. Occupy Oakland Communication: The only line of communication is in GA and in our committees.  Our strategies and inner politics are to be discussed within the community.  If anyone does this, we will release a statement condemning their behavior, and will disavow their statements.  The issue would be brought before GA and a vote would be taken (60% or more) to censure that person or entity who was involved.

* Clarifying Questions
	+ How is this already the case? – This is our intent.  It is the case that it is happening.  We have already said we discourage this, and we want to encourage people to come to the GA.
	+ Does this have bearing on autonomous actions or media statements?  – No.  It doesn’t involve media interviews nor does it involve casual conversation.
	+ Who is the committee that will draft the letter and get the process going? – Anyone who has evidence of wrongdoing.   Individuals would have the chance to defend themselves before the GA.
	+ Why shouldn’t they come here rather than us going to them? – That’s my point.  They need to go to the GA.
	+ How will that discussion take place? – This has to do with state authorities, such as the police, the mayor, the government, etc.
	+ I don’t understand the goal of your proposal.  Is it about people misrepresenting the group, or people blabbing information? – Some people have a line of communication with the mayor’s office and aren’t going to the GA.
	+ Pro
		- Thank you for writing this.  This addresses community groups riding our coattails and saying that small groups represent us.  She is dividing the city, and pretending to meet their demands and meeting ours.
		- This has happened in other instances, similar to OO.  We need to prevent that from happening here in Oakland.
		- The danger with a leaderless movement is that people come forward and pretend to be the leader.
		- We need to make a guide for communities in Oakland to learn how to work with us.
		- I’m not letting anyone represent us without coming to the GA first.

We can make a friendly amendment to help community members plug in.

**91.6% in favor. THIS PROPOSAL HAS PASSED.**

**YES:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**NO:**

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

* **For the Strike – Arrive at 3:30 pm, to leave by 4pm.  A second wave will arrive at 5pm. – BE READY TO MARCH ON THE DOCKS.   Richard to help organize caravans for people who will drive.  650-996-7888**

ACTION ANNOUNCEMENTS and GENERAL ANOUNCEMENTS

* Lost keys: Please reclaim
* Critical Mass will bike to the port on Wednesday, beginning at 4pm.
* Outreach to teachers and students
* Hecklers – please come and join me.  We will not disrupt but we will heckle.
* The letter that seems to be from the mayor is fake.  I was the one who released it.  Here is why (explains).
* Diana Santana released a letter today and it says that the city will not have any recriminating actions against workers who strike.  The SEIU resolution applies to other unions.  This is a victory for our organizing.
* We’re holding an anarchist General Assembly.  This is an opportunity for people to plug in.  If you are interested in anarchy, show up at 12 at the Hold Out on San Pablo, on November 6th.
* We have a solidarity statement from Pelican Bay (reads).
* The worker’s people’s assembly is not organized in getting the strike tactics nailed down.  It has been lost twice and I don’t think it’s an accident.  This process is not working.  Someone on the facilitation committee needs to rent a hall, and – (stops mid-speech after being asked to leave).
* Occupy Portland is working on a proposal involving the police liasons within the movement.
* We are going to present a multimedia work about the general strike.
* All women, transgender people, etc. come to the Feminist Bloc and march with us to the port.  We are against capitalism, because under capitalism we suffer and are controlled.
* Please support my petition to have the people act as a congress.  We need to have a direct vote.
* Come and join me and let’s create artwork together.  We can do some arts actions for the movement.
* I’d like to design a creative action for Nov. 5th.  We’ll meet in the plaza tomorrow to plan.  We can combine Guy Fawkes day with Move Your Money Day.
* I support the movement…I look forward to this as a union worker and a person from this neighborhood.
* A federal judge approved a request in Nashville to make a restraining order against the police.
* Spaghetti meal for all, Saturday in the Financial District!
* 11/11/11 is Veteran’s Day.  We need to march with our veterans.  We need to march against the war on drugs.
* Swagn For Justice is a youth event that will take place here in the plaza on Tuesday, Nov. 1, from 4:30 to 6pm.  We have a peace-keeping team to help our youth stay safe during this event.  We have flyers if you are interested!

CLOSING

*10:00  pm*

# GA Minutes 11.4.11

November 4, 2011 at 12:11 am.

Posted by [Facilitation-Committee](https://occupyoakland.org/author/facilitation-committee/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

Oakland General Assembly

11/4/11

Arrival Time: 7:20 pm

Approximate Head Count: 500

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

* General Strike Follow-up: Labor groups would like to support our movement but are hesitant to join actions due to what happened on Thursday morning.  They will support us further if we commit to non-violence.
* Legal: Join us.  You must come to two meetings and do two days of jail support.
* Medic: If you were exposed to tear gas, come to the tent for detox.
* Web group: Facebook posting has been turned off so that it can be readable.  Committee announcements will be made on FB.  You may directly message admin. Of the FB page if you need to access the posts.
* Media: We have a gmail account.  We are going to be interviewed on the radio.  If you are interested in being interviewed, contact us  at oakstrikemedia@gmail.com.
* Business Working Group – The EBX wants to give us one page per week, however they are concerned with affiliating with us because we accept payments through paypal and amazon.  They urge us to use a bank or credit union.  We are receiving support in press and material from the Rising Loafer.
* Children’s Village: We need volunteers at the village.  If you are available, email me at oaktownchildrensvillage@gmail.com.  Children are planning a camp-out of solidarity in about two weeks at Tilden Park.
* POC: We meet M/W/F at 6pm, Sun at 4pm.
* Security: Security tonight from 10pm to 2 am.  Get involved!
* Garden: Tomorrow’s action: replace all soil bins with organic soil and vegetables, herbs, and fruit.
* Finance: Join us T/Th/F by Tully’s.

FORUM (7:45 )

**There are diverse ways to support the growth of this movement.  How will I as an individual or as an associated org. actively continue to grow the occupy movement?  We will have 30 minutes of forum: one minute each.**

* We as city workers want to work with you.  We want to form a working group with you.
* We should unite around one common message: the separation of corporations and government.  Stop paying your federal taxes.  Demand a city ordinance requiring contract in hand for any foreclosure.
* We need to include more people in this movement.
* Form other neighborhood GA’s in Fruitvale, East Oakland, and West Oakland.  Support marches and strategic occupations of empty buildings.
* Hold a press conference to educate the public.  Use the MSM as a tool.
* We need translators to make this more international within the city and across the world.
* We need to provide services in neighborhoods, on mobile carts and in abandoned buildings.
* Defend foreclosures.  Make a list of evicted people, and see if they want our help.
* Mobilize those in education.  Promote peaceful protests and discourage property destruction.
* Support a diversity of tactics.  Don’t let internal struggles eat us alive, because that’s what they want.
* There is strength in numbers.
* Consolidate information (media, photos, video) about the movement; send PSA’s to radio stations or livestreams that are more reliable.
* Add a list of businesses and restaurants who support OO on the website.
* Create art to draw people in.
* Occupy Times Square during New Year’s Eve: THE REVOLUTION WIL BE TELEVISED.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

* My friend Jack put up his rent money to pay for busses to go to the port.  Please reimburse him.  It wasn’t from the city or the ILWU.  Please donate if you can.  I need the finance committee now.
* I received money from you all: THANK YOU.  A woman also wrote me a check for $850.  When this check clears, I will donate this money to OO.
* We want to explain the connection of the port-shut-down to the ILWU’s struggle.  100,000 people marched on the port of Oakland, and shut the port down in solidarity with the Longshoremen in Longview in Washington against the EGT.
* One of our friends was beaten by police on Thursday.  He was detained for 18 hours and was not given immediate medical attention.  He was finally taken to Highland Hospital for a lacerated spleen.  His name is Kayvon Saveghi.
* **Clarification: We do love and support all of our comrades.  Please, unless it is urgent, please talk with us before you make announcements about comrades.**

PROPOSALS  (8:50)

* **We have cultivated a modified consensus making process. (***Explains)*
* **Submit proposals to occupyfacilitation@gmail.com, or submit in person on paper.  Three or more people must endorse a proposal and be present during its presentation to the GA.**
* **This is how we run the GA (***explains process, hand signals, vote count, etc).*
* **All are welcome to do autonomous actions with or without the approval of the GA.**
* **By Sunday, the FWG will lay out all these details, and it will be on the website.**

1.Community Democracy Neighborhood Project: We propose creating neighborhood assemblies to exercise direct democracy, and to bring people together in face to face discussions.  We need to build collective power and let the people decide how the city is run.  We propose to change the city’s charter through this process so the community decides the city’s budget.

**Break into groups of 20 and discuss the pros and cons.**

* Clarifying Questions and Answers
	+ Will those who do not have residences in Oakland be able to participate? – The ultimate goal is to have all Oaklanders participate in making decisions.  Others are welcome to contribute their skills.
	+ For those who do not use political channels are there ways to reduce the police budget? – Everything is political.  We can change the city charter.  That is the first step.
	+ Are you proposing that OO take on a ballot initiative to change the city charter?  – Yes.  It will be A project not THE only project.  We think a good first step in sharing our version of direct democracy with Oakland.
	+ Are we being asked to consider to forming a working group, or we being asked to approve a specific ballot measure?  – Both.
	+ How will you deal with undocumented residents?  How will you deal with people who have been disenfranchised from their voting rights? – To change the charter, you can allow whomever you want to participate in those decisions.  Federal law does not prohibit, for example, 16 year olds voting on a decision.
	+ How do you negotiate dealing with such a large project with other projects we currently have going (foreclosed home defense, etc)? (*I did not hear the answer)*
	+ How would neighborhoods be determined?  What would the process be for amending the charter? – A draft will be worked out through the working group, regarding neighborhoods.  We would have to write the legislation, file it with the city, gather signatures, educate our community, and put it up for a vote in 2012.  Community budgeting occurs now in Brazil – there are lots of strategies to draw on.
	+ What about those who work in Oakland, but don’t live here?  What about advertisements? – The assembly will decide how those who don’t live in the neighborhood will participate.  Ultimately, residents would make the decision to vote.
	+ Pros – none
	+ Cons
		- This might divert us into electoral politics.  Our strength is indirect mass action.
		- You don’t need our approval – form a working group if you want to.
		- Popular assemblies are a great idea, but we might be setting ourselves up for failure to hope for a ballot initiative with the city.
		- OO should not endorse political process actions in the city.
		- This presupposes the existence of popular neighborhood assemblies.   However, this proposal is well intentioned.
		- We need to reach out to communities not here today, and ensure that assemblies remain democratic over the long term.
		- Response: We are fully enmeshed in the capitalistic system.  We use materials bought by workers who are the system that we oppose.  Let’s not have any illusions here.  We are not yet autonomous.  We have to diversify our tactics.

VOTING RESULTS

**37.8 % in favor. THIS PROPOSAL HAS BEEN TABLED.**

**YES: 62**

**ABSTAIN: 33**

**NO: 102**

2. Wells Fargo March: Be here 10am Saturday to link up with immigrants rights groups.  This march is against money going to detention centers. Endorse this action.

**Straw Poll: Who would like to endorse this action?  Who would like to go to a vote?  To respect those who have concerns, we will take five concerns.**

* Pros
* Cons/CQ’s
	+ Isn’t it true that OO does not support outside actions from other groups?
		- These are local grassroots organizations.  They participated in our strike on Wednesday.  They want our support.
* What is being protested?
	+ (*Repeats proposal)*
* Will this stay  committed to nonviolence?
	+ We want to protect the safety and rights of immigrants.  We stand by non-violence.

VOTING RESULTS

**99 % in favor. THIS PROPOSAL HAS PASSED.**

**YES: 117**

**ABSTAIN: 7**

**NO: 1**

ACTION ANNOUNCEMENTS and GENERAL ANOUNCEMENTS

* 11/11/11 at 11:00 am – Take the Bay Bridge with me!
* I am here from NY, and I have been taking minutes at this GA (*notes are projected on wall*).  After the GA you are welcome to post messages that will go around the world.  There is no censorship.
* If you would like to take minutes with me, please join me.  I also encourage you to email the facilitation committee and give feedback about the GA’s.
* Meet at 4pm at 14th and Broadway to picket an anti-choice/anti-woman banquet at the Marriot Hotel.
* Statewide actions:
	+ Wednesday, 12 noon, November 9th,  – Education Walk Out/Tent City at UC Berkeley
	+ Wednesday, 7am, November 16th – norcal Convergence at UCSF: say no to cuts, fee hikes, and school closures!
	+ Tomorrow is Move Your Money Day!  Golden One Credit Union on Clay Street has extended its hours for Saturday, 9am-5pm.
	+ 36th annual American Indian Film Festival at The Landmark Embarcadero, and at The Palace of Fine Arts
	+ My name is Dave and I am interested in starting up some Guerilla Theater and other crazy, out of the box actions.  Find me if interested.
	+ I want to support the 11/11/11 action, but I need some help.  Find me!

CLOSING

*10:35  pm*

# GA Minutes 11.6.11

November 6, 2011 at 12:14 am.

Posted by [Facilitation-Committee](https://occupyoakland.org/author/facilitation-committee/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

Oakland General Assembly

11/6/11

Arrival Time: *7:04*

Approximate Head Count: 160

WELCOME (7:20)

**This is the General Assembly.  It is based on Participatory Democracy.  This is how it works (description read regarding participation, the assembly, committees, etc).**

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS (7:30)

* Local Business Liason (Jesse) : We will address the impact of OO on the local area.  We would like to establish OO as an economic stimulus.  Tomorrow we will canvas the area soliciting concerns and comments from the business community.
* Gardening: We want to build more gardens. We need: wood, nails, starter plants, pots, etc.  We meet at 2pm on the 14th Street side of the plaza.
* Sanitation/Public Health: We have physical materials and potential, but we need help.
* Medical: A black bag was stolen containing epilepsy medication.  Please return the medication soon.
* Food/Kitchen: We need more help, more volunteers…we also need people to donate hot water (who might live nearby) so we can have hot drinks while the weather gets colder.
* Media: We have just reconstituted!  We are going to get organized in a way that will be our media to be efficient, responsible, and effective.
* Finance (Victoria): We are hoping to put a proposal forward in regards to resource allocation.  So please be here tomorrow.
* ANNOUNCEMENT: We have been asked to explain the EGT communiqué.  We wrote a communiqué to explain to the EGT why we marched .  We did it in solidarity with the Longshoremen in Longview, Washington.  Please read more about the EGT to get more information.
* Events: Chris Hedges, Eric Jensen, and others would like to speak here.  I f you want to get involved, please come to tomorrow’s meeting at 1pm at The Rising Loafer.
* Supply: We have an emergency meeting to talk about our logistical problems after GA tonight at the supply tent.

PROPOSALS (7:45)

* **We have cultivated a modified consensus making process. (***Explains)*
* **Submit proposals to occupyfacilitation@gmail.com, or submit in person on paper.  Three or more people must endorse a proposal and be present during its presentation to the GA.**
* **This is how we run the GA (***explains process, hand signals, vote count, etc).*
* **All are welcome to do autonomous actions with or without the approval of the GA.**
* **Please standby for the Dreamcatcher Initiative if you are here to present it.  Please standby for the Occupy Education Initiative.**
1. Communiqué  to EGT:  *This is not a proposal, but was a letter to the EGT explaining the reasons behind actions in the General Strike at the Port.*
2. Occupy Education: We propose that this GA stand in solidarity with us, and issue the call for mass participation in the planned action of the defense of public education on Wednesday November 9th and November 16th -17th .  Continue the 5pm planning meetings previously used to plan for the General Strike.  This will show continuity between struggles of students and workers throughout California.

**Temperature Check/Straw Poll: Who would like to get into groups to discuss this?  Who would like to go directly to pros and cons?  We’ll go to questions, pros and cons.  Please repeat the proposal (***proposal repeated)***.**

* Clarifying Questions and Answers
	+ What are we expected to do when we get there? – We’ll set details in the planning meeting.
	+ Pros
		- We need to support those in the 99% who are struggling.
		- We passed a resolution in support of student strikes along with other strikes.  It’s an obvious choice.
		- Cons
			* We should have education free for all…not just marching against “fee hikes.”  We need to protest what they are doing under the guise of education (harmful research).

VOTING RESULTS

**99% Approval: THIS PROPOSAL HAS PASSED**

**Yes: 181**

**No: 1**

**Abstain: 13**

1. Letter Regarding Personal Effects:  The property of individuals has been wrongfully confiscated by police and city officials.   Much of this property is shared or loaned amongst all.  We are not willing to identify ourselves as individuals in order to claim the items because we wish not to have individuals’ names in your database.  Please return our property and assess damages.
* Clarifying Questions and Answers
	+ Will the communiqué reflect that the govt. is a greedy corporation?  – My intent was to give the workers and the powers that be to do the right thing.  It’s not a demand, but an invitation.
	+ Pros
		- We passed a resolution in support of student strikes along with other strikes.  It’s an obvious choice.
		- Cons
			* This is a concern about language I’ve seen used in speeches and proposals, saying things like “Our government” or “Our process.”  I’m not a citizen, so it’s not my government or process.
			* Response: I would be willing to change the language from “our” to “the.”

**99% Approval: THIS PROPOSAL HAS PASSED**

**Yes: 117**

**No: 5**

**Abstain: 13**

**Temperature Check: If you agree with this, put your thumb in the air.  Stick around and we will have a forum regarding finances and how to manage them.  Finance committee, please report to the stage.  We will talk about this tomorrow, on second thought.  We’ll also talk about how we can better organize committees.**

1. Three Tier Strike: *Tabled*
2. Dreamcatcher Entrepeneur Initiative:  *Tabled*

ACTION/GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS (8:30)

* I’m here from Berkeley Cop Watch.  The Berkeley cops have been here.  Come out on Tuesday to lobby the Berkeley City Council not to lend mutual aid to Oakland.
* 11/11/11 at 11:00 am, SHUT DOWN THE BAY BRIDGE.
* Political/Electoral Reform: meet us!
* All groups, committee, and caucuses will meet at 6:30 before the GA.  We need better communication so the right hand knows what the left hand is doing.
* I will be traveling to Amsterdam.  If you want to send a letter or a note, give it to me!  (Victoria)
* Let’s do some community service to improve Oakland through this movement.  I will be here from 6pm-7pm.  Contact me at occupyandserve@gmail.com.
* Please don’t steal from the medics, go into the tent without a medical need, or abuse the portapotties.  Clean up behind yourself and around your tent.
* I’m here from Australia – Occupy Melbourne.  Solidarity!!!
* East Bay Solidarity Network is a group that works against housing discrimination and eviction.  We need to help defend families against getting evicted out of their homes.
* We need to stay united.
* EGT Statement was not voted upon by the GA.  It came from a committee that worked on the General Strike.
* First Aid: We support you and want to keep working with you.
* We should show family movies here, for the kids.  Thank you!
* We respect the diversity of tactics here.  You have to have well laid plans if you use certain tactics.  People were upset because people rushed into overtaking that building.  I’m not advocating illegal things, but we need to be thoughtful about what we do.  We’re trying to give it back to the people.  There is a place for MLK types and Malcolm X types.  Let’s not let the movement be divided.  If one is separated from us, then others will be separate from us.

*8:35  pm*

# GA Minutes 11.7.11

November 7, 2011 at 12:17 am.

Posted by [Facilitation-Committee](https://occupyoakland.org/author/facilitation-committee/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

Oakland General Assembly

11/7/11

Arrival Time: *7:18*

Approximate Head Count: 225

WELCOME (7:21 pm)

**This is the General Assembly.  It is based on Participatory Democracy.  This is how it works (***description read regarding participation, the assembly, committees, etc***).  This is who will do each role tonight (***reads off who will facilitate, keep time, take stack, and be crowd advocates***).  This is where you may sit if you want to smoke.  Practice respect.**

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS (7:26 pm)

* Children’s Village: We don’t have regularly scheduled meetings, but if you want to volunteer or join and support, email us: oaktownchildrensvillage@gmail.com.  We are planning a children’s solidarity camp-out at Tilden.
* Sanitation: We meet daily at 10pm.  Please help keep the restrooms clean.  We are working on getting them serviced more often.  Please come load compost and recycling to be taken away if you can.
* I now represent the Rogue Electricians.  BUILD SHIT.  It’s inexpensive.
* Slingshot Collective is doing an emergency OO edition.  The deadline for articles is Sunday at 5pm.  Email at  slingshot@tao.ca
* Kitchen Committee: We need more help!  We need dishwashers, servers,etc.
* Security: We are filling shifts 10pm-6am.  We meet at the flagpole each night.  Email girlarmyoakland@gmail.com if you’d like to contact us.
* Local business Liason: We canvassed the area and targeted local businesses.  We meet tomorrow at 5:00.  local.business.liaison@gmail.com.  Support Plaza Café and Sankofa please.
* Legal: 12 people have been arraigned.  Nine of them will probably not have charges; three will.  There were 102 arrests Thursday morning and 95 from the week prior.  We want to know if you have been brutalized – take care of yourself, document, and contact us.
* Solidarity and Support: We do Jail support, and take care of your needs if you have been arrested.  We meet tomorrow at the SF Pizza shop at 5pm.
* Labor: Send me an email – dickscore@hotmail.com if you want to participate in the googledoc conversation.
* Anarchists Group: We can meet at the tree on Thursday at 5pm.
* POC/QPOC: We meet MWF at 6pm, and Sun 4pm.  Check the info tent for the notebook if you want to contact us further or reach us through the googlegroup.
* Finance: We meet T/TH/F at 6pm outside of Tully’s.  Cash donations are reported to camp logistics committee.  The camp decides how money is spent.  So far it has been spent on sound, portapotties, and blankets, only with camp approval.  We have raised money online under the Longhaul account ($7,500).  Contact us: finance@occupyoakland.org.
* First Aid/Medic: We have a dispatch number for medical emergencies during actions:  510-712-8129  TEXT PREFERRED.  It will be active for a month for now.  The medic committee is not responsible for food, water, or sanitation needs.  Please step up if you are on other committees and help out in these roles.  We need a committee to address psychiatric support – we can no longer handle it because it is beyond out scope.  We are here for emergency care, first aid, massage therapy, and acupuncture. Contact occupyoaklandmedics@gmail.com
* Jewish Contingent: We have a tent near the interfaith tent where we have had services and other things.  Email me- sustainablefred@gmail.com
* Sound committee: We will meet at 5pm.  If you have a vehicle and can help during events that require sound, contact me.
* LiveStream subcommittee: We livestream every night.  If you want to help, please see me or come to the stage later.  You can also go to the media tent.
* Gardening: We received beds and we filled them with soil.  We need starter plants.
* Media: We are currently changing our meeting times. Check at the tent for more info.  We had a great meeting today!  We want to ensure that the messages relayed to media accurately reflects consensus.
* Web: We encourage the public to use the discussion forum.  We need volunteers to help respond to emails.
* Supply team: We have moved next to the medical center.  Our meetings are daily at 3pm.

FORUM (8:00 pm)

**If you are from a committee or a subcommittee, please line up in the pit.  Everyone, please connect with a committee so you can get involved.**

PROPOSALS (8:20 pm)

* **We have cultivated a modified consensus making process. (***Explains)*
* **Submit proposals to occupyfacilitation@gmail.com, or submit in person on paper.  Three or more people must endorse a proposal and be present during its presentation to the GA.**
* **This is how we run the GA (***explains process, hand signals, vote count, etc).*
* **All are welcome to do autonomous actions with or without the approval of the GA.**
1. Emergency Finance Proposal: This concerns the $20,000 OWS donation.  We propose that until we finalize the OO bank account, the lawyer, Mr. Fong, will hold it in a trust fund.  This would be accessible by 3 people on the finance team.  This money would be allocated for bail  and medical support as our capacity allows.
* Clarifying Questions and Answers
	+ When the money was first donated, what was it to be used for? – OWS specified that it be used for legal and medical aid.
	+ Which bank will the trust be in? – Wells Fargo.  I understand that people aren’t comfortable with that, but this is a time sensitive issue.
	+ Can other options be considered? – Yes, but it takes time to transfer funds to a credit union.  We need to help people in jail now.
	+ Is there a deadline or a maximum amount of time we would allow the money to stay in the Wells Fargo trust fund account? – I had to go to Sacramento to file papers with the state to declare OO as an unincorporated association.  We are waiting for that to be finalized.  It would take no more than two weeks for this process to be finalized so that we can open an account in a credit union. (*More information regarding the trust fund Mr. Fong is describing*<http://www.iolta.org/grants/>*)*
	+ Pros
		- We need to go ahead and do this.
		- This is time sensitive!  People are in jail and need help!
		- OWS wants us to put this money to good use.
		- We have a priority to keep people safe.
		- Cons
			* We shouldn’t wait until arraignment.  We should get them out now, and not wait for bail to be lowered.
			* Money shouldn’t be used for medical and bail needs.  We have daily operations that need to be addressed here at the camp.

**I just want to remind everyone of what the proposal says.  The money is earmarked for medical/legal use from OWS.  That is the stipulation.**

* You can only bail one person out with that money.  We need to deepen our relationship with the National Lawyers Guild.  We need to stage demonstrations and mobilize to get people out of jail…we need to be careful about just giving our money to Babylon.

VOTING RESULTS

**97.7% Approval: THIS PROPOSAL HAS PASSED.**

**Yes: 162**

**No:  8**

**Abstain:  16**

2. Poor Magazine March Endorsement: We propose that OO endorse a march we are organizing to Decolonize the Bay Area.  We will be marching this Thursday, November 10th, at 12 noon, to the OPD station, HUD, Social Services, and to the ICE station in SF.

* Clarifying Questions and Answers
	+ Will this be a nonviolent march without destruction? – Yes.  We strive for the safety of our people.  We are not asking for civil disobedience.
	+ What does decolonize mean?–  It is the process of going back to your homeland and going back to your roots.  I encourage you to do your own research and find meaning.
	+ How will you ensure that this remains nonviolent? – We would have the support of Occupy Legal and Occupy Medic.  We also ask, as we also do, for healing and blessings from our indigenous people who are involved with us.  We set positive intentions.
	+ Is this for solidarity, organizational help, or endorsement? – We are asking for an endorsement.  We have already organized this march, and we would like people to join us as well.
	+ How long will the march last? – We will be in Oakland until 2pm.  After that, we will take BART to SF and reconvene at about 2:30.
	+ Are you using this opportunity to educate people in neighborhoods? – This is mainly a march directed against government agencies.  We outreach to communities often through our organization. For this march, we are organizing those same communities.
	+ Pros
		- We should endorse this, for sure.  We should not organize it through the encampment.
		- We need to speak up for the people and let their voices be heard.
		- We need different faces in our movement.  We have supported other marches before, so why not support this one?
		- Cons
			* We should not organize it through the encampment.

VOTING RESULTS

**95% Approval: THIS PROPOSAL HAS PASSED.**

**Yes: 130**

**No:  3**

**Abstain:  12**

ACTION ANNOUNCEMENTS (9:10 pm)

* Wednesday at 6pm, Raymond Turner will perform a song here in the amphitheater that he has written just for this movement.
* The Gang Injunction issue will be discussed by City Council tomorrow.  Please come at 6:30 to show your support in ending the injunctions in North Oakland.
* Food Justice National Gathering here tomorrow in the plaza: presentation 11:45-12:30.
* Email collegetour99@gmail.com to support college students in moving their money out of the big banks and into credit unions.
* Join us here in the plaza on Friday, November 11th at 4pm for a press conference and a march against Police Brutality – in solidarity with Iraq Veterans Against the War, and in support of the two vets who experienced police brutality here in Oakland.
* Ban Bags in Berkeley – 6pm (*I am not sure of the details).*

CLOSING

9:30 pm

*\*It has been noted that the Finance Committee’s figure was incorrectly recorded at $75,000.  The figure should read “$7,500.” Corrected: 11/9/11*

# GA Minutes: 11.9.11

November 10, 2011 at 6:24 am.

Posted by [Facilitation-Committee](https://occupyoakland.org/author/facilitation-committee/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

Oakland General Assembly

11/9/11

Arrival Time: *6:00*

Approximate Head Count: 700

WELCOME (6:15 pm)

**This is the General Assembly.  It is based on Participatory Democracy.  This is how it works (***description read regarding participation, the assembly, committees, etc***).  This is who will do each role tonight (***reads off who will facilitate, keep time, take stack, and be crowd advocates***).  This is where you may sit if you want to smoke.  Practice respect.**

AGENDA OVERVIEW (6:25)

1. Welcome
2. Committee Report Backs
3. Forum
4. Proposals – Egyptian Solidarity, Tactics, Destructive Actions, Building Occupations
5. Action/General Announcements

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS (6:32 pm)

* UCB Emergency Announcements: Tent city/Occupation set up.  Students formed a barricade of people around the encampment when police forces arrived.  At least five were arrested; one student was beaten.  Police left the scene and students took the space again.
* Outreach: We want to do a teach-in.  We meet 5:00 pm Friday at 12th Street BART.
* Anarchist Caucus: We will meet at 4pm by the northside of the plaza.
* Gardening:  We need starter plants and pots!  We want to grow leafy greens and other veggies that grow well in cold weather.
* Sanitation: Thank you for cleaning up after yourselves and making the camp look better.
* Reclamation: (???)
* Occupy Oakland Plugin Committee: You can get involved in local actions around Oakland to better the community:  Contact ooplugin@gmail.com.
* Solidarity Committee: 6:30 Tuesday, we meet near 14th at Bway. occupyoaklandlaborsolidarity@gmail.com.
* Safer Spaces: We are currently organizing mental health providers to help at the camp.  We meet Thursdays at 5pm.  B.schultz0382@gmail.com
* Library: We received several books on our wishlist.  We need bookshelves.  We meet tomorrow on Thursday at 5pm to talk about ideas.
* Events: Tomorrow is the one month birthday party.  We will have a ceremony at 5pm.  We’ll have open mic, breakout session, slideshow, music, and dancing.  Bring cake!
* Supply team: We have move next to the medical center.  Our meetings are daily at 3pm.  We need tents and blankets.
* Web: We encourage the public to use the discussion forum.  We need volunteers to help respond to emails.  We meet Sundays at 1pm on the steps.  Check out the site!
* Woodchip committee: We need woodchips!  Corey.scher@riseup.net
* Sound committee: This is how you use a mic: (*demonstrates).*We need a power amp of about 1,500 watts.
* Finance: The $20,000 arrived by the end of day today.  It was put into a Wells Fargo account.  We have an NLG lawyer named Brad Hodach who is transferring the money to Bank of Alameda (*tomorrow???)*.  Money that has been spent on camp needs has been agreed upon during camp meetings.  That clarity was asked for just now.  We meet T/Th/F at 6pm next to Tully’s.  Contact us: finance@occupyoakland.org.
* QPOC/POC Committee: (???)
* Media: media@occupyaokland.org
* Medic: Emergency hotline – 510-712-8129

FORUM (7:30 pm)

**OO is receiving a lot of money and supplies.  We can begin spending this money if use the collective decision making process.  We seek transparency in sharing and reporting information.  We realize that to do active fundraising and spending, we have to have dialogue:**

**1.    Where do we want to go from here?**

**2.    How will we be sustainable?**

**Turn and talk to each other in groups.**

* We talked about the spokes-council model that is now being used in OWS.  It would allow us to coordinate better so we could equitably use our resources.
* Finances should be transparent, perhaps on the web.

Resources can be used for community outreach.  We talked about buying the things we need so that we can do the projects we want without outside help.  Sustainability includes inclusiveness.  We want to bring services to the people out there, and invite everyone in Oakland to come to this movement.

We could support the community through microloans.

* Local businesses not be destroyed.  We need to support the businesses though outreach.  We have to stop the violence and be the better people.
* Committees should be able to petition for money and it should be transparent.  Maybe it could happen on the web.
* We think we should support people in jail, boost camp morale, buy food locally and grow our own food, have emergency funds for if/when camp gets torn down, build occupations, provide support for the reclamations committee, etc.
* We should bus people to Sacramento where the laws are being passed, lobbying, corporate corruption, and so forth.  We could effect change there.

**We want to remind people on stack that the forum topic includes fundraising.**

* We want to know what the budget is!  We think that donations are important.  We also need to consider that winter is coming.
* Fundraise – person to person, in organizing teams, door to door.  Occupy abandoned buildings in a creative way with planning.
* Watch who is donating and why – we don’t want to be co-opted.

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

**Be aware that at any moment arrests could occur.  If for any reason there is a raid and the camp is disbanded, we will reconvene the next day at the Main Branch of the Oakland Public Library at 4pm.**

PROPOSALS (7:40 pm)

* **We have cultivated a modified consensus making process. (***Explains)*
* **Submit proposals to****occupyfacilitation@gmail.com****, or submit in person on paper.  Three or more people must endorse a proposal and be present during its presentation to the GA.**
* **This is how we run the GA (***explains process, hand signals, vote count, etc).* **Facilitators have the discretion to** **structure the process as needed based on the type of proposal that is on the table, the general attitudes of the assembly, and the number of attendants at the GA.**
* **We will post information online, along with past resolutions.**
1. Egyptian Solidarity: Sat. Nov. 12th: Given that our Egyptian counterparts marched in solidarity with the movement in Oakland, we must respond in kind and show solidarity through a letter (*letter was presented to the assembly)*.  Secondly, we propose a rally at 4pm on Saturday, then a march at 5pm.
* Clarifying Questions and Answers
	+ Are there any Arab activist groups involved in the planning of this action? – We are working on contacting those groups.
	+ Pros
		- They supported us, and we haven’t experienced the brutalization that we have.  Oakland and Cairo are one hand.
		- We can stand strong – we can do this!
		- As a representative of an Arab activist group, I know we would be willing to work with you and to help organize this event.
		- Cons
			* There will be folks in town from Egypt on Saturday speaking at Berkeley, and I think they should be invited into this space for deep collaboration.
			* I’m worried about the timing of this march.  There are a lot of other things going on as well, plus we might get raided soon.
			* Response
				+ This will be a short march – it won’t be too far from the encampment.  We’ll try to work out logistics with Berkeley as best as we can.

**Break into groups of twenty.  Elect someone to take your votes (approve, abstain, disapprove).  Allow that person to report your votes to the crowd advocates.**

VOTING RESULTS

**98% Approval:**

**Yes: 667**

**No:  8**

**Abstain:  58**

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT (Portuguese-English translation)

**We’ve come from the movement in Brazil and we support you!  We are a movement of families, peasants, and landless people who had the courage to take land not being used that was needed by the people.  We took other spaces, such as the spaces of the mind, through university training and study.  Workers in the cities are occupying empty space as well.  We support you.  We are listening to your decisions.  The word “occupy” is a key word for the campesinos and the workers.  You know what to do:  we come here to offer you hugs and solidarity.  There is power in numbers:  Victory for us all!**

1. Diversity of Tactics: This movement is composed of many individuals.  Black Bloc tactics may be employed in different ways.  We propose that we recognize that we are part of a global movement.  We know that actions can strengthen or weaken our goals.  We urge individuals employing Black Bloc tactics to use self-restraint and forethought.  We urge Black Bloc members not to destroy local businesses.  We encourage all individuals who are engaged in non-violence to continue to do so.
* Clarifying Questions and Answers
	+ What is a more relevant example of using Black Bloc? What is a good time to use these tactics?- Making a circle around Lake Merrit for a cause might be an example.
	+ What do you define as a local business? – We want to respect local business owners, but this remains to be determined.  We want to be respectful to our neighbors.
	+ What do you define as property destruction?  What do you define as violence? What would be a violent protest?– It’s subjective, but we are talking about breaking windows, graffiti, and defacement.
	+ What does “all inclusive” mean? –  This refers to people of all kinds.
	+ Does this mean we would move forward peacefully from this point on?
	+ Is the proposal an implicit agreement to use of violence in the movement? – No, it is not.
	+ What happens if people don’t comply with this? – We are responsible for our own behavior.  Just know that your actions reflect on the movement.
	+ Is it violent to restrain people employing these tactics or to ask them to unmask? – We do not endorse this in our proposal. We think it might be a good idea to unmask people or to stop them.  (*Stated by two different presenters).*
* Pros
	+ Why did Gandhi make the choices he made?  We can take a look at other radical non-violent groups.
	+ It’s hard for me to defend people who antagonize police or break windows.
	+ This does not end well and it does not further the movement.
	+ I appreciated the beginning of the proposal – there was some listening involved.
	+ White privilege informs the tactics used here, and we need to examine that.  Some people can afford to employ any tactic and can afford to go to jail.  Others are more vulnerable.
	+ Vandalism and violence are not inclusive, because it makes the space unsafe for some people.
	+ Cons
		- There are contradictions in this proposal.  We can’t analyze how actions will unfold when you are on the ground.
		- Proposals like these are happening too soon.  We need to have these conversations in our communities.
		- Anarchists aren’t always violent. It just depends on how you use the tactics.
		- I can’t understand the proposal – it isn’t clearly written.
		- We can’t start policing tactics that people want to take.
		- We can’t pass this proposal because we haven’t defined violence for ourselves.
		- I would like to see this tabled until it is further defined.
		- We need to talk about tactics in context of the goals we all have.
		- People should be able to express themselves how they need to.
		- When you exclude tactics you exclude people.

VOTING RESULTS

**15% Approval – THIS PROPOSAL HAS BEEN TABLED**

**Yes: 112**

**No:  559**

**Abstain:  148**

3      Destructive Actions: We withdraw this proposal from the agenda because we want to unify right now.  Our situation is tenuous.  While this conversation is important, we want to maintain our focus.  When the threat of removal by the authorities passes, we will propose that we do not want to employ tactics that bring on police presence at the encampment.

 4. Building Occupation Action: (An anonymous group is planning this action.  Others are presenting this on their behalf).  We propose that we march from the plaza to occupy a building together.  We would be acting upon a resolution supporting reclamations, passed on 10/31/11.

* Clarifying Questions and Answers
	+ Does this proposal mean that if the police come, they will incite violence? – I don’t think there are plans for violence or nonviolence.
	+ Who owns the building? – We don’t know.
	+ Are you fighting with people against foreclosures? – We have been in contact with people who are working on this.
	+ What is the capacity of the building? – We don’t know.
	+ Do we have a key to the building?-  We don’t know.
	+ Pros
		- We need to expand this occupation.
		- This is the direction we need to move in.
		- I live in Oakland, and Oaklanders I know support this action.
		- Let’s do it, but make it a much, much larger action with thousands of people.
		- People in other movements have done this successfully.
		- We have the right to reclaim tax dollars for the people through this action.
		- It might be better to do this in the day so it can be visible to everyone.
		- Cons
		- As an Oakland resident, I ask you to look for a space with the help of someone in the community.  You can rent a space without taking it over.
			* We can try to rent a space for a nominal fee now that we have funds.
			* It’s a tactical mistake to do it as OO.  Do it autonomously.
			* This might divide our energies.
			* This doesn’t seem as though you’ve consulted the people at this camp.
			* There needs to be a tighter, more focused plan regarding what to do when the police arrive.  It’s too vague for us to preemptively endorse.
			* We don’t need a clandestine operation to do this.  We can plan in a strategic manner and just do it.

VOTING RESULTS

**64% Approval: THIS PROPOSAL HAS BEEN TABLED.**

**Yes: 258**

**No:  144**

**Abstain:  126**

ACTION/GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS (9:50 pm)

* **Occupy Berkeley is currently being invaded by police.  (9:56 pm)**
* 12 noon meeting about ideas in the movement.  Meet me here tomorrow.
* If anyone needs a ride to Berkeley, I have two seats.
* I have three spots in my car if you want a ride to Berkeley.
* Rally Tuesday, 12 noon- 1pm. Nov. 15th, at 1515 Clay Street.  We are rallying against the state trigger cuts.  These cuts affect: children, the elderly, and the disabled.
* Thursday, Nov. 10th, 6pm-8pm– open meeting at Fox Theater hosted by Phil Tagami, a businessman in Oakland.  The purpose of this meeting is to shut-down OO.  Who can step up and organize an action?  This man was quoted as saying that he “kept protesters at bay with a shotgun.”  Be careful.  Give everyone a chance to speak before carrying through any disruptive actions you choose to employ.
* Occupy SF wedding – Check on FB.
* 11:00pm tonight: candlelight vigil symbolic of taking a stand to protect this camp.  This is led by an interfaith group that organized after the last police assault.
* They want to occupy Iran.  Take action to prevent the invasion of Iran.
* The Finance Committee will present a proposal for spending allocation based on OWS system. This will be available for review on Friday at the Info Tent.
* Email collegetour99@gmail.com to support college students in moving their money out of the big banks and into credit unions.
* Teach-in at Berkeley featuring a film, speakers from Tunisia, Egpyt, and Palestine.  March with us from Berkeley to the plaza.
* I’m a community member and supporter from East Oakland.  I spoke to the council last week about how proud I was of this movement’s peaceful actions.  We are threatened from those within our camp and outside of the camp.  We can’t put this movement at risk.  I propose an autonomous group that will protect against property destruction, fires, vandalism, and bodily harm.  If you want to join us, meet with us on the steps now.
* Backpack found in portapotty area.  Blue binder also found.

CLOSING

10:13 pm (*There were more announcements but I left at this point.)*

# GA Minutes 11.11.11

November 12, 2011 at 9:29 am.

Posted by [Facilitation-Committee](https://occupyoakland.org/author/facilitation-committee/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

Oakland General Assembly

11/11/11

Arrival Time: *6:15*

Approximate Head Count: 110

WELCOME

**This is the General Assembly.  It is based on Participatory Democracy.  This is how it works (***description read regarding participation, the assembly, committees, etc***).  This is who will do each role tonight (***reads off who will facilitate, keep time, take stack, and be crowd advocates***).**

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS (6:15)

* QPOC/POC: Meets MWF at 5pm on Franklin and 14th; Sundays at 4pm
* Labor Outreach Meeting : 11am Sunday
* March in Solidarity with Egypt: Tomorrow@4pm from the plaza.  BE THERE.  In case the camp gets evicted we will meet anyway.

AGENDA OVERVIEW (6:20)

1. Welcome
2. Committee Report Backs
3. Forum
4. Proposals
5. Action/General Announcements

FORUM

**Temperature Check: In response to the shooting and death of the young man near our encampment yesterday, we could hold a forum.  We could also vote on proposals.  Let’s hold a straw poll.  OK, it looks like the majority would like to discuss proposals.**

PROPOSALS (6:30 pm)

* **We have cultivated a modified consensus making process. (***Explains)*
* **Submit proposals to****occupyfacilitation@gmail.com****, or submit in person on paper.  Three or more people must endorse a proposal and be present during its presentation to the GA.**
* **This is how we run the GA (***explains process, hand signals, vote count, etc).*
1. Mandatory Paper Ballots and Open Source Software for Voting: Occupy Oakland should stand for the removal of corporate owned or controlled software, and stand for the implementation of open source software and mandatory paper ballots.
* Clarifying Questions and Answers
	+ What is “open source software?” – It’s software that is openly viewable and not for sale; fully accessible to the public.
	+ Where would the software come from? – We have been working on it for 10 years.
	+ What do you mean by “corporate?”  – It’s corporate owned and controlled.  We reject this.
	+ Pros
		- Our current system is very flawed.
		- I care about this because I vote – I know not everyone does, but I do.
		- Cons
			* We deal with proposals about camp specific needs and solidarity statements.
			* We don’t make demands. That has been our norm.
			* We don’t know enough about this software to make a decision.

VOTING RESULTS

**41.2% Approval.  If you have a friendly amendment, please get on stack now.**

**Yes: 45**

**No:  20**

**Abstain:  64**

FRIENDLY AMENDMENTS

* State that this resolution does not endorse any political leanings.
* Make it a general solidarity statement without endorsing any specifics.

PROPOSAL RESTATMENT: We are amenable to both friendly amendments. Occupy Oakland should stands for the removal of corporate owned or controlled software, and stand for the implementation of open source software and mandatory paper ballots. This is not an endorsement of a political system.  This is a general solidarity statement with groups that are against corporate control of election systems.

**Are there any pros and cons?  Now we are going to vote again.**

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: In case you were not aware, this encampment has received an eviction notice.  Please make your plans accordingly.**

NEW RESULTS

**59.7% Approval – THIS PROPOSAL HAS BEEN TABLED.**

**Yes:  49**

**No:  33**

**Abstain:  19**

2. November 19  Mass Action: To mobilize everyone we can and have a march for workers and families of Oakland against the institutions that are responsible for inequality, foreclosed homes, etc.

* Clarifying Questions and Answers
	+ Will this be nonviolent? – (??? *I did not hear the response)*
	+ What time? – We don’t know.
	+ John said 50%.  50% of what? – We would have 50% control of the platform, and control over the march itself.
	+ How do we do this without being bogged down by the bureaucracy of the unions? – As much as I don’t like their policies, part of the union movement, they have to be there.  Their presence their will encourage the rank and file to participate.
	+ Which unions are participating? – I don’t have all the details worked out now, because there are so many.  The CNA, SEIU 1021, City of Oakland Workers, Sailor’s Union of the Pacific, Unite Here 2850.
	+ What is the plan for the foreclosed homes? – We haven’t figured that out.  You are welcome to come to the meeting to help us figure it out.
* Pros
	+ I think that this is a crucial move to link OO with the labor movement.  This is how OWS prevented themselves from being evicted.  We can use this link to expand the occupation as the season changes.
	+ This could be something big to look forward to after the impending eviction.
	+ If we don’t vote for this, what will we do a week from now?  Our movement needs to grow.
	+ This isn’t an issue of leadership, or unionized/nonunionized workers; it’s about material needs.
	+ We can unite and make the march even bigger than the previous one.  We can include more workers, such as domestic workers in wealthy neighborhoods who might be exploited.
	+ Cons
		- Unions give support to the Democratic Party.  We want to be autonomous of that.
		- Think about the term foreclosure – please get clarity on what this means.

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: In LA, they are thinking of shutting down their port.  If we shut down our port in solidarity, how would you feel about that?  Seattle is thinking of doing this too.  The possible date for doing this is December 12**th**.**

VOTING RESULTS

**97% Approval – THIS PROPOSAL HAS PASSED.**

**Yes: 106**

**No:  3**

**Abstain: 14**

3      Working Groups’ Application for Funds: We propose that we adopt this  process in how we spend money that people are donating, and how we know what people are spending money on. Working groups would register with the Finance Committee, ask 3 people to work with Finance committee, and submit a form asking to purchase what is needed.  Receipts would be returned to the Finance committee.  Parameters and thresholds for spending would be set.  Finance Committee would verify that the spending involved would be legal.

**We need to keep quorum.  Please stay and vote so that we can make a decision.**

* Clarifying Questions and Answers
	+ How would we know how much money to spend from the whole general pot? – This would be communicated between the Finance Committee and each Working group.  It would be reported at the GA also.
	+ *Another question was asked, but I did not hear it.*
	+ Pros
		- We can get the ball rolling and spend money for our needs, especially considering that it is getting colder.

VOTING RESULTS

**100% Approval: THIS PROPOSAL HAS PASSED.**

**Yes: 81**

**No:  0**

**Abstain: 18**

**We counted over 100 people in attendance, but we only counted 99 votes.  This gives us a quorum.**

ACTION/GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS (8:21pm)

* Event in OSF at noon on Sunday on the Criminalization of Survival.
* There is a small amount of coffee for you in the medic tent.  Please let people keeping watch have that.
* If you are arrested or see an arrest call 415-285-1011. Write it on your body.  It is the legal hotline number.
* UC Berkeley, at Wheeler Hall- Derrick Jensen, 10am-7pm, Sunday (??? Unsure of details)
* UC Berkley will strike November 15th.  We march from here to UC Berkeley on Tuesday at 2:30 pm in support.
* Arab Resource/Organizing Center would like to invite you to a day-long teach-in tomorrow, 10am-6pm at UC Berkeley at the multicultural center.
* 5pm march tomorrow to free political prisoners from the plaza, to the state building, to the jail.
* Bad News: Chris Hedges will not be here, but he sends his love.
* Great job everyone!
* In Occupy Austin, three participants were in a serious car crash.  One has passed away and the others have been injured.  A moment of silence please.

CLOSING

8:33 pm

*(This may be missing some information such as announcements or report backs.  It was raining earlier…it was tricky to take notes while it drizzled.)*

# GA Minutes 11.13.11

November 16, 2011 at 10:33 pm.

Posted by [Facilitation-Committee](https://occupyoakland.org/author/facilitation-committee/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

Oakland General Assembly

11/13/11

Arrival Time: *6:00*

Approximate Head Count: 180

INTERGENERATIONAL BLESSING (6:25): We want to offer support and guidance as elders.  We want to honor the Ohlone lands on which we stand.  (*Tells history of Oakland and how the land changed hands throughout the centuries*).  Ancestral Blessing: “You are loved, you are a blessing, and you are sacred the way you are.  You have dignity.  You bring wisdom and gifts to share.”

WELCOME (6:40)

**This is the General Assembly.  It is based on Participatory Democracy.  As you are aware, this camp could be cleared out.  In case that happens, meet at the library at 4pm.  Call 415-285-1011 in case you are arrested or in case you see an arrest.  Text “bayaction” to 41411 to receive text-updates.  Text the Medic Hotline in case medics are needed: 510-712-8129**

**This is how it works (***description read regarding participation, the assembly, committees, etc***).  This is who will do each role tonight (***reads off who will facilitate, keep time, take stack, and be crowd advocates***).**

AGENDA OVERVIEW (6:45)

1. Welcome
2. Committee Report Backs
3. Proposals: Sanctuary for all Immigrants; St. Paul’s Principles
4. Forum: What to do after a raid?
5. Action/General Announcements

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS: Solidarity Statement from Mexico – We see the struggles in the United States and we see the connection between the monies in narco-traffic being contributed toward the bank bailout in 2008 in the US.  We are fighting global capitalism with resistance (with demonstrations and encampments).

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS (7:05)

* Sound Committee: We have a safe communal space for storing expensive items.  Please come and find us if you need us.
* Occupy Legal/NLG: Do not call the hotline with false alarms or suspicions.  Call the hotline when there are several police or police present in riot gear ready to take action.  The ACLU and NLG are looking at lawsuits that will hinder what the police can do (not in the same of the movement).  http://www.occupylegal.info
* Solidarity Support Committee: We meet on Tuesday at noon at the SF Pizza place.  Two people were bonded out of jail last week.
* Events: We meet 1pm at the Rising Loafer.  If it is closed, we go to Brown Couch Café.  events@occupyoakland.org
* Media: We are scattered!  Meet with me: judogaris@gmail.com.  I have a problem with this process at GA: the people at camp who are going to be raided are not involved in the process.
* QPOC/POC: We meet at 400 Franklin, T/TH/Sun (*time??).*  Candlelight vigil 11/17, 7pm.
* Business Liaison: We want to support businesses close to the plaza.  We meet on Monday at the Rising Loafer@4pm.  Day of action – Black Friday boycott of corporate stores.
* Labor Solidarity: Today we talked about having a picket to defend the camp.  The Labor Rally on Nov. 19th will be at 2pm.  Tomorrow we meet at 6pm in the plaza.
* Facilitation: We meet at noon M/W/F/Sun.  Contact us:  facilitation@occupyoakland.org  or occupyoaklandfacilitation@gmail.com. We are trying to have a more accessible time for GA on Sundays.  We are working on creating an expedited process for financial decisions.  We are looking for a place to hold GA in case of rain.  We are also looking into outreach.
* Reclamation: We will meet Wednesday@ 5pm at the steps. We provide information about foreclosure defense.
* Kitchen: We need help!  We collect compost.  WE are trying to create an offsite facility to deal with it, but in the meantime if you can pick up compost, contact me.  leilafli@yahoo.com
* Labor: We need to mobilize for November 19th, 2pm.  We meet tomorrow at 6pm at the plaza.
* Cleanup Crew/Peace Keeper: Clean up around the area.  Clean up behind yourselves.
* Supply: M/W/F 3pm, we meet!  Starting tomorrow night we will have a mailing address for shipping.  We’ll have a storage area offsite.  supply@occupyoakland.org
* Finance: T/Th at SF Pizza @6pm.  We raised $17,000.  We will be reporting monies each week. finance@occupyoakland.org
* Info Tent: infotent@occupyoakland.org
* CoCo:  Committees and subcommittees: please send a representative to our meeting.  We will meet 4pm Wednesday and every Sunday.

PROPOSALS (7:30 pm)

* **We have cultivated a modified consensus making process. (***Explains)*
* **Submit proposals to****occupyfacilitation@gmail.com****, or submit in person on paper.  Three or more people must endorse a proposal and be present during its presentation to the GA.**
* **This is how we run the GA (***explains process, hand signals, vote count, etc).*

1. Sanctuary City For Immigrants: We declare this movement a sanctuary for all people with or without papers.  We welcome all to join this movement and we show solidarity with the immigrant rights movement.  We stand against ICE raids.

* Clarifying Questions and Answers
	+ How can we provide protection? – We have a mass of people to already protect ourselves against the police. We are extending that.
	+ How will we talk to the police if they won’t talk to us?  – We don’t want to talk to them – we want to keep them out and stop the harassment.
	+ If we all go to jail tonight, are we going to give our names? – I can’t answer that question, but we need to protect anyone who gets deported.
	+ How can we distinguish ourselves from violent protestors? – That’s not a part of this conversation.
	+ How far can we go to get this proposal through? – We can take this up to protect each other.
	+ Pros
		- We need to stand together.  We are Americans – we want to work, pay taxes, and help make a better country.
		- I support this proposal, and I would like to contribute to some community outreach.
		- We have power collectively and we need to extend that power to people who might not have it.
		- Cons
			* How do we protect people from arrest/immigration if they come into this space…?
			* We have to take it seriously when we claim to offer protection to people.
			* If we use tactics that draw police attention, it will be difficult to offer sanctuary.

VOTING RESULTS

**96% Approval: THIS PROPOSAL HAS PASSED**

**Yes: 215**

**No:  8**

**Abstain:  11**

1. St. Paul Principles: 1. Respect for a diversity of tactics.  2. Separation of time or space depending on actions. Tactics are specific to immediate goals.  3. No denouncement of fellow activists or events to the media. We agree not to assist law enforcement; we are against surveillance, etc.
* Clarifying Questions and Answers
	+ What does diversity of tactics include?  Are there boundaries?
	+ Will this be posted on the website? – Everything we do is posted.
	+ What does number 2 really mean? – People could plan their actions together in a spokescouncil fashion so that everyone’s actions are respected.
	+ Is vandalism condemned?  How will it be enforced? – This is trying to create a space where we can assert ourselves and be respectful of a collective setting.  We will leave it up to us to decide what these mean.
	+ Is it implied that violent actions could be condemned in front of the media?
	+ Does #3 mean we could not denounce Black Bloc tactics in front of the media – No, it would not be appropriate.  We can talk about it amongst each other.
	+ Pros
		- I want to be in a fluid situation – I don’t want to be wedded to violence or to nonviolence.
		- The first principle we have; the other three build on it.
		- Accept your cousin who is crazy; don’t talk about family business outside of the family.
		- We shouldn’t denounce each other to the media, and we shouldn’t snitch each other out to the cops.
		- I am not going to condemn any form of resistance.
		- Cons
			* We’re concerned about not talking to the press – it borders on censorship.
			* How do you prevent people from taking independent action?
			* Perhaps we could vote on these separately.
			* This sounds like a “code of silence.”
			* Would diversity of tactics leave out a diversity of people?
			* Some of this is vague – what does “diversity of tactics” mean?
			* We need to denounce violence strongly.
			* What counts as corporate media?  KQED?  Facebook?
			* Response
				+ We are not voting on spokes-councils or anything else.  We are voting on the 4 points.
				+ We brought up this proposal to have this discussion, whether or not it passes.

**Point of Clarification: In the early general assemblies (at Mosswood Park) before we took this space, it was agreed that we would operate under a diversity of tactics.  This assembly never agreed to diversity of tactics. This assembly has never agreed to strict nonviolence.**

VOTING RESULTS

**60% Approval : THIS HAS BEEN TABLED.  NO FRIENDLY AMENDMENTS AT THIS TIME.**

**Yes: 130**

**No:  84**

**Abstain:  37**

FORUM

CLOSING

(9:20pm)

(*I left at the beginning of forum.  I left this meeting well before it was adjourned).*

# GA Minutes 11.16.11

November 16, 2011 at 10:34 pm.

Posted by [Facilitation-Committee](https://occupyoakland.org/author/facilitation-committee/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

Oakland General Assembly

11/16/11

Arrival Time: *7:18 (I arrived at the end of the committee announcements)*

Approximate Head Count: 250

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS (*Time begun?…)*

* Black Panther History Teach in…coming soon (*not sure of day and time*)
* Facilitation: We have drafted a new process for collective decision making and amendments.  We’ll bring it to you on Friday.
* Coordinating Committee: We meet at 4pm on the steps.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:  Ron’s message: Please watch out for your children here, and watch out for the DEA, please.

PROPOSALS (6:30 pm)

* **We have cultivated a modified consensus making process. (***Explains)*
* **Submit proposals to****occupyfacilitation@gmail.com****, or submit in person on paper.  Three or more people must endorse a proposal and be present during its presentation to the GA.**
* **This is how we run the GA (***explains process, hand signals, vote count, etc).*
* **We’ve made some changes to the amendment process: If the proposal fails, at least one friendly amendment must be accepted.  Then it may pass only with 90% approval after a second vote.**

1. National Day of Action: Several occupations have been attacked across the US (Portland, Salt Lake City, Oakland, Denver, SF, and NYC).  The media has reported that Homeland Security has been involved with mayors in coordination of these attacks. We propose coordinating a response: we should call on all other occupations to join our November 19th action.

* Clarifying Questions and Answers
	+ Are you proposing an action or a call-out? – It’s a call-out.
	+ What exactly are we going to be doing? – We are going to reestablish our encampment.
	+ Is this going to be a convergence, or in separate cities? – The occupations can come out where ever they are.
	+ Is this in connection with the Labor March? – Yes, but we have to think about how it will fit in.
	+ Why did Rocket sit in jail when we have a bail fund? – This is important, but not relevant now.
	+ How does this coordinate with NYC’s international action that is planned for tomorrow? – Yes, this is important.  Hopefully tomorrow’s action will feed into a possible Saturday action.
	+ Pros
		- We should keep it vague.  We should think about what state repression means to us.
		- It doesn’t interfere with our plans on November 19th.  It is specific – it’s about state repression.
		- Con
			* How would the other movements actually support this?
			* Why should NY answer us if we haven’t answered them?
			* It’s not very specific.  We will lack legitimacy to bring out the masses.
			* We need more time in reestablishing an occupation.
			* We need more black and latin people in the movement – outreach in the community.

VOTING RESULTS

**89% Approval: THIS MAY BE AMENDED.**

**Yes: 227**

**No:  33**

**Abstain:  39**

FRIENDLY AMENDMENTS

* Change it to: “The positive potential” so that it’s not ambiguous.
* We should change the wording in general.
* It should be on a different date.
* It needs more of a focus.
* We should mention the other days of action.

RESTATEMENT: National Day of Action: Several occupations have been attacked across the US (Portland, Salt Lake City, Oakland, Denver, SF, and NYC).  The media has reported that Homeland Security has been involved with mayors in coordination of these attacks. We propose coordinating a response: we should call on all other occupations to join our November 19th action.  We will build upon the potential the movement holds in fighting authorities. We acknowledge the NYC day of action to be held on November 17, 2011.

NEW VOTING RESULTS

**90% Approval: THIS PROPOSAL HAS PASSED.**

**Yes: 218**

**No:  24**

**Abstain:  19**

2      19th and Telegraph Occupation: We propose that we use space at a neighboring park in the Uptown in Oakland for several reasons (*names all reasons*). We want to put pressure on the business community and the police.  We propose that on Saturday, November 19th, we set up a new camp at 19th and Telegraph.

* Clarifying Questions and Answers
	+ What are the plans for the property? – It is partially unused space and partially a park.
	+ Is there a school near this area?  What is your plan for minors being near the area? – *(no answer)*
	+ What is the security plan? – We can’t answer this specifically yet, but it will be taken care of.
	+ What is the plan for police reaction to this? – *(no answer)*
	+ Do we know if this is public or private land? – The land is owned by the city.  Corporations have spent a lot of money on artwork and statues in this park – It’s like it’s available for us.
	+ Has there been outreach to the residents near the area? – Outreach is happening now.  It’s being presented to the public now.  Outreach to your neighbors now.
	+ Have you asked the people at our satellite camps what they think? – *(no answer)*
	+ When we reoccupy, will there be a zero tolerance policy on sexual assault? – We believe it should not be allowed period.
	+ If that doesn’t work, do you have a plan B?  What about Little Bobby Hutton Park? – *(no answer)*
	+ Pros
		- I’m in support of this.  It’s a nice area.
		- We need a new home in a nice neighborhood where we will get support.
		- I like this proposal but things might go against us if it’s in a residential area.
		- I like this, but we need to support those who live in the area as well and be as one.
		- We can take that park and take this plaza.
		- We just hooked up lots of tents to set up.  We gotta do it.
		- Cons
			* If it’s gonna be shut down, then it might be hidden from public view and people won’t be able to see it.
			* It’s a great target but it’s not sustainable.
			* It’s easy to get surrounded there, like Snow Park.  We need to occupy this plaza.

VOTING RESULTS

**90.9% Approval**

**Yes: 181**

**No:  18**

**Abstain:  24**

3      Victory Garden At the Plaza: We propose planting a garden here at the plaza, to show how we can provide food for the people, beautify the area, and serve as part of our presence.

* Clarifying Questions and Answers
	+ Can we trade work in the garden as official recognition of Oscar Grant? – *(no answer)*
	+ Do we have a contingency plan for when the city and the cops come and rip up the garden? – *(no answer)*
	+ How would it stand in the way of the reoccupation? – Not the whole plaza; it could be any size.
	+ What would be grown? – Everything, but it would mainly be food.
	+ How wedded are we to the name “Victory Garden?” – Not at all.
	+ How much space would be allocated to gardening? – Any size.
	+ Pros
		- It will invoke a sense of community, and it will feed people.
		- The land needs attention.
		- Occupy with fruit trees!
		- Cons
			* Tents are important.  Don’t let this be a defeat.
			* The name “Victory Garden” is really a bad idea.  (*proposers changed their minds and left the naming open)*

VOTING RESULTS

**96.9% Approval: THIS PROPOSAL HAS PASSED.**

**Yes: 123**

**No:  4**

**Abstain: 12**

ACTION/GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS (8:21pm)

* Jennifer Lovewell; Western Worker’s Assoc: 1141 Peralta Street; 510 832 2111: West Oakland Group interested in supporting the movement, starting neighborhood GA’s and combatting negative media messages.
* Update on Francisco Ramos Stierle’s (Pancho) arrest: The DA decided not to press charges.  However he is still being held by the request of ICE (may be coming in 5 days).  Pleas call Barbara Lee for support and advocacy: 510-763-0370. Also call the Santa Rita Jail: 925-551-6500.  Watch the website, twitter, and FB for further action.  Pancho encourages us to act in peace, love and kindness.
* Sunday, Nov. 27th, 11am-5pm: All Day Strategy/Skill Share for Reclaiming Space.
* We need to send Running Wolf some energy, right under that tree.  We need to let him know that we will be right back.
* OSF: We need some support.  We appreciate the support you gave us before.  We want to stay strong…we might be raided tomorrow night.   For alerts, text: occupysf to 234-200-4031.

CLOSING

*I left before all of the final announcements were made at about 9:40*pm.

# GA Minutes: 11.18.11

November 21, 2011 at 12:57 am.

Posted by [Facilitation-Committee](https://occupyoakland.org/author/facilitation-committee/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

Oakland General Assembly

11/18/11

Arrival Time: *6:43 (I arrived in the middle of the committee announcements)*

Approximate Head Count: 300

(*F in bolded text: messages from the facilitator/s)*

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS (*Time begun?…)*

* Labor Committee: I’m John and I was a part of the proposal for the march coming up on Saturday.  I’m sorry to say that the organization of the march has been such that many voices have been silenced.  In my opinion it has been co-opted by the Democratic Party.  I regret how the march will turn out.

**F: While your voice is important, I want to point out that you are not part of the committee that organized the march.  I recognize that you are in the labor committee.  You have not been asked by the march organization committee to represent the group today.**

* Labor Committee: We are still going to have the march, contrary to rumors that have been going around about small business opposition.  We’ll march from 14th and Bway to Lakeview School.
* Finance: The city has asked for the portapotties to be removed.  We still have a donation box that is secure here.  We meet T/TH at 6pm, at SF Pizza on 15th and Bway.  We raised $21,000 dollars.  $3,000 is from Longhaul.  We are in the process of setting up a credit union.  We ask that committees who have spent money out of pocket contact us and use our new process by Sunday.
* Children’s Village: We were going to meet today, but it was tabled due to other circumstances happening in the movement.  Please join us at our next meeting.  Send an email to childrensvillage@occupyoakland.org for more info.
* I’m reporting back on a general meeting that was held on the 16th, last Wednesday.  Concerns that were discussed were: a policy was set that police would not be welcome at the assembly in uniform, there was an unwelcoming vibe set by certain committees (ex. When the kitchen was set up after the raid, the kitchen requested things from finance and it was never provided), core group of people are taking a leadership role and are becoming the face of the movement in the media, format of the GA is flawed (proposals need to be brought up earlier) and hand signs are ambiguous.  Tomorrow at  noon we will meet here (*at the amphitheater ???*).

**F: Taking more than three minutes to give a report back is not showing respect or equality when you are asking for all voices to be heard.**

* Raheim Brown Free School:  We want to set up libraries in several places, offer workshops, etc.: email  rbfreeschool@gmail.com.
* Community Plug in: ooplugin@gmail.com
* Facilitation: We’ve been working on revamping the GA process.  We’ve created several working groups for making things clearer, and we’ve also posted web content on the main OO site.  We have drafted a new process for collective decision making and amendments.  In order for a proposal to be amended the threshold for approval is 70%.
* Reclamation: We meet M/W/F at 5pm.
* Block Defense Group: We are here to protect tenants and homeowners facing foreclosures or evictions.   We wish to help people occupy foreclosed buildings and to help families.
* Events: We’ve made a change to scheduling.  We meet at 4:30 on M/F at the Brown Couch Café on Webster.  We want to host events all over Oakland in different locations.  If you are planning events, please let us know.  Gerald will be holding a history class about black liberation at 5pm on Monday.

**F: If you are a new to the GA, please be observant of the practices we already have in place.  Please have patience and respect the process.**

PROPOSALS (7:00 pm)

* **We have cultivated a modified consensus making process. (***Explains)*
* **Submit proposals to****occupyfacilitation@gmail.com****, or submit in person on paper.  Three or more people must endorse a proposal and be present during its presentation to the GA.**
* **This is how we run the GA (***explains process, hand signals, vote count, etc).*
* **We’ve made some changes to the amendment process: If the proposal fails (threshold at 70% approval), at least one friendly amendment must be accepted.  Then it may pass only with 90% approval after a second vote.**

**F: Tonight we have two emergency proposals.  The first regards coordination on the West Coast to shut down the ports.  The second regards a discussion regarding the GA process and how to improve it.  We will take a straw poll to see if we need to move the emergency proposals up in the queue.**

TEMPERATURE CHECK

**F: Who feels that the Port Shut Down Proposal is an emergency?  We do not have 90% approval, so that proposal will stay in the queue as #5.  Who believes the GA Process Proposal is an emergency? We do not have 90% approval, so it will not be moved up in the queue.**

1. Rescind Decision to Occupy 19th and Telegraph: 201 people have signed a petition regarding the 11/16/11 decision to set up a new camp at 19th and Telegraph.  The impacted individuals were not in attendance during the vote.  The proposed location is next to a school, parents and teachers were not contacted, the residents in the area were not contacted, and the lot is already earmarked for a federally funded sculpture garden and community park. We recommend that OO remain responsive to community interests, and create a committee to thoroughly research locations to set up encampments.

* Clarifying Questions and Answers
	+ Is this a direct attack to invalidate the votes of those who voted earlier? – No.
	+ How was it brought forth?  Why does it have priority over other proposals? – The facilitators agreed that this is an emergency, and it will be occurring tomorrow.  It’s very controversial in the community, and it needs to be rectified.
	+ Are the people who are bringing this proposal part of the committee? (*no answer)*
	+ Is this two things we are voting on, or is this just to rescind the vote? (*no answer)*
	+ Are you against any occupation? – No.
	+ Why can’t we have more time to be informed? (*no answer)*

**F: This is not a clarifying question.**

* Where are we going to occupy if we can’t occupy that area? (*no answer)*

**F:***(In response to assembly member who shouted, “What about the questions that were unanswered?”)* **If they did not answer all of your questions, then please let that guide your vote. We only allow time for two minutes for the proposers to respond.**

* Pros
	+ This will be a public relations disaster if the space is occupied.
	+ Childhood is a state of grace.  Please consider the effect on the children.  Their voices and their parents’ voices need to be heard.
	+ I’m here with two students from OSA.  I want you to reconsider this for their sake.
	+ Here are some statements my students wrote: “OSA is my home,” “OO puts Oakland on the map, and I support this movement,” “OO shouldn’t give up its power – it should go ahead an reoccupy the plaza.”
	+ Con
		- It’s an either or…I’m against this proposal until there is another option presented.  We are not against children here – We have had a Children’s Village.
		- This is a manipulative move.  If you don’t want tear gas, then you need to take it to the police and attend their meetings.
		- Your children are already in the crossfire, if they are in danger of being in a school that will be closed down.
		- This proposal subverts the GA process.  We can’t go against something we have already voted on.
		- As a former OSA student, I remember being the only one who walked in in opposition to the war.  I felt very unsupported in taking political action.  We can show these kids that something alternatives exist out there.
		- Since when do we talk to anyone or ask permission for anything?  It’s good to talk to the community, but we go where we want to go.

VOTING RESULTS

**56.7 % Approval: THIS PROPOSAL HAS BEEN TABLED.**

**Yes: 165**

**Abstained: 49**

**No:  126**

2. Black Friday Proposal: We propose that on November 25th, we support the boycott of corporate stores and patronize local businesses.  This would include active shopping at small business shops, pickets at bog box stores, and leaving credit cards at home.

* Clarifying Questions and Answers
	+ What kind of picket: informational or a blocking type of picket? – Informational picket.
	+ Would this include guerilla theater and flash mobs, as has already been discussed at other GA’s? – We are in contact with people who are developing those actions.
	+ What about the poor people who have to shop at Target or WalMart because that is what they can afford? – We agree that this is a concern.
	+ Will there be a committee to plan this further? – (*no answer)*
	+ Why participate in capitalism?  Are you aware that the occupy movement was started by Adbusters, a magazine that a anti-consumerism? – This action would help the 99%.  It’s intention isn’t to promote capitalism but to support the community.
	+ What are the concrete actions? – Pickets at big box stores.
	+ Which businesses in Oakland?  Any business? (*no answer)*
	+ Will this divide people if they want to participate in different kinds of actions? (*no answer)*
	+ Pros
		- City Grill is offering a 10% discount for people in the movement!
		- This is another way to outreach to small businesses.
		- We should boycott big box stores – they are the 1%.
		- Oakland Grown is a consortium of small businesses – they are thinking along the lines of promoting local shopping in Oakland.
		- Cons
			* We don’t know if these businesses treat their workers well.
			* What about local businesses like Clorox?
			* We should stick to a complete boycott and buy nothing.
			* Indigenous groups traditionally protest the shopping centers in Emeryville that are built on shellmounds.  We should connect with the organizers that are already doing something in response to Black Friday.

VOTING RESULTS

**85% Approval: THIS PROPOSAL WILL BE AMENDED.**

**Yes: 122**

**Abstained:28**

**No:  22**

FRIENDLY AMENDMENTS:

* Make an action item for each thing we can agree upon.
* It should be “Buy NOTHING, but if you must shop, shop locally.”

RESTATEMENT: We propose that on November 25th, we support the boycott of corporate stores and patronize local businesses.  This would include not purchasing anything in recognition of “Buy Nothing Day,” active shopping at small business shops, pickets at bog box stores, and leaving credit cards at home.

NEW RESULTS

 **86% Approval: THIS PROPOSAL HAS BEEN TABLED.**

**Yes: 124**

**Abstained:16**

**No: 19**

**F: It has been brought to my attention that there is another emergency proposal on the table.  However, I now realize that there was an error earlier taking liberty to vote upon deciding whether or not a proposal is an emergency.**

**Temperature Check: Who thinks that a facilitator has the liberty to ask the GA to vote upon what constitutes an emergency proposal?  Who disagrees?  It seems as though most people agree that the facilitator does not have the liberty to ask the assembly to vote upon whether or not a proposal is an emergency proposal.  The remaining proposals will maintain their current queue status, and one will not be placed in front of the other as an emergency proposal.**

3. West Coast Port Shut Down: We propose that we maintain and continue to show solidarity with the Longshoremen of Longview, Washington, in efforts to stop the EGT.  We propose that we shut down the port of Oakland on December 12th in coordination with other occupations along the West Coast.  Shut down actions may extended for multiple days.

* Clarifying Questions and Answers
	+ What are the plans to communicate with everyone at the port? – We didn’t know that the truckers would be blockaded.  Truckers are not unionized.  There was no adequate communication with them last time, but this time it can be different.
	+ Pros
		- We need this challenge.  This can keep the movement alive.
		- The ILWU has helped many people and has struggled for social justice.
		- Our work is not done.  An opening has been made for the people of color in Oakland.
		- Con
			* None

VOTING RESULTS

**100% Approval: THIS PROPOSAL HAS PASSED.**

**Yes: 204**

**Abstained:2**

**No:  0**

4. Occupy Oscar Grant Plaza: We should retake the plaza tomorrow, November 19th.

* Clarifying Questions and Answers
	+ Are there provisions for the wetness of the soil? – *(no answer)*
	+ What about supplies?  How will they be shared if a new camp is being set up at 19th and Telegraph? – We can work with it as we go – we’ll find a way.
	+ Pros
		- We should come back, but we shouldn’t broadcast it here.  We should not let the cops know when.
		- We need to hold down our fort.
		- We have to get stronger and more organized, and then make a comeback.
		- Con
			* Supplies will be stretched too thin.
			* This would take place just hours from now.
			* This is a divisive move, considering that we’ve decided to set up at a new site tomorrow.
			* We should decide together what to do at the new site.

VOTING RESULTS

**78.6% Approval: THIS PROPOSAL HAS BEEN TABLED WITHOUT AMENDMENTS**(*the proposers declined friendly amendments)*

**Yes: 70**

**Abstained: 61**

**No: 19**

ACTION/GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS (10:00pm)

* Language Access: Language minorities need access.  It has been especially difficult because decisions are made at the last minute.  Please consider those who have language barriers to overcome.
* Running Wolf and Anonymous would like someone to occupy the space under the tree.  You can pitch a tent or just be there near the space.  Show support…
* If you have a house, think about whether or not you should vote regarding camp at the plaza.  Some of us do not have houses – this affects us when you vote.
* I would like to create a community center for those who are suffering eviction or foreclosure.  Contact me if you’d like to work on this.

CLOSING

10:20pm.

# GA Minutes: 11.20.11

November 21, 2011 at 12:58 am.

Posted by [Facilitation-Committee](https://occupyoakland.org/author/facilitation-committee/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

Oakland General Assembly

11/20/11

Start Time: *6:30*

Approximate Head Count: 200

(*F in bolded text: messages from the facilitator/s)*

WELCOME

AGENDA

1. Forum
2. Committees/Subcommittees/Caucus Report Backs
3. Proposals (1. Endorsement of 99 Faces; 2. Property Damage  3. Action Agreements)
4. Action Announcements and General Announcements

FORUM (6:45)

**F: The past 36 hours showed the strength and vibrancy of this growing movement.  What were the highs and lows about the last day and a half, and what does this tell us about moving forward?  Please discuss in groups of ten to twenty.**

* Highs: Lakeview march, fence came down, new faces and big population came out, good to have an encampment, people are resilient and motivated, we saved some of our own supplies before the police could take them, positive energy all around, we had lots of visibility on Saturday
* Lows: We look bad in the press because of the police, loss of equipment, too much focus on location of camp, campers are separate from GA, mixed views about the Telegraph encampment, the weather was bad, we lost the truck, we weren’t inclusive of all community voices
* Ideas: We need to coordinate future occupations better; We need to reach out to small businesses; We need to improve the neighborhoods we camp out in; We need to combat bad press; We need to focus on banks; We need more foreclosure action – we can fix up blighted homes and fix them up and provide services; Rather than occupying public space, we could camp in front of foreclosed homes so we can fight the banks, not the city; We need to have a clear message and stay united; We need to look at other cities and see what best practices we could use
* My proposal was supposed to be heard at this GA.  This is what I was told at the last meeting.  It is not on the agenda.  I want to call attention to the fact that my proposal has been swept under the rug (to revamp the GA process).
* I didn’t like how the GA went last time.  Someone brought an emergency proposal here last time, and it got voted on.  As a woman of color, I want to speak about this.  I was taken aback when a white woman made an emergency proposal when my people (of color) are under emergency all the time.  And…what does occupation really mean?

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS (7:20*)*

* West Coast Port Shut Down Assembly: We meet M/W/F/Sun at 5pm.  We are organizing the port shut down for December 12th.
* Labor: We met with librarians to talk about library closures.  We had our march on Saturday and collected contacts from the crowd.  Contact: Occupyoaklandlaborsolidarity@gmail.com
* POC: We meet on T/Th/Sun at 6:30 on 14th and Franklin.  We were blessed to have Cornell West talk to us.
* Finance: T/Th at 6pm at SF Pizza.  We need help doing the work!  We can receive donation of supplies through shipping.
* We met at the library to discuss how to get people involved in assemblies in their neighborhoods and at the GA.  Sunday, 4pm we will meet.  More info: occupyoaklandcommunityassemblies@googlegroups.com.
* Legal: Our lawyer Mike Seagal is defending us and trying to get our sound truck back and get our towing fee waived.  The ACLU tried to get a temporary restraining order against the OPD, but it did not go through because the OPD claimed that there were no physical actions taken against us since the first incident.  Arrestee meeting coming up December 4th.
* Plug in: We want to assist in making a mural in the community in the Hoover District in West Oakland.  Contact us: ooplugin@gmail.com
* Raheim Brown Free School:  Join us! rbfreeschool@gmail.com.
* Library: 23rd and Telegraph and 14th and Webster are new locations for books.  We meet Sunday at 4pm at the Brown Couch Café.  Contact us: oscargrantlibrary@gmail.com.
* Anti Repression Solidarity: We meet at noon on Tuesdays at SF Pizza.  We need people to help us with jail and court support.  We coordinate bail funds for people who need to get out of jail.  There are 4 arraignments this Wednesday at 9am at 7th and Washington, in Dept. 107.  There are more on Monday the 28th, the 30th, and several more in December.  Email us: oakantirepressioncommittee@gmail.com.
* Community Plug in: ooplugin@gmail.com
* Facilitation: We meet at 12 noon when there is a GA.  Contact: facilitation@occupyoakland.com.  We talked about accessibility, training, etc.  Join us!
* Local Business Outreach: local\_business\_liaison@gmail.com.  We have a party on Friday noon – 6pm for local business support.
* Reclamation: We compile resources about occupying space.  We have a website: occupysupportoakland.net.  We meet at the plaza when there is a GA at 5pm.
* Housing: Tuesday, 6pm we have a training. Contact us: oohousingnetwork@gmail.com.
* Kitchen: We will provide food on GA nights.  If you want to bring food, coordinate with us.  Contact: oocommunitygarden@gmail, with kitchen in the subject line.
* Gardening: We planted several plants and raised over $600 for the new garden. It was dismantled today.  We have soil remaining, but we  need more.   Contact: oocommunitygarden@gmail.
* Events: We meet T/W/Th/Sun at 1pm at the Brown Couch Café, and M/F at (???).  We have an entire day dedicated to decolonizing Oakland along with a feast this Thursday at 5:30.
* Black Friday: We will meet regarding consumerism at big box stores, and encouraging people to shop local.  We will meet Tuesdays, 6pm, under the trees, otherwise in case of rain, we meet at SF Pizza.
* Interfaith: There is an elders council forming.  They are coming here tonight at 9pm.  They will walk to the Unitarian at 14th and Castro.

PROPOSALS (7:50 pm)

**F: We have cultivated a modified consensus making process. (***Explains)*

**Submit proposals to****occupyfacilitation@gmail.com****, or submit in person on paper.  Three or more people must endorse a proposal and be present during its presentation to the GA.**  **This is how we run the GA (***explains process, hand signals, vote count, etc).* **If the proposal fails (threshold at 70% approval), at least one friendly amendment must be accepted.  Then it may pass only with 90% approval after a second vote.  If it seems like a vote is likely to go through. We will take a straw poll to see if people are ready to go straight to voting without discussion.**

1. Endorsement of 99 Faces:*No one there to present the proposal.*

2. Disavowal of Property Damage:  *No one there to present the proposal.*

3. Action Agreements: We believe in a diversity of participants in this movement.  We make agreements about how to take actions together.  We are not here to talk about the validity of actions – we are here just to communicate to build trust and support of our actions.  We agree not to physically assault people except in the case of self defense or bodily defense of others, we agree not to engage in destruction of property, and we not do not deem measures taken to physically secure space as property destruction or damage. We recognize that individuals who take part in other actions are acting autonomously and not in the name of our movement.

Clarifying Questions and Answers

* Who is the name of OO? (*Not answered)*
* Is this a way to make it a nonviolent movement? (*Not answered)*
* How would we communicate that a certain action was autonomous?– We are not preventing any actions.
* The longshoremen might be impacted because they might be involved in principled destruction of property. How would this be addressed? -That’s their action, but it’s not part of what we would decide.
* If someone were arrested for an action, would OO support them? – The GA could decide.
* Is this inclusive of types of actions we would do? – We are not preventing actions.
* What about building barricades? – It’s part of occupying, so that’s not a type of destruction.
* Are corporations included in the businesses we are advocating for? – (*Not answered)*
* Pros
	+ This will help clarify things for people who are confused.
	+ We need to outreach to our communities.
	+ Any time we can make a statement about nonviolence we should do it.  If you need to act autonomously, go ahead and do it.
	+ Community members of the city do not support those who seem to be undoing the movement.
	+ This proposal says that actions should represent the movement, and I stand by that.
	+ Cons
		- This does not include labor actions, which might include property destruction.
		- This isn’t radically inclusive.
		- Legal support was not addressed.
		- This leaves room for people to be publicly denounced.
		- This could leave room for people to be physically hurt.  I wouldn’t want this to turn into a witch-hunt.  Also, I wouldn’t want people to have to wait for something to be voted upon at the GA while they are in jail.
		- You want to talk about property destruction – they slashed our tents.  This proposal is irrelevant to our narrative.
		- This is just something that will divide us.  We have already voted on things like this – why do it again?
		- I like this proposal, but we need to include something that says we will not hurt our comrades.
		- This says what we don’t do – it should say what we do.
		- Spray painting might be included – but it could be seen as art.
		- The proposal is too wordy.
		- Let’s not divide ourselves or worry about media image.
		- Response
			* Many of the cons were based on a misunderstanding of the proposal.  Our numbers are declining.  I noticed on the stack that many were of a certain demographic – more voices need to be heard.  This proposal doesn’t denounce anyone.  The word violence wasn’t in this proposal at all.

**33% Approval: THIS PROPOSAL HAS BEEN TABLED.**

**Yes: 65**

**Abstained: 15**

**No:  118**

ACTION/GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

* Runningwolf needs support.  Please camp with him.
* No one has come with proposals about where we reoccupy, so on the fly we thought maybe people could come with some emergency proposals to the GA tomorrow, or maybe we should do it now, since we only had one proposal tonight.

**F: Should we have an emergency proposal now?  Maybe we should take a straw poll?**

POP: Point of process, emergency proposals cannot be brought up at the GA like this.  Please follow the process.

* My proposal was not heard as I stated earlier, and I demand to be heard.  It was submitted in time for the previous GA we had, and it is now being swept under the rug.  This is the proposal:
	+ We demand checks and balances and transparency in supply donations, online donations, payables and receivables: all should be posted online immediately.
	+ We need a GA that has a dialogue, and we need open forum outside of GA. Have Sunday GA’s earlier in the day so more people can attend.
	+ Revamp the facilitation committee completely.
	+ We need to address proposals first, have the proposals come on a first come first serve basis, all proposals must be heard and should not have to go through a committee first.  Proposals need to be limited to five minutes.  All proposals should be amendable, and should be posted online beforehand online so that people can read them and be aware of them. We need room for emergency proposals.
	+ We need more use of the people’s mic.

**F: Let’s do a straw poll.  Who would like to vote upon this proposal now?  Based on the number of hands, we will continue with announcements.**

* School Board Action: (*I did not hear the details)*
* Foreclosure action: please get involved! (*I did not hear the details)*
* Friday, Black Friday Action in Emeryville: 12 noon – 3pm: Protest shopping on this day and protest the fact that these shopping centers are on sacred burial ground.
* Please be careful about the police officers you talk to who seem like they are friendly and are on our side.  One particular officer who was involved in police brutality and shot and killed three people in Oakland was seen chatting with people at the Telegraph encampment.
* There’s a lot of sexist talk going on from people who talk about women and children needing to be protected.  Women do not need protection; they can be militant and are not always of a nonviolent stance.
* It bothers me when someone speaks for everyone of a marginalized group.  It’s paternalistic.  In our proposal, not once did we mention protecting a certain group of people.  I made the comment that grandmothers and mothers would be feel safe to join actions in our movement if we agreed upon the types of actions that spring from the movement.
* Join the facilitation working group if you have a problem with the process.  Do not rush the stage and force a change in the process.

CLOSING

9:10pm.

# GA Minutes: 11.21.11

November 22, 2011 at 10:32 pm.

Posted by [Facilitation-Committee](https://occupyoakland.org/author/facilitation-committee/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

Oakland General Assembly

11/21/11

Arrival Time: *6:00*

Approximate Head Count: 300

WELCOME (6:15 pm)

**This is the General Assembly.  It is based on Participatory Democracy.  This is how it works (***description read regarding participation, the assembly, committees, etc***).  This is who will do each role tonight (***reads off who will facilitate, keep time, take stack, and be crowd advocates***).  This is where you may sit if you want to smoke.  Practice respect.**

FORUM (*I was not present for the forum*)

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS (7:05 pm) (*I missed many of these announcements)*

* Children’s Village: It has come to our attention via email that a child who voted during the 11/18 GA was intimidated and frightened by someone who had an opposing viewpoint during the vote to Rescind the Move to Telegraph.  There was an altercation between her father and another assembly member.  On behalf of the Children’s Village, we regret that this occurred, and we extend our deepest apologies. Our wish is that you return to our community.
* Finance: We meet T/Th at 6pm at SF Pizza.  FWG spent $90 for copies; Strike Group spent $600 dollars;  Media:  Spent money for media cards (*not specified*).  We have raised $21,000 from online and cash donations.  We have spent between $5,000 and $6,000.  Contact us: finance@occupyoakland.org.
* Reclamation:  We meet MWF, 5pm at 14th and BWay.
* Events: M/F 4:30, all other days at 1pm, we meet at Brown Couch Café.  We have a Decolonize Oakland Event that will begin early and continue throughout the day this Thursday.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: **Pancho, who was under threat of deportation after being arrested as a result of the second raid, would like to express his support.  On Mondays, he takes a vow a silence, but I would like to read his statement.  He is here in love, the respect for the anarchy of the movement, and the reverence of nonviolence of Ghandi and others.**

PROPOSALS (7:20 pm)

**We have cultivated a modified consensus making process. (***Explains)*

**Submit proposals to****occupyfacilitation@gmail.com****, or submit in person on paper.  Three or more people must endorse a proposal and be present during its presentation to the GA.**  **This is how we run the GA (***explains process, hand signals, vote count, etc).*

1. Solidarity with Emeryville Protest: The Emeryville Bay Street Mall is built on top of ancient burial grounds.  There is a protest every year regarding this issue.  We propose that we stand in solidarity with the people who protest corporate greed exemplified in the existence of the mall.  The protest will take place on Thursday, 12noon-3pm.

* Clarifying Questions and Answers
	+ Do you have requests about how folks should behave, considering that this is a long-standing protest? – It’s important to Native folks in the area that it is a safe space for families in the area.  Take the lead from the organizers regarding tactics.  We ask you to show up with signs, and to distribute the flyers that will be available.  We will let you know which entrances to approach.  We specifically ask autonomous groups not to show up to this particular action.  There is opportunity other areas of the Bay Area (Pleasanton Safeway) to take part in autonomous actions and other tactics.
* Pros
	+ Of course we should support this!
	+ We need to honor history of our ancestors and respect this area.
* Cons
	+ I am making a symbolic con. We need to be more critical of the things that we hear even when we agree with them.
* Response
	+ On October 10th on Indigenous People’s Day, we had a lot of support.  We need to open to the fact that this is Ohlone land.  We need have decolonization in our minds.

VOTING RESULTS

**100% Approval: THIS PROPOSAL HAS PASSED**

**Yes: 196**

**No:  0**

**Abstain:  5**

2. Memorandum of Understanding with Local Businesses of Oakland:*Presenters not present.*

3. Solidarity with Anarchists: *Facilitator said it was withdrawn by the presenters.*

4. Portapotty Proposal: We have a Finance Committee Proposal to approve the $1,700 needed for the portapotties.

* Clarifying Questions and Answers
	+ Is this for future payments or for payments that have already been made? – This would be a payment for past billing…This would be a payment to the Oakland Educator’s Association.  This would be for cleaning of the tagging of the portapotties.  This payment would come out of the LongHaul account.
	+ Are these going to be the same ones or new ones? – The city was unwilling to work with OEA, and will not move the portapotties.  They are now in possession by the city and have not been cleaned.  We cannot yet move them.
* Pros
* None
* Cons
	+ None

VOTING RESULTS

**99% Approval: THIS PROPOSAL HAS PASSED**

**Yes: 165**

**No:  1**

**Abstain:  1**

4. Statement of Intention: This regards my thoughts about the shooting and death of the young man at the plaza a while ago.  It’s important to check in with their own intentions.  I offer this statement:  1. Our intention is for healing, to share common cause with each other and stay rooted with the earth.  2. Those who indulge in violence and coercion are cutting themselves off from everyone else.  Greed affects us all negatively in different ways.  We believe that power arises not from coercion or greed, but from an amassing of talents and resources among individuals who are connected and aligned through a common human cause. 3. We need to bring about balance as healers – we do no harm, we bring peace, we serve, and protect. We choose our actions and we are aware that our actions have consequences.

* Clarifying Questions and Answers
	+ How long did it take you to write that?  Did you intend to waste our time? – I wrote this in a day after the killing at the plaza.  I wanted to share this with people to see who would be aligned.
	+ Could we have a committee of people to work on the preciseness of the speech? – Yes.
	+ How do you propose to eliminate hierarchies? – We don’t have to structure ourselves in that way.  People can cooperate without following orders.  People can make choices.
	+ What is the purpose of the statement for all of us? Is the message that we have to get past the divisions between us?– The message is that we are here for the healing of the whole and for balance.
	+ This might be hard to understand but it was beautiful.

**F: That sounds like a pro.  This is time for clarifying questions.**

* I think this was experimental and cool.  We can’t really ask any questions or make a pro or a con about it.  Could we put it on the internet?
* Pros
	+ I appreciate your inspiration and your time.
* Cons
	+ I’m against any statement of intent as a whole.  I think that although I agree with a lot of what you said, but it was very long to sit through.
	+ I would like to vote on it after reading it and studying it.
	+ It’s too long.  I think we need to synthesize it in 3 points.
	+ People need to use the mechanism of caucus building to get people on the same page, before you come to the assembly.
	+ We need to know what weight a statement of the intent can carry.
	+ This is disrespectful to our time.
	+ I think it’s important to have an intention statement regarding what we stand for, not what we stand against.  I recommend that you withdraw the proposal.
* Response
	+ I apologize for the time it took to listen to the proposal.  I will withdraw it for now, but I hope that you took the words to heart even though you were annoyed.  You can find me around the plaza.

**THIS PROPOSAL HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN**

ACTION/GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS (8:20 pm)

* We will march on the Federal building in protest of aid to Egypt.  We will rally at 5:30 pm with OSF at Justin Hermann Plaza.
* Cairo has put out a call for an international million man march for tomorrow.  We will meet here tomorrow to rally at 4pm and then march at 5pm.
* If you found the wallet that disappeared or if you have information about it, call 415-724-3124.
* I’m working with other attorneys for OSF.  We’re creating a document to demonstrate what is a legal/illegal act in a park.  A vigil is legal – it includes tents, structures, library.  There cannot be any sleeping and needs to be designated as a vigil.  There need to be people awake during the vigil.  Runningwolf suggests that we begin this vigil in the name of Oscar Grant, because a civil suit is beginning today, related to Oscar Grant.
* UC Davis called for a statewide University Strike for Monday.
* We are now occupying 18th and Linden near a foreclosed home in a lot.  We have tents set up and we aren’t leaving!  We need tents, food, water and more.  We’re meeting at the City Hall steps so come and join us.
* We’re from district 3, and we are thinking about taking over public buildings, specifically the Kaiser building.
* I’ll be printing out the info about committees and passing out this information soon at the GA.
* There are two board vacancies on the West Oakland Project Area Committee.  They advise the council on projects in West Oakland.  Contact me if you are interested in those spots :  oaklandjen@gmail.com
* We’re here from Occupy Philly and we admire what you are doing here.
* Theater of the Oppressed Workshop tomorrow: 18th and Linden at 11:30 am.
* SF Solildarity – tomorrow there will be an action in support of a woman who was fired from Whole Foods.  Blockade at the SoMa intake dock tomorrow.
* On Thanksgiving – come and bring your families here to the plaza!
* 1968 Olympics athlete John Carlos will be at Laney College.

CLOSING

8:40 pm

# GA Minutes: 11.23.11

November 23, 2011 at 9:24 pm.

Posted by [Facilitation-Committee](https://occupyoakland.org/author/facilitation-committee/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

Oakland General Assembly

11/23/11

Arrival Time: *6:30*

Approximate Head Count: 117

WELCOME

FORUM (*I was not present for the whole forum*)

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS (6:55 pm)

* Black Friday Shenanigans: We are meeting late at night at 40th and Hollis in Emeryville at 11:45pm.  We will work morning shifts all the way up until the Shellmound protest.  Contact: lauren.riot@gmail.com.
* Business Liaison:  On Friday we’ll party here to support local businesses.  We want to attract attention to Mama Buzz Café.  They are at risk of losing their lease and may have to move due to gentrification. They have done tremendous work for us – including offering us coffee, food, and materials.
* Children’s Village: *None*
* Community Assemblies: We’ll meet Sundays at 4pm.  Also find us on google.
* Events: We’ll serve breakfast at 9am.  Please bring food to share.  From 12pm to 5pm we will have speakers and performances.  At 2pm, we’ll have an open mic about greatfulness and we’ll begin feasting.
* Facilitation: We train on Sundays at 12 noon.  This time will change in the future since the schedule has changed.  We meet on GA days and noon.
* Finance: We meet T/TH at SF Pizza at 6pm.  Weekly Report on Income: $26,600 raised; $7,100 spent;  We still are looking to place funding into a credit union.  We have a temporary spending procedure for any 5 people to request $100 or less to spend.  This will be posted tonight on the finance website.  Contact us: finance@occupyoakland.org.
* Interfaith: We’ve set up a daytime tent.  On Friday we are having a swap.  If you have anything at home you’d like to trade, bring it to the plaza (12pm-5pm).  You can find us on FB.
* Reclamation:  We help people defend against foreclosures and eviction.  We meet MWF, 4pm at 14th and BWay.
* Sound: We need to pay for the truck that has been impounded.  We also want to buy more sound equipment. Look out for a proposal to support this payment.
* Tactical Action: *See later announcements.*
* West Coast Shut Down Assembly:  We will shut down the ports with other groups (San Diego, Portland, and Seattle may join).  We meet daily before the GA at 5pm.  A key meeting will be this Sunday, because many people will be able to attend.  We’ve heard talk that the ILWU is not going to support the shutdown.  Legally, they can’t say they will support it.  We are hoping and expecting that the rank and file will not cross our pickets.

PROPOSALS (7:13 pm)

**We have cultivated a modified consensus making process. (***Explains)*

**Submit proposals to occupyfacilitation@gmail.com, or submit in person on paper.  Three or more people must endorse a proposal and be present during its presentation to the GA.**  **This is how we run the GA (***explains process, hand signals, vote count, etc).*

1. Emergency Proposal: Vigil at the Plaza: We propose holding a 24 hour vigil – it would include tents, library, interaction with the public, activity, etc, but without sleeping.  A vigil is completely allowed and would not be interfered with, whereas camping is illegal.  We would also like to like to form a committee to begin meeting tomorrow at 4pm.

* Clarifying Questions and Answers
	+ Where would we set up tents?  It’s too muddy.  We heard it’s not allowed. – Security guards may not legally tear down tents.  We can get a restraining order against the city if this happens.  If we set up on the concrete, it combats the “grass argument” from the city.
	+ How does the park’s hours correlate with your plan? – I am unaware of that. I need to see an ordinance.
	+ What are the statutes that say a vigil cannot be interfered with? – (*Not answered)*
	+ What plan is there in regards to scheduling? – That’s why we want a committee to organize things.
	+ Would the kitchen be used to shut us down in case it’s not up to code? – The kitchen can be problematic.  We’ll have to begin without it and then work on incorporating it.
	+ How can we sustain having a sleepless environment? – We do not have to have the same number of people all night.  We can rotate in shifts so people are always here.  We can start small and build onto it.
* Pros
	+ Let’s do it tonight.
	+ The cops have said that they will not interfere with any set-ups in the park as long as there is no lodging.
	+ This is the best way to get this going, using a legal loophole.
* Cons
	+ *None*
* Response
	+ A city employee did come to me just now and tell me that there was a curfew in the park.  However I am aware that we have video of the Chief of Police saying that 24-hour protesting is legal in the park.  Sleeping is allowed, legally, in an area that’s near the curbside and the sidewalk.

VOTING RESULTS

**100% Approval: THIS PROPOSAL HAS PASSED**

**Yes: 119**

**No: 0**

**Abstain:  11**

2. Proposal to Change the GA times: We propose that schedule be adapted so that the GA is held on Sundays at 2pm.  This will encourage participation of families, the elderly, and youth.

* Clarifying Questions and Answers
	+ How will this affect committee meetings? – This is only for Sundays.  If there are any meetings on Sundays, they will need to change.
	+ Would it start this Sunday? – Yes. (*Facilitator later stated during the voting that the GA change would begin Sunday, Dec. 4th).*
	+ What about the other 6 days of the week? –  M/W/F 6pm.
* Pros
	+ We should have an opportunity to meet each other in the daytime.
	+ It opens up the GA for families and people who have things to do so they can get ready for the week.
* Cons
	+ Could this happen next Sunday?  We have the amphitheater for the teach-in.
	+ I agree with starting this next Sunday so people have time to make their plans.

VOTING RESULTS

**99% Approval: THIS PROPOSAL HAS PASSED**

**Yes: 109**

**No:  1**

**Abstain:  5**

3. Endorsement of 99 Faces: *Presenters not present*

4. New Year’s March and Speak Out: *Presenters not present*

5.  Fruitvale Teach-In and Action: We want to go to Fruitvale to ask members of the community to speak out about how education laws affect their lives.  We also want to set up an information table to introduce knowledge about this issue.  We want to start this on November 30th at the Fruitvale Plaza.

* Clarifying Questions and Answers
	+ Who is ALEC? – American Legislative Education Council:  They contribute to negative laws against education.
	+ What about charter schools in Fruitvale that are presently serving the community? – There are many different places ALEC infiltrates.  This speaks to the migrant community.  We are against charters giving out vouchers and taking money away from public schools.  Rally: 5pm.
* Pros
	+ We have to stand in solidarity with Occupy Phoenix.
* Cons
	+ There is a charter school in that plaza.  The information that you gave about vouchers is false, in California.
* Response
	+ We just want to say that this is mainly about standing in solidarity with other groups who want to fight for people’s rights.

VOTING RESULTS

**99% Approval: THIS PROPOSAL HAS PASSED**

**Yes: 97**

**No:  1**

**Abstain:  3**

6.  Progressive Stack: “Step up, step back” is a common phrase in our movement, encouraging  white men to acknowledge the privilege they have lived in their entire lives and to step back from continually speaking. However, this has  not really happened and this progressive stack will help us address this issue.  We propose having a progressive stack for marginalized groups. Functionally, the stack would begin with 3 people of color, women, or other marginalized group speakers, then rotate every other person, (ie. 3 MG, 1 white male, 1 MG, 1 white male, 1 MG, etc…with stack,  last speaker being a person of a marginalized group)

CLARIFICATION: This proposal was #5 in the queue and was not on the Agenda for tonight because we did not think we would get to it. The “99 Faces” proposal cannot make it tonight so, this was next on the queue.

* Clarifying Questions and Answers
	+ How would this work for people who have invisible disabilities?
	+ What happens if there aren’t enough people in the stack who are marginalized?
* Pros
	+ I think that bringing this to the forefront would address the deeper issues.
	+ I agree with what motivated the proposal, but I also agree with the cons.
	+ It is a bandaid, but you need this bandaid.  It’s a good first step.
* Cons
	+ It’s easier to say than to carry out.
	+ I don’t think representation speaks to the issue of sexism and racism.  We need to address the issues as they happen.
	+ Why is it about color?  We are all human.
	+ I don’t want to have to identify myself when I grab the mic.
	+ The GA is already too complicated.  Just keep it simple.

VOTING RESULTS

**46.9% Approval: THIS PROPOSAL HAS BEEN TABLED.**

**F: We had quorum, but everyone did not vote.**

**Yes: 23**

**No:  20**

**Abstain:  23**

ACTION/GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS (8:35 pm)

* Snow Park Potluck – tomorrow!  Join us.
* Tactical Action:  Here are our camp rules when we set up again: No drugs and alcohol.  We have a security team.  You will have two warnings, and then you will be out.  Call us: 415-290-5102; Text us 510-282-1121 text TACTICAL.  We are planning something big for New Year’s – It’s called “Unify the Bay.”  We are also here to help anyone who is in danger of foreclosure.
* We are going to have a donation of chairs here at the plaza for Thanksgiving.  Please be sure that all the chairs remain here.
* Sunday 11am-5pm: All day teach in for reclaiming spaces, intro to squatter’s rights, guerilla gardening, etc.
* Ft. Lauterdale was under the threat of eviction:  they successfully got an injunction.

CLOSING

8:40 pm (*There were more announcements but I left at this point.)*

# GA Minutes: 11.25.11

November 30, 2011 at 12:03 am.

Posted by [Facilitation-Committee](https://occupyoakland.org/author/facilitation-committee/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

Oakland General Assembly

11/25/11

Start Time: *6:00*

Approximate Head Count: (*Not sure)*

From Livestream and Twitter – *(These notes are not very detailed…this is just a gist of what was gleaned online)*

WELCOME (*Not sure)*

FORUM (*Not sure)*

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS (*Not sure)*

PROPOSALS

**We have cultivated a modified consensus making process. (***Explains)*

**Submit proposals to occupyfacilitation@gmail.com, or submit in person on paper.  Three or more people must endorse a proposal and be present during its presentation to the GA.**  **This is how we run the GA (***explains process, hand signals, vote count, etc).*

1. Finance Proposal Requesting Reimbursement to get Sound Truck Out of Impoundment –  We propose budgeting to pay for the impoundment of the sound truck, rental fees, and processing fees: Approx. $700.

**THIS HAS PASSED**

YES: 113

NO: 0

ABSTAINED: 3

1. Proposal to Give Adequate Time For Clarification and Discussion of Proposals-  We propose to create a greater space for dialogue by which proposals are discussed at the GA (more discussion, more time to amend proposals, more time for clarification).  Proposals will be living documents and can be changed before voting.

Clarifying Questions

* How is this different from the current process? – As it stands now, amendments can be offered only after the vote.
* When does the living document process stop (how many rounds of pros/cons/questions)? – The concept of consensus is to adjust until we all consent.
* Why are financial proposals excluded? – *I didn’t hear the response.*
* Would just the proposal maker make the amendments? – The proposers would accept.  Anyone can make a suggestion.

Pros

* We do the same thing in Seattle.  The only complication is that the proposer isn’t sure about whether or not to accept an amendment.
* I like this because it will let us cut to the chase if there are just one or two words to change in the proposal.

Cons

* People will be confused if we change it too much.
* It will make the process longer.

**THIS HAS NOT PASSED**

**THIS IS OPEN TO FRIENDLY AMENDMENTS**

YES: 50

NO: (*Not sure)*

ABSTAINED: (*Not sure)*

Friendly Amendments:

* Have people present their proposal ideas in a forum setting.
* Maybe the amendments could be added if it’s just related to time conflicts or wording, not to the entire content of the proposal.

Proposal to Give Adequate Time For Clarification and Discussion of Proposals-  We propose to create a greater space for dialogue by which proposals are discussed at the GA (more discussion, more time to amend proposals, more time for clarification).  Proposals will be living documents and can be changed with minor amendments before voting.

87% PERCENT APPROVAL: THIS HAS BEEN TABLED

YES: 56

NO: 7

ABSTAINED: 26

1. Local Business –  We propose that the GA support “Buy Local Week.”: *Withdrawn*

**F: Temperature Check: The vote count is pretty low compared to the number of people we have tonight.  How many of us would like to hear more proposals?  Quorum depends on how many we have at the meeting – we have quorum, but we don’t have enough people voting.  I am going to use my discretion as a facilitator and stop the proposals now.  We will revisit this on Sunday.**

*TABLED BY FACILITATOR*

1. *4.     Oscar Grant March – Action proposal*
2. *5.     Resolution to call for disclosure from City of Oakland of Police Militarization – (TBA)*
3. *6.     Finance for Posters for the Shut Down – We propose budgeting for materials (posters and flyers) for the West Coast Shut Down: Approx. $600*

ACTION/GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

* Wed. Nov 30: Student led action regarding their needs. The target is Chevron (17th and Castro) – students are asking for money to be donated to education.
* Rasta’s arraignment is Monday at 2pm.  Please support!
* I’m here from LA – you guys are really inspiring.  Don’t give up!  I encourage you to consider educational reform in future actions.

CLOSING

(*Approximately 8:00)*

# GA Minutes 11.27.11

November 30, 2011 at 12:06 am.

Posted by [Facilitation-Committee](https://occupyoakland.org/author/facilitation-committee/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

These notes have not been transcribed/submitted.

# GA Minutes: 11.28.11

November 30, 2011 at 12:13 am.

Posted by [Facilitation-Committee](https://occupyoakland.org/author/facilitation-committee/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

Oakland General Assembly

Date\_\_\_11/28/11\_\_\_\_

Approximate Start Time:\_\_\_\_6:45\_\_\_pm

Approximate Head Count: \_\_\_\_104\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Notes by: AJ

FORUM

Topic: Brainstorming Creative Actions to Take the Movement Forward

Major takeaways:

* Start a Defense Committee responsible for coming up with non-violent tactics. This Committee will be responsible for defending our ‘occupation’ or ‘vigil’.
* Community gardens to feed and beautify the diverse communities of Oakland.
* Legal and permanent indoor space for the GA so that the elderly, people with children, and those who do not wish to sit in the cold/rain will attend.
* Continuing our work on foreclosed homes but in a creative way, that avoids breaking the law and has positive effects for the owners.
* Be willing to turn in members who break the law.
* More artistic actions such as the floating tent at OccupyCal.
* More small autonomous groups.
* Doing things that speak to individual communities.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

* Tree People: Have been up in the tree for 16 days. They have survived a 900 person [unintelligible]. Have a lawyer but need more support.
* Future Youth: Sunday at 1PM first meeting. Contact: lauren.riot@gmail.com. Discuss rebuilding the children’s village and teenage participation in Occupy Oakland.
* Events: Wednesday’s GA @6pm Fruitvale Plaza. Vigil Tomorrow @12pm. Meetings for Events Committee at 4PM at the Brown Couch Cafe.
* General Assembly: Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 12PM by the North Plaza Trees, meet about GA involvement and facilitating. This Saturday (December 3rd) from 3PM to 6PM at the Holdout, 2331 San Pablo, there will be a training.
* Kitchen: Desire to set up everyday 2PM to 10PM. Meetings Wednesday at 2PM [address not given]. Pass the word to people who want to cook…ect. Contact oaklandhunger@gmail.com or Leela 510 860-0449.
* Local Business Liason: Monday and Friday at 4PM at the Rising Loafer. Contact: local.business.liason@gmail.com. Network with the local business community.
* Reclamation Resource Center: Wednesday and Friday at 4PM on the North Steps. Working to reclaim abandoned homes reclaimed by banks and move people back in.
* Shut Down Alec Group: Rally on Wednesday at Fruitvale Plaza for 1 hour. Contact: shutdownalec@gmail.com.
* Supply Committee: Found items from past events being saved for their owners. Meetings Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 3pm on the North Steps.
* Anti Repression Committee: Meetings 15th and Broadway at SF Pizza. Contact: oaklandantirepressioncommittee@gmail.com.

PROPOSALS

**Overview:**

1. Occupy Oakland Buy Local Campaign. Boycott large corporations. Local gift cards to be given this holiday season. Publish a list of businesses that support Occupy Oakland. Development of slogans and PR in co-operation with the Local Media Committee.

**Questions:** In regards to list of local businesses, how are we defining “support Occupy Oakland”? Will this include local businesses that are non-profit?

**Answer:**A list of businesses has been composed who are willing to publically acknowledge their support for Occupy Oakland. Local and independent Business keeps money with-in our community.

**Pros:**Employees of businesses included in the list are fairly unlike large businesses. This includes local businesses in a dialog with Occupy Oakland.

**Cons:**This is not a proposal against capitalism, it is just opposed to capitalist big businesses. Even if you take money out of big business, small businesses will strive to become big businesses, and take on their practices. If we are going to say “fuck capitalism”, then let’s stick by that.

**Response:**People are going to buy things. You bought the shoes you are wearing, you will buy the food you will eat. You need to think about where these products are coming from. Think about where it is your money going and who are you supporting.

**Results:**

YES: 74.6%

NO: 25.4%

ABSTAINED: 0

Proposal was pulled by the proposers.

**Overview: 2.**Tactical Action Committee has a proposal for the GA to recognize them as an actual committee. They were responsible for the action at 19th and Linden last week, and more actions could be taken soon if they had funding, support from Occupy Oakland.

**Questions:**What are some specific examples of actions being planned? How will the committee work with the GA so that the movement does not get dragged into the mud, unintentionally? Is committee going to be open in terms of committee times and have a consensus? What does recognition mean and what does it do to the autonomy of your actions?

**Answers:**Organizing and running it will be done by the committee. They will get approval and take action. This action will be non-violent and within the law. Not able to discuss actions at the GA because the police will be listening. If you are interested in what actions this committee will take, go to meetings or talk to them after the GA.

**Pros:**They deserve support because they are “getting shit done”. They are a visible presence in the Occupy Oakland movement.

**Cons:**None

**Results:**

YES: 73

NO: 3

ABSTAINED: 10

PERCENTAGE: 96% Yes.  This proposal has passed.

**Overview:3.**Proposal to Adopt occupy SF Declaration. We should reject the land permit process. Occupy movements should be in solidarity, you cannot evict an idea.

Below Quorum so we can’t vote. To be put at top of list at next GA meeting (Wednesday the 30th) in Fruitvale at 6PM.

**ACTION AND GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Tactical Action Committee is the newest Committee. They confer amongst themselves for about 3 minutes and then announce that they are taking over          Burger King and McDonalds next Sunday at 10am.

Saturday: Computer nerds, please note there is an open door day. Analyzing open information. Contact: Opendataday.org

Last week a proposal was passed to retake the plaza. There is a vigil starting at 11AM at OGP on Tuesday.

Port workers in Egypt refused to unload a shipment of weapons made in the USA.

Thursday is World AIDS day. Starting 730PM candlelight vigil. At 12PM testing

women for HIV.

Civic Engagement Discussion Group. Political action based on respectful dialog. Tuesday 730PM Café Trieste, Piedmont Ave. Oakland

Laney College is hosting Angela Davis and Clarence Thomas Wednesday @7PM

Amendment 28 would like you support to create a 28th Amendment to the Constitution, to ask congress to help fix a myriad of inequalities. They are on FaceBook as Amendment28.

CLOSING: \_\_\_\_\_\_830\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_pm

# GA Minutes: 11.30.11

December 1, 2011 at 9:40 pm.

Posted by [Facilitation-Committee](https://occupyoakland.org/author/facilitation-committee/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

Oakland General Assembly
November 30, 2011
Fruitvale Plaza
Approximate Start Time: 6:00pm
Approximate Head Count: 109 votes (125+ present at the beginning of the meeting)

Notes by G.

**WELCOME**

1. If you are harassed or arrested, contact the National Lawyers Guild at phone #: 415.285.1011. Not intended to replace 911.
2. To receive updates on the movement, text “bayaction” to 41411

**AGENDA**

* ○  Video “Immigrants For Sale,” in Spanish and English on American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), CCA (Russel Pearce), GEO and SB-1070; $5 Billion annual revenue
* ○  All of Us or None – Speaker Manuel La Fontaine: In light of the level of police brutality that has been used in the public eye, such as at Davis, Cal, Occupy Oakland (OO) and other OWS sites, we can only imagine what is going on behind prison bars.   Bringing attention to those individuals who are “left behind” in conversation, even within the 99%, such as those who are in prison or who have felonies.
* ○  Zachary RunningWolf, an activisit and tree-sitter at OGP who helped set up the tipi, brought up the importance of straying away from using the term “immigration” and in turn using “migration.” Calling on indigenous people to join the vigil and lead to decolonizing the 99%.
* ○  Presented 2 of 5 proposals (see pages 2-3) – 1 was passed; 2nd did not meet quorum and is in cue; other 3 in cue for next GA as well

**FORUM**
How can OO, as a whole, contribute to the self-empowerment of diverse communities, while maintaining solidarity with ongoing struggles in Oakland?

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

* Arts & Crafts (Sara): Will need a space and materials for poster and banner making during days of action. Meeting Thursday at 5:00pm (OGP).
* Facilitation: Training this Saturday, December 3rd, from 3:00pm-6:00pm at 2313 San Pablo Avenue. Welcoming new facilitators as well as those who can be Spanish translators.
* Legal (Marcus): In charge of assigning lawyers for anyone who is arrested in Alameda County (during Occupy events), and getting observers to be present on days of action.  Upcoming Events: Human Rights- Sunday, December 4th, from 5:00pm-7:00pm at the Ella Baker Center, located at 1970 Broadway.   Court Hearings at 9:00am on the following days: Dec. 2nd (36 defendants), Dec. 5th (57 defendants), Dec. 6th (50 defendants) & Dec. 7 (34 defendants) at Wiley W. Manuel Courthouse 7th Street and Washington Street Department 107. For more information email: antirepression@occupyoakland.org
* Neighborhood Community Assemblies (Laura): Presented a sign-up sheet as a call out for more attendees. Two events:
1. Neighborhood GA: Sunday, December 4th, at 12:00pm at the San Antonio Park
2. Sunday, December 4th at 4:00pm at the World Empire Church: 1015 Campbell Street

Contact information: 510-832-2225

* Religious Economic Group (Serena): Police denied canopy permit. Action Thursday, December 1st at 2:00pm (OGP) resistance training – expecting police presence.
* Sound (Ryan): Will be presenting a couple of proposals in the upcoming weeks, focusing on the need for funds to buy a new microphone and a sound truck for the West Coast Shut Down event.
* West Coast Shut Down Group: Meetings take place on MonWeFri at 5:00pm. Oakland Port Shutdown on December 12th. If any of the actions to shut down the West Coast ports are metwith police force/ attacks, the blockades will continue indefinitely.   Dec. 12th: Rally at 3:00pm followed by march at 4:00pm (OGP)

**PROPOSALS AND OVERVIEW**

1. Occupy Oakland to endorse and participate in the December 6th National day of Action Against Foreclosures (Reclamation Committee) :  Nationally coordinated day of action to fight against foreclosures and get families back in to their homes. Highlighted the fact that low-income and communities of color have been disproportionately affected by the foreclosure crisis. There have been approximately 30,000 foreclosures in Oakland since 2008.

Clarifying questions:

* ○  Why is the focus on Oakland and not SF? A: SF is mostly rentals
* ○  How does one get connected to these actions? What do we do?
* ○  What is the time and place of the actions? A: Working with OO to post details of upcoming actions on the website; however, some of them can not be announced that far in advance due to the immediacy as well as to prevent them from being stopped.
* ○  When we vote on this proposal, what does it mean? If we vote yes, are we voting yes on participating on the actions? A: OWS endorsed this national day of action and whatever reclamation action(s) OO takes on that day will be a part of the movement.

Pros

Cons

○ None

Vote Results:

* ○  Proposal passed by 100%
* ○  YES: 108
* ○  ABSTAINED: 1
* ○  NO: Ø
* ○  Solidarity will provide body support and protection to those who are particpating in reclaiming spaces.
* ○  Occupier from Oregon expressed his appreciation of the classic architecture of Oakland, and how reclaiming homes that are in danger of being foreclosed upon will help us maintain our neighborhoods; particularly important in light of the fact that real estate developers are taking advantage and acquiring entire neighborhoods while pushing gentrification.

2. Occupy Oakland sign on to SF’s “A Declaration from the Occupation:
Sign on in solidarity with the Declaration that was passed at Occupy SF on Tuesday, November 15th. The Declaration denounces illegal actions on the part of police force, which are ultimately aimed at displacing and infiltrating the Occupy movement. Any illegal action taken on behalf of police force stands against all of us. You “cannot evict an idea once it is embedded in the hearts of the people.” We also reject the permit process, which is aimed at neutralizing and curbing our growth. We are aimed at creating a dialogue that will bring awareness to homelessness, mental health, substance abuse, social/ political and economic injustice, etc.

Clarifying Questions:

* ○  Aside from this proposal, if our movement keeps getting attacked, are we going to  continue with actions that express our sovereignty? A: Each one of us can become motivated to make more actions.
* ○  How are we going to bring this to the eyes/ ears of our entire system? A: The intention is to have every Occupy site sign onto this in order to gain more support.
* ○  In the original declaration signed by Occupy SF, there is a line that speaks on protesting peacefully/ non-violence. Can we reformulate the language of the declaration to include (or omit) this? Are we in the position to re-write the declaration? A: We can adopt the declaration with the omission of “non-violent,” not to say that we are violent, but rather as a tactic of gaining wider suppport.Pros:
* ○  None were presentedCons:
* ○  Even if we reformulate the language on the declaration, once we sign on, it will be to the original statement, not to one that omits “non-violent.”

Vote Results:

○ We were not able to vote on the proposal since we did not meet quorum. Only 90 people were present at this point. Will be brought up at Friday’s GA.

**ACTION AND GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* ○  Occupy SF march in solidarity with Egypt, on Saturday at 1:00pm, Justin Herman Plaza
* ○  At our next GA, we will be voting on the second proposal and acknowledging the beginnings of sovereignty in our movement.
* ○  Oakland Anti-Repression Committee will post bail if anyone is arrested, but will wait until after the arraignment has taken place since the price drops at that point.♣ Contact information: oakantirepressioncommittee@gmail.com

# GA Minutes: 12.2.11

December 2, 2011 at 9:45 pm.

Posted by [Facilitation-Committee](https://occupyoakland.org/author/facilitation-committee/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

Oakland General Assembly: Downtown Oakland

Date: 12/2/11

Approximate Start Time: 6:30 pm

Approximate Head Count: 115

**WELCOME**

**F: We are going to change the agenda a bit because it looks like we are starting to reach quorum.  Let’s have all announcements first.**

**COMMITTEE/ACTION/GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* Oscar Grant Committee: Forum at the Humanist Hall, 12/3, “Silencing the Witnesses.” 390 27thStreet. 2pm.
* Hoodstocccupy Concert tomorrow; The performers should arrive at 12 noon.
* An old bank in Santa Cruz is currently being occupied.
* The first proposal for the GA coming for Sunday will be the “Decolonize/Liberate Oakland” name change proposal.
* Free HIV testing on 16th and Telegraph
* Keep your eyes on the web – cops are attacking people who are on bikes.
* Citizen News Daily – look it up on the web regarding the Occupy Movement.
* Anti-Repression: We take care of bail after arraignment and support those who are in custody.  We meet at SF Pizza daily at 12 noon.  Severeal arraignments are coming up next week, M/T/W.  Please come support.
* Community Plug in: ooplugin@gmail.com We are connected with grassroots community groups.  Email us if you’d like to plug in and help out.
* Facilitation: 3pm-6pm Training at The Holdout (23rd and San Pablo)
* Media: We keep a list of people who want to speak to the media about movement-related matters.  Please come to me if you are interested.
* Kitchen:  Great job everyone!
* Legal: We worked with Running Wolf and the Vigil Committee in getting the tipi set-up here.  We have a temporary permit for the tipi to be present (for 3 days….we received an extension). There are rules: no eating, no drinking, no drugs/alcohol, no sleeping, no cooking, no blocking pedestrian ways, keep it clean, and it may only be up between 6am and 10pm.
* Media: We keep a list of people who want to speak to the media about movement-related matters.  Please come to me if you are interested.
* Web: Proposals are now being posted online!  “Consensus99” is the password for our free wifi access point through the Rising Loafer at “ThisIsWhatDemocracyLooksLike.”
* Wellness: TeachIn/Bridge Training tomorrow for medics, 1pm-4pm.
* West Coast Shut Down Group: Flyer tomorrow!  We meet M/W/F/Sun before GA.  San Diego, LA, Portland, Vancouver, Oakland are involved.  Denver will shut down WalMart Dist. Point.  Humboldt and Eureka are involved.  People are being sent to Oakland and LA to do their own actions and support.

**AGENDA**

**F: This is tonight’s agenda:  We’re at 113 – we are barely at quorum now.**

I. Forum

II. Proposals

1. Endorsement and Active Support of Global Day of Action
2. GA at Every Major March
3. Rent Free Month
4. Straw Poll for People’s Mic
5. Buy Local
6. Endorsement of 99 Faces
7. Occupy Oakland Tribune Finance

III. General Announcements

Point of Process: Why can’t we skip the forum and go to proposals so we can get through as many as possible tonight?

**F: We need to notify people in advance regarding the timing of when we hear proposals.  If we change the time now, people might not be ready to present.**

**FORUM**

How can we keep our presence going at the plaza?

* Events, speakers, Soap Box Night/Political Discussion Night, Poetry Night, Art
* More family and kid-friendly events; Children’s Art Day (kids can make pictures of tents and put them up everywhere)
* Community BBQ, hot drinks
* National Tent Day; Food Truck Day; Invite vendors with push carts to come
* Invite orgs that provide services to come and be available
* Come to the plaza in shifts
* Have different community groups come here and represent their communities
* Skill shares
* GAs in different languages – especially if we change our name to “Decolonize”
* Better online presence so people can know what is going on (email and Twitter)
* Free umbrellas; on call crew who don’t mind being in the rain when it rains
* “Read-in” – agree upon a book to read
* Slumber Party with no tents

**PROPOSALS AND OVERVIEW**

**F: Not many people are new to the GA tonight.  This is our decision making process.  I’ll give a brief overview of hand signals.***(Gives review)*

**F:***(Observes that people are concerned about a conflict on the perimeter of the plaza)***I understand that people are worried about an arrest and what is going on over there.  We’re losing quorum.  Let’s stay here and wait a few moments while people settle down and come back to the meeting.**

1. Endorsement of Global Day of Action: We ask OO to endorse a statement of solidarity for a Global Day of Action in climate justice that is happening tomorrow.  This would also be in support of a farming action at Tassafaronga Farm in East Oakland

Clarifying Questions:

* Where is it in East Oakland?  What are the cross streets?  **A:**975 85th Avenue
* Have you been in touch with anyone fighting Chevron in Richmond?  **A:**Yes**.**Different community groups have been involved.
* Have you talked to anyone from City Parks and Rec?**A:**Yes, there is an established relationship between Parks and Rec.

Pros:

* We should show solidarity for movements that are addressing issues of economic justice and environmental justice.
* Food security, food justice, and environmental awareness is a part of our local movement.
* We need to support community actions.

Cons

* This endorsement would dilute our identity.

Response

* This is key to building resiliency and addressing issues of food security.

**Vote Results: We have over 100 people here, so we are at quorum.**

97.6 %: THIS PROPOSAL HAS (PASSED/BEEN TABLED)

YES: 84

ABSTAINED: 6

NO: 2

**F: We have lost quorum, so we are tabling proposals for tonight.  Now we will resume announcements.**

*(People were still upset about the conflict that happened during the GA.  During the announcements, the following statements were made in a “Soapbox” format)*

**SOAPBOX**

* It’s not OK to ignore cries for help when someone is being arrested.  I know that quorum is important, but we need to help people who are being arrested.  It can’t be something that is decided by the facilitators.  We need to get our rhetoric together.  Do we stick together against the police, or do we pick and choose who we protect?
* She was being aggressive toward people, and seemed to have mental wellness challenges.
* Everybody has a different trigger.  We need to think about what we are capable of managing.  No one knew what to do, even though there were dozens of people there.  It was a sad situation.
* We did not have the police take her away.  She attracted the police, people crowded around, she was used as entertainment, and it was unfortunate.  She has calmed down now, and will be getting some help.
* We need to offer de-escalation support – everyone was talking about themselves instead of listening to this woman’s needs.  I am very pissed off about the way she was treated and degraded.
* I have my own opinions about what happened, but I just want to say that I don’t appreciate how my comrade was treated.  You don’t heckle him and talk about who does/doesn’t belong here.  He has been here and is a part of this movement.

**CLOSING**

8:25 pm

# GA Minutes: 12.4.11

December 4, 2011 at 11:11 pm.

Posted by [Facilitation-Committee](https://occupyoakland.org/author/facilitation-committee/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

Oakland General Assembly

Date 12/4/11

Approximate Start Time: 2:20 pm

Approximate Head Count: 350

Notes: by A.

**WELCOME**

**F: At the general assembly we try to facilitate a direct democratic facilitation process.**(*Reviews hand signals)* **Smokers, for today, please stay to the rear.  For legal support contact: 415-285-1011.  Write this number on your body or memorize it.  For text updates, text BAYACTION to 41411.  Practice respect by refraining from interrupting others when they are speaking.**

**AGENDA**

I. Welcome

II. Welcome Announcements

III. Agenda Overview

IV. FORUM QUESTION December 4:What does Occupy mean to you?

V.  Reports from Committees, Sub-committees & Caucuses

VI. Overview of Process

VII. Proposals

1. Emergency Proposal: Support the rally and protest against AIPAC on December 5

2. Emergency Proposal: Occupy Oakland Tribune Finance Proposal

3. Emergency Proposal: Change name to “Decolonize Oakland

4. Proposal to hold a General Assembly at every major action.

5. Rent Strike

6. Straw Poll for whether to use people’s mic vs amplified sound at the beginning of GA

7. Buy Local Proposal

8. Endorsement of 99 faces

9. Kittens Action

10. Hold GA at OPD

VIII. Action Announcements

IX. General Announcements

**FORUM**

**F: Please discuss: What does “occupy” mean to you?**

Point of Process: (*I communicated with a crowd advocate, asking for the forum question to change to “What does decolonize, occupy, and liberate Oakland mean to you?” so that the question isn’t loaded.)*

**F: We’re going to change this topic.  Please discuss: What does this movement mean to you?**

* The historical context of “occupy” doesn’t fit with the goals of this movement.
* Newer people who are just discovering that they are oppressed need to respect the work and presence of those who have already been in the struggle.
* People are responding to what we are doing, not to our name.  They are excited about the larger connection to the national movement.
* As a daughter of Texas and as a single mom, I think we should stay in keeping with ancestors and elders to rename the space.
* We, the congregation of First Christian Church of Oakland,  advocate that this movement be renamed Decolonize Oakland.  We would also advocate for CoExist in Oakland, to embrace all people.
* The original intent was to occupy the seat of power.
* The term occupy is racist.  In these movements across the country, few people of color are involved.  We have this opportunity to step up.
* The history of Wall Street is built on the colonization of the indigenous people, and the slavery of Africans on the land.  The seats of power are within us – we do not need to use the same paradigm of “taking seats of power.”

**F: Many people are speaking about a proposal in queue, and are not speaking about the topic, “What does this movement mean to you?”  Please make your comments about the topic.**

* This must be divine timing.  We did talk about the forum topic.  We accept the concept of “occupy” but we think that it’s time for a change that will reflect everyone’s histories and voices.
* In our group, some people liked the term “occupy” because it’s a good brand and it connects to OWS.  We agree that all people’s voices should be heard, but we don’t know how to make decolonize, liberate, and occupy meld together as one.  Some people in our group preferred “liberate” than “decolonize” because “de-“ sounds negative.
* This is an opportunity to hold corrupt systems accountable and to protest people who are vulnerable in these systems.

**F: Let’s take a straw poll: who would like to vote on this now and go back to our process with the remainder of the queue? We will hear the proposal now; Since many people have already spoken, we will hold brief  Clarifying Questions and Pros and Cons.**

Point of Process: Are these people going to stay after this vote?  I think people should stay and be involved after the vote.

**F: We ask everyone to stay and hear proposals, just as you would like your proposal to be heard.**

1. Proposal to Change the Name From “Occupy Oakland” to “Decolonize Oakland.”: We want to include our many communities.  We want to open our movement to greater participation, including our Native communities.  We will continue this work, whether or not we rebuild the encampment.  We intend on continuing to decolonize this movement in words and in deeds.

Clarifying Questions

* How are we as one movement going to stay together against people who want to keep the name Occupy? – **A:**Other occupies have done this action.
* Is the proposal simply to change the name, or is there more than that? **A:**We acknowledge that changing the name does not address the deeper issues of decolonization.  It’s not just about the name, but about deeds.
* What about logistics with the web/posters?**A:**This would be flexible and would depend on the capacity of the participants.  There is an existing decolonize Oakland website.  We would like to work in unison with organizers to see how we can work in parallel.
* How will we connect people’s identification from Occupy to Decolonize if they aren’t here very often?**A: (*not answered)***
* How will the 99% going to feel included with a word like “decolonize?”  I would like to give a friendly amendment – what about the word “transform?” **A: (*not answered)***Decolonize is not a place on the map.  We are joined in struggle across the country.  We are working in Oakland to decolonize everything.
* What has the effect of the name change had on participation in other cities that have taken this action? **A:**(*I did not hear the answer)*
* My only question is a matter of timing.  Decolonization runs deep.  It will take understanding. **A: A: (*not answered)***

**F: Let’s see who would like to go straight to the vote?  Who would like to go to pros and cons?  We could try hearing 2 pros and 2 cons.  It seems like many people would like to speak.  We will hear as many as we can.**

Pros

* I am in support of this proposal as a white person.  I stand in solidarity with all people in the movement.
* We need to support this proposal on the principle of people who are left out of this movement.
* We need to acknowledge that some of us have white privilege. As  Jewish person, I cannot support Palestinian people in a movement named “Occupy.”
* We will only be weakened when using the language of our oppressors.
* The divisiveness here today is a symptom of colonization.  We need to listen to those who are most affected.  Let’s do it.
* This language shows how colonized our minds are.  Let’s change the status quo.
* I will vote yes on this if the people behind the proposal put their lives into increasing the movement.
* I do not want to fly on the coattails of imperialism.
* People can understand that we are a part of the global movement, just like “Arab Spring” or “Los Indignados.”
* One way that violence is perpetuated is through language.
* This issue is not just about indigenous people.  It’s about recognizing the history of the shoulders we stand on.
* This proposal has pushed the envelope of this conversation.  It has made you uncomfortable – welcome to my world.  This emergency has been on hold for over 500 years.  We are more than a brand.
* Let’s occupy, decolonize, and liberate this.

Cons

* Feelings are more important than words.  Words change.  Occupy is used throughout the movement, so we should keep that word.
* We have broken the process by allowing an emergency proposal to be heard that is not an emergency.  We have also allowed proposers to speak for 10 minutes.  I am an occupant.  I live here.  I’m not stating an opinion about the name change.  We have not had time to develop this conversation.

**F: This speaker pointed out something important.  This group and the FWG did not follow the process. We are still working on what constitutes something as an emergency proposal.**

*(We continued with pros and cons)*

* “Occupy” is more strongly connected with the movement.
* I want to occupy all the space that is due to me.  Whether the word is occupy or liberate is used, I want an active, forward thinking word.
* I think that movement will change its name, but “decolonization” is divisive.
* We need to research this again before we can make a reasonable decision.  The questions asked during clarifying questions were answered by rereading the proposal we had already heard.

**ACTION ANNOUNCEMENT RELATED TO ANOTHER PROPOSAL:**

(*This proposal was announced as an action announcement because there was no time to present the proposal as planned on the agenda)*

* We propose that Occupy Oakland support the rally and protest against AIPAC – the American Israel Public Affairs Committee – on Monday night December 5. Occupy Oakland can support this rally/protest against the 1% by encouraging participation and sending strong contingent. Rally starts at 5:30 pm in front of the Marriott Hotel, 11th and Broadway, Oakland.

**Vote Results:**

68.5 % approval: THIS PROPOSAL HAS BEEN TABLED

YES: 198

ABSTAINED: 19

NO: 91

*(After some cheering, much confusion and agitation ensued.  Several people started chanting “Decolonize Oakland” for about five minutes.)*

**IMPROMPTU ANNOUNCEMENT**

(*This was said in the midst of the crowd with the People’s Mic, not within the GA process).*No matter how you voted, please realize something.Everyone has a place here.  We all need to recognize the power of this conversation.  We want people to come out and be part of Occupy Oakland.  Figure out what you want.  Start listening to the people!  Be about it!  I love you all!!

(*Another voice…partially muffled – I couldn’t hear everything amidst arguing and people have side conversation).*We might  hold our own GA.  Stay connected with us.  We have more work ahead of us.

**COMMITTEE, ACTION AND GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* Occupy Legal is having a meeting at the Ella Baker Center at 5pm.
* I decided to table my proposal today so that we could finish the conversation about the Decolonize proposal.  My proposal is to decide whether or not to have a GA when we have a major action, like the Port Closure.  Another idea was to have GA’s involving proposals on Sundays and Saturdays.
* Please meet with us if you identify as feminist, female, or queer.  We’ll discuss actions for the Port Shut Down.
* Children’s Village: We would like to have the village support this assembly.  If you are available, contact us by email: oaktownchildrensvillage@gmail.com
* PoC/QPoC: 14th and Franklin meeting to debrief this meeting ASAP.
* SF State Occupy: Welcome, come on in!
* I’m looking for people to teach classes.  We need anti oppression class!  Eastbayfreeschool@wikiup.com
* Who would like to meet tomorrow to debrief today’s conversation?  We will actively examine white privilege.  Come to The Hold Out, Monday night, at 6:30.  23rd and San Pablo.  Spread the word.
* Anti Repression: Next Date for support, Monday 8:30am, at 12th and Fallon. – Eric Bernard is the only person currently in jail.  57 arraignments this week at 9am, M/T/W at the 7th and Washington courthouse.  Email antirepressioncommittee@gmail.com.  We meet Tues at noon at SF Pizza.
* Events:  occupyoaklandeventscommittee – FB page.  We can support you run events in your own neighborhoods.
* Occupy The Hood: We meet on Tues at 7:30 at The House of Music on 420 14th and Bway.  If you want to plug in or if you need support, come on in.
* Press conference regarding Johannes Meserle’s record: Wed, 9am, at Bart Headquarters.
* West Coast Port Shut Down:  We meet every night there is a GA at 5pm.
* Foreclosure Defense: On December 6th, Rally at 18th and Adeline, Little Bobby Hutton Park, 3:30pm. Contact:  oohousingnetwork@gmail.com.  Text HOUSINGOO to 41411 for text updates.
* If you’d like, collect acorns with me that have fallen from the tree.
* Facilitation Committee: We meet at 12 noon on days we have GA.  Thank you for your patience.

**CLOSING**

  5:43  pm

 **0**

**2 Responses to “GA Minutes: 12.4.11”**

1. amalia[December 6, 2011](https://occupyoakland.org/2011/12/ga-minutes-12-4-11/#comment-2787)

Greetings to all from (Un)Occupy Albuqueque, As you know I can only speak for myself not all of (Un)Occupy. My deepest respect to all who are brave enough to have this discussion. We here in Burque are surrounded by 19 pueblos and are part of one of the largest indigenous-held land bases in the U.S. with that said how could we here move forward without addressing the work occupy? It took many hours of discussion. We came with decolonize first but folk felt like that would disconnect us from the national movement, at this point (Un)Occupy was offered. It is not the changing of a name that brings division, it is when we carry forward colonization that brings division. I have worked for change all of my life and this time I felt at my end if there could be no consensus around shared leadership between people of color and their white allies then what is the point ! On that day we choose to live the world we are fighting for . Like all of you we have a dream of shared power between people of color, our white allies and all who struggle and we have the audacity act on that dream !
Go well my friends, go well, Amalia

1. Natworks[December 5, 2011](https://occupyoakland.org/2011/12/ga-minutes-12-4-11/#comment-2749)

On tabled proposal to change name to decolonize.
The movement has the ability to capture the mainstream. We must be very strategic if we hope to do that. I believe that the movement has most of it’s mainstream support because people associate it with the potential to end corporate control of government, to close the revolving door, to end corporate personhood, to end lobbying, and to end fraudulent and unfair bank practices. These are the most important aspects of the movement to me. I believe we must hold on to and prioritize these goals. By changing our name to decolonize I believe that we abandon those associations. Now I know how much it sucks to make a decision based on getting support from the mainstream some of whom haven’t even showed up to participate, but we may be dependent on them deciding to get involved to have the biggest impact. That being said, if a separate group formed, calling itself decolonize oakland, with many of the same participants as the occupy movement I would support that group. If that group planned an action in solidarity with indigenous people I would personally submit a proposal and or vote to pass a proposal for occupy to participate in that action. I do not support that group in co-opting the occupy movement. I see them as necessarily separate. Occupy movement attracts support from a wide variety of people and that support will continue to grow if the original associations with income inequality and taking action against unfair banking practices are consistent. Similarly the decolonize movement is most powerful when not diluted by the %99 Vs. %1 discussion.

# GA Minutes: 12.5.11

December 9, 2011 at 12:53 am.

Posted by [Facilitation-Committee](https://occupyoakland.org/author/facilitation-committee/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

Oakland General Assembly

12.5.11

Approximate Start Time: 6:00 pm

Approximate Head Count: 100 +

**FORUM**

Given that Occupy Oakland has no camp at the current time, our major political actions are what keep our movement alive. Tomorrow is the Dec 6 Day of Action against Foreclosures and OO is joining others in our community to take action throughout the day. How does the struggle against foreclosures relate to the Occupy movement and how can we make tomorrow a success that helps propel our moment forward while assisting those who have been directly impacted by the current economic system?

* We need our Port action and this action work together. We need to have clear communication between Occupy Oakland members and Occupy Oakland Committees. What happens when people are arrested and what if people want to avoid arrest?
* This action should be added to Bay Action Alert. Text 41411.
* We should livestream, all of us. You can use an app on your iPhone or Droid.
* We are struggling with how we are perceived. We should tell the story of one foreclosed person and how Occupy Oakland is working to help them.
* Media has failed us. Engage alternative media to transcend this.
* Get mainstream support by being peaceful and showing ourselves in the media as saving people.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

* AntiRepression: 50 people being arraigned tomorrow, 9AM
Wiley W. Manuel Courthouse 661 Washington Street, Oakland, California 94607 department 107; antirepression@occupyoakland.org 415-285-1011
* Art and Crafts- We need to make signs and banners. So we need supplies. We meet Thurs at 5PM ; Oscar Grant Plaza. Contact sara\_blithe@yahoo.com
* Finance Thursday 6PM at SF Pizza. Procedures for requesting funds are online. Raised $30,000, spent $11,000.  Have $19,000. Report is online. finance@occupyoakland.org.
* December 6th Forclosures Working Group. A woman in W Oakland was evicted. She had been trying to work with the bank. We will help. Meet Dec 6th, Defemerey Park rally, 4PM press conference, 9AM 19th and Harrison there is an open air auction of foreclosed homes going on. Try to disrupt that.
* LBL: Local Business Liaison. Buy Oakland Grown gifts cards available. Meeting Mondays 4PM, except for this Wed at Wed at 4PM. The Rising Loafer. December 13 Free Movie Night for OO at the Grand Lake Theater. V for Vendetta.  At 7:35 p.m. and 10:00 p.m on Tuesday, December 13. LocalBusinessLiaison@occupyoakland.org.
* Medic: Dispatch 510 712-8129. Not intended to replace 911. Carry water with you on actions. Volunteers needed.
* Outreach Co-ordination Committee. Providing information and connecting people with groups and groups with people. Doing an action on the March on the 12th to do outreach and get information from the public. To get involved contact Occ4oakland@gmail.com
* Supplies. We meet Thursdays 5PM, though times may be updated online. We need food, transportation, storage space, ect. supply@occupyoakland.org
* West Coast Shut Down Group: OEA has voted to endorse the march. People are coming to Oakland from around the country. They will need housing. We meet before the GA at 5PM in the Plaza. You can sign up to help on [www.occupyoakland.org](http://www.occupyoakland.org/) . New video online…check it out.
* Vigil Committee. Mayor Quan gave us a letter. The head of permit office has begun to crackdown on the growth of the Vigil. Keep signs and tables away. Pay attention to rules. Our Vigil permit may be taken away at anytime. Rules: There is a chalk outline where the Vigil ends. You can’t sleep. You can’t drink or do drugs. No sleeping bags. 6AM setup and take down and sun down. Support for Vigil and Tree People not being given.
* Youth Caucus. Meeting Sunday 130PM by Children’s Villiage.

**PROPOSALS AND OVERVIEW**

1. Emergency Proposal for Funding Port Blockade. $5,141 in funds needed. List given on[www.occupyoakland.org](http://www.occupyoakland.org/) We need megaphones, busses and porta-pottys, sound equipment, radios, flyers, picket sticks, mics, and more.

**Clarifying Questions:**

* Busses won’t fit in the Port Area.  Will vans be rented? **A:**We will rent when we are able, and buy when we must. Busses mean transportation from W Oakland BART Station to Port for those who can’t march.
* What will happen to the things that are purchased? **A:**Anything not used for this action will go toward the movement.
* Why haven’t some of the items been donated? **A:** We are working on getting donations.

**Vote Count**

134 Yes

6 Stand Asides

4 No

Passes by 97%

2. Kittens Actions Proposal: We propose that we outreach and engage in community, focus on the West Coast Port Shutdown, survey people on what they think of OO, and consider giving options, examples so we can go in the direction the community to go.

**Clarifying Questions:**

* Why is this a proposal and not an action? **A**: Success involves numbers. Proposals have official endorsement.
* What if you can’t get there at noon?  **A:** Stragglers can group up together.
* Could we modify the survey?  **A:** Yes.
* How will people represent themselves?  Will they each represent the movement?  **A**We speak for ourselves, but form experiences in the movement.

**Pros**

* People should be with us.
* Advertising is good.

**Vote Count**

102 yes

3 Stand Asides
1 No

This proposal passes .

3. Mutual aid. We are doing better that any other West Coast Occupy. We request to send money to Occupy San Diego, Portland and Seattle. $1000 each.

**Clarifying Questions**:

* Why are we giving away our money to outside groups when there are projects we lack funding for? (*such as: lack of tents, blankets, thermals, and sleeping bags for people who sleep in the plaza or may not have homes).* **A:**Portland and Seattle have difficulties. They are both far from their ports. The money that isn’t used will be given back.
* How will this money be allocated? Will there be accountability?**A**: There is a lack of accountability in some cities. Some cities are transparent.  Seattle is broke. Portland had their money stolen.
* What about other movements that need money? – **A:**We can deal with it as it comes.  We are going on a needs basis.

**Vote Count**

94 Yes

10 stand aside

4 no.

This proposal passes.

4. Proposal to hold a GA at every major event.

Clarifying Questions

* Will there be an exception if having a general assembly simply wouldn’t work? – **A:**We would decide ahead of time to not do it. It takes a 90% vote to say there is an exemption.

* Is there a difference between small vs. large assemblies? **A**:  We need this, we barely have quorum for most assemblies.
* Does December 12 apply? Who would facilitate? **A:**I would be willing to help facilitate.

**Pros**

* I support iot.  It will give us more voices

**Cons**

* No proposals should be heard during these kinds of GAs.  It should be like a training.
* The way it is worded, it mandates a GA.  This would further tax our facilitationworking group.

**Vote Results**

**No quorum: This has been  tabled.**

**ACTION AND GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* Please donate: Sleeping Bags. Climbing gear. 661 Washington.

**CLOSING**

# GA Minutes: 12.7.11

December 9, 2011 at 7:13 am.

Posted by [Facilitation-Committee](https://occupyoakland.org/author/facilitation-committee/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

Occupy Oakland

General Assembly

December 7, 2011

Start Time: 7:00pm

Head Count: 125+

Notes by G.

At OO, the Facilitation Committee (FC) aims to establish a direct democracy where everyone is treated equally and has equal participation. The bulk of the work we do does not happen in the General Assembly (GA), it happens in various committees that report back to the GA. Everyone participating in OO should be a part of at least one committee.  My name is Jayo by the way.  This is Nicole and she is also facilitating.

**WELCOME GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Smoking section is to the South Side of the Plaza. If you need legal support, contact the National Lawyers Guild at 415-285-1011. Write this number on your body or memorize it.  For OO updates, text the word bayaction to 41411. Please stay off the stage unless you are welcome to the people’s mic. by one of the facilitators.  This is to prevent side conversations that disrupt GA and the participatory process. We practice respect by allowing people to speak with out interruption. Now meet the Facilitation Committee: Jayo, Nicole, stack balance is Dave.  Crowd advocates are Sista, Rachel and Sierque(sp?). We have one more stack balancer, Ali. Our note taker is Gricelda.

I am going to go over the agenda! The forum question is really long, so just read your agendas.

**FORUM**

At Occupy Oakland (OO), our major actions keep our movement alive.  Imagination and creativity are the life-line of all of these actions. Consider how your contribution and participation in the December 12th West Coast Port Blockade will energize the movement, build solidarity, and propel OO into the future.

FC: Now we will have ten minutes to break-up into groups of ten or so people. After that, we will open stack for 5-10 comments.

My group: following our model to shut down the East coast

-Reclaiming our homes and unused spaces for the common good

FC: We are going to give you 2 more minutes to wrap-up and then we will open up stack. I just want to remind everyone that in order to vote, we need at least 100 people.  We are at 110 right now, so we need everyone to stay.

Stack:

-Joe and Sylvia: Our group talked about using OO to energize and survive the Winter by creating an expectation of a gigantic venue that all of America can identify with.  Imagine a sea of protesters holding a giant banner that reads, “The West Coast Today, Congress Tomorrow.”

-The importance of Art. So if you make art, which everybody should, then you should contribute.  It is really not that hard.  If you have supplies, please bring them with you, especially to the Port Blockade. And also, somebody in our group mentioned the idea of having some sort of Circus.

FC: We are missing a lot of people.

-“I have started calling myself an Occupangelist.  I have invited people to come down here with me. Today, I brought five new people.  I ask how many people you have brought with you? The next time you come to the GA, bring people even if they don’t agree with you.”

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

-Medic (Elle): Phone number for medic dispatch not intended to replace 911.  If you have a non-emergency at one of our actions and need a medic, you may call or text 510-712-8129.  Additionally, please carry water and tell everyone you know to carry water.  Thank you.

-Kittens Action (Gabrielle): Proposal that was passed on Monday regarding the West Coast Shut Down.  Will be meeting here at the plaza on Saturday, at 12:00pm to hold an hour-long training and to distribute fliers in the span of Oakland. “Leave no stone unturned.”

-Occupy the Hood/ Oakland Action: Liberation of the home on 15th and Mandela yesterday. The home is owned by Fannie Mae and they stole it from of one of our members by the name of Margarita Ramirez.  They stole the home from under her.  We are holding a home on 10th and Mandela as collateral until they give her back the title of her home. Primary residents of the home will be opening it up for community use, from 11am-8pm. We need supplies, workshop materials, markers and writing supplies, computers and laptops for organizing research, tables for meetings and group sessions; file cabinets, plumbers, someone to look at the gas, materials for household maintenance, and tools.  The list of things that we need is on the Occupy the Hood Facebook page, also known as the Oakland Action Committee. Contact Information: 10thstreethomes@gmail.com

-Local Business Liaison: Next week Tuesday, December 13th, we are having a fundraiser at the Grand Lake Theater.  We invite each and everyone of you to come and support the movement.  Please bring others and share this wonderful event with your friends, neighbors, family and fellow employees.  The movies are at 7:35pm and 10:00pm.  It is ten dollars for each ticket.  Now, we have  our fellow camp people here who don’t have ten dollars.  We are asking any of you who can buddy up with an extra ten dollars to help someone from the OO to attend the movie.  If you can do that, please check with Ali at the food area and let him know that you are donating ten dollars for a guest. The name of the movie is V for Vendetta.

-West Coast Port Shut Down Finance Committee (Laura): Last week, in our generosity, you approved our proposals with a lot of money.  Today, I am happy to report that we have received donations through the website for $840.

-Inter Faith Tent (Kurt): Tent is both a location and an identity.  We have been on the N.W. corner of the plaza everyday since we were arrested.  The city has told us that they will not give us a permit to have a canopy.  Right now, we have what is called an umbrella.  I don’t know if you have seen it, but you should come and see it Friday, at which point, if we have not heard the reasons for the city’s refusal to issue a permit, we are going to put our tent back up.

-We have been occupying OG since last Tuesday.  We have been told that at some hearing or meeting, people said the vigil is dying.  It’s the opposite; we have a twitter, are building a website, had about 40 people today, which included people of color.

-Zachary Running Wolf: The people in the tree never left the occupation.  It seems that we have been disrespected.  Did not seem to get money and this is an insult. We need to be able to reflect on our own actions, opening the door for our one day port, little glamor event, and the occupation is going on right here.  So, we have voted against the emergency proposal, not because we disagree with port actions, but because we disagree with the GA.  We are the ones who are raising the money because we are here.  If you want to count the amount has come through since the attack, the $3,000 that we are asking for should be coming through.

-Kitchen: Looking for resources for large amounts of food donations to be cooked or already cooked.  If you have suggestions or restaurant resources as friends, you can contact us at occupyhungeroakland@gmail.com and let us know.  We are also looking for people who can bike trailer around food for Monday.  If you have a bike trailer or a bike you can lend, that is great, but if you want to bike yourself, that is better. Thanks.

-West Coast Port Shutdown: I just want to let you know that we are getting more support from around the country and the world.  There will be a lot of solidarity statements and actions.  Denver is going to shutdown the Wal-Mart distribution center.  NY is talking about having a party in front of Goldman Sachs.  Where we stand is in the center of all of this, it is our personal responsibility to OO to get as many people down here for the 12th.  There are mad fliers out there, go ride BART with them or something.

-Housing Action (Cece): OO supported a woman to get back into her house in West Oakland yesterday. It went really well, but the work has just begun because we need to continue defending her and her home until the banks give in to her demands.  You can connect with the people who are organizing this in a few different ways: text housing00 to 41411; you can also call or text 510-423-2452 to take a shift defending that West Oakland home. Thank you.

-Arts and Crafts: Is back and want to meet tomorrow for anyone who wants to help support arts and crafts again here in the plaza, starting on the 12th.  Are looking for supplies and volunteers.

-Finance now meets weekly, with a change to Thursday’s at  6:00pm, at SF Pizza on 15th and Broadway. Contact information, including donations: finance@occupyoakland.org

-Supply meets weekly on Thurs at 5:00pm, OGP. Contact information: supply@occupyoakland.org

-Occupy Police: Tell Mayor Lee enough is enough:  415-554-6141. SF is still under attack right now.

-Facilitation:  Welcomes everyone to meetings on MonWedFri at 12:00pm and at 4:00pm on Sat. Sunday GA’s are at 2pm.  Proposal section is now online. They are posted as they are cued and as they pass. If you want to email facilitation, do so at: occupyoaklandfacilitation@gmail.com .

-Pair of keys were lost a week ago, we have them.

FC: Quick count to see if we still have quorum, so we can do consensus for a couple of proposals tonight. We have quorum and can now go forward with proposals.

Proposal process: Proposers will present and open up to clarifying questions, not pros and cons; next we will have pros and cons.  Afterwards, they will restate the proposal and meet for consensus.  If a proposal does not meet 90% consensus, we will open it up to the amendment process.  At least one amendment needs to be included by the proposers at a 70% vote.

**PROPOSALS**

**Emergency proposal for kitchen committee which is a finance proposal for the port shut down; Kitchen Group**

-Desperately need some funds to feed the people on the day of the port shut down as well as have food in bulk sizes to feed people here everyday.  We are proposing an emergency $800 to buy enough food for the port shut down and to feed people everyday. We will now take 5 clarifying questions at 30 seconds each.

Questions: None

Pro’s and con’s: None

Vote:  111 yes

1 stand aside

No no’s

100% consensus

**Another emergency proposal from the events committee related to the port shutdown**

-Events Committee: On Saturday, at 10:00am, we are having a massive outreach, door knocking, and cook out extravaganza.  Door knocking is free.  Cook outs cost money.  We need $300 so we can buy hella food to feed people that door knock to get people to blockade the port.  That is our proposal.  Thank you. And now for clarifying questions (5):

**Q**: Are we only going to serve vegan food because that will not get people of color to any kind of BBQ? **A**: We will have vegan, non-vegan and everything else in between food.

**Q**: Another clarifying question about this event was the location.  It will be in West Oakland, either at Fremery Park or at one of the homes that was re-occupied yesterday.  The details are still to be determined.

Vote:

87 yes

3 stand asides

2 no’s

Re-count for forum – still at quorum

98.7% approval

**Rent strike proposal- In Queue**

**Peoples mic vs sound proposal – In Queue**

**Buy local proposal – In Queue**

**ACTION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

-Riot police still harassing and hurting people at Occupy San Francisco. One injured by baton in the neck. Get to BART station and go over there.

**GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

-Propose a City Wide and Nation Wide Strike. If you are interested, come to the next GA and before that find Nathan or Laura.

-This Saturday and Sunday, there are going to be some presentations, workshops and discussions about tactics, and in particular, the question of non-violence and resistance in social movements.

–**Sat. 4:00pm-5:00pm:** A former Black Panther will discuss the Civil Rights movement and Black Liberation

–**Sat. 5:00pm-6:00pm:** Workshop on non-violence in the context of diversity of tactics

–**Sat. 6:00pm-7:00pm:** Video of Gandhi and non-violence

–**Sun. 5:30pm:** Historical uses of diversity of tactics in United States movements

–**Sun. 6:30pm**: Black Bloc tactics ten points and presentation

FC: If you would like to learn how to facilitate, like we did today, go to the hold out at 4:30pm on Sunday. Address: 2313 San Pablo Ave.

-Make sure you take fliers.  Have a good evening.

End: 8:16pm

# GA Minutes: 12.9.11

December 9, 2011 at 10:00 pm.

Posted by [Facilitation-Committee](https://occupyoakland.org/author/facilitation-committee/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

Oakland General Assembly

Date 12/9/11

Approximate Start Time: 6:25 pm

Approximate Head Count: 110

**WELCOME**

**F: At the general assembly we try to facilitate a direct democratic facilitation process.**(*Reviews hand signals)* **For legal support contact: 415-285-1011.  Write this number on your body or memorize it.  For text updates, text BAYACTION to 41411.  Practice respect by refraining from interrupting others when they are speaking.  Please approach the stage at the appropriate times.**

**AGENDA OVERVIEW**

I. Welcome

II. Welcome Announcements

III. Agenda Overview

IV. FORUM QUESTION December 4:How can we better facilitate communication with other movements around the globe?

V.  Reports from Committees, Sub-committees & Caucuses

VI. Overview of Process

VII. Proposals

VIII. Action Announcements

IX. General Announcements

**FORUM**

**F: Please discuss: How can we facilitate/better build communication and collaboration between movements around the globe.  Please give concrete examples in this movement or other social movements of the present and the past.**

* We can use the internet to consolidate anything we do in this movement.
* We should educate ourselves about issues.
* Reach out to other movements, set up weekly meetings, and talk about what is going on.  Talk to friends out of town over the holidays.
* Get clear on the issues so that you know what to communicate.
* Set up conference calls.
* Have a newcomer message on the website.
* Contact other organizations who have coordinated large events and follow their best practices.
* Invite other people from other places to come and share ideas.
* Have continuous conversations online across the world (ex. – a video dialogue).
* Some of these are good ideas, but they can be problematic.  We need secure ways of communicating over the internet.
* When those of us in this movement travel, we can intentionally make announcements or give messages to other participants in movements in different cities.
* Have a centralized webspace for all of the movements.
* Have more secrecy – less communication in public.

**COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* Arts and Crafts: We need supplies, if you can donate.  Bring them down on the day of the shut down.
* Facilitation: No GA Monday during the Port Shut Down. facilitation@occupyoakland.org
* Finance: We meet Thursdays at 6pm.  We only have $6,000 left, so please consider that as we review proposals.
* Foreclosure Research Action Committee: Performance in the plaza tomorrow!  Donations encouraged.
* Kitten’s Action: We are meeting here tomorrow at 12 noon.  We’ll role-play, form teams, and at 1pm we will send groups out all over the city to hand out flyers about the port action.
* Labor Outreach Committee: We need the support of the committee we’ll be going through.  Join up at Little Bobby Hutton Park tomorrow afternoon.
* Legal: The cases are still under investigation.  The DA says that youtube videos are still being reviewed.  This may be a year long process.
* LBL: In spite of what the Chamber of Commerce said, according to a survey we employed, 80% of businesses reported neutral or positive feelings toward the movement.  There is an article in Oakland Local about it.  Local businesses who support the movement will be listed on the main website.  Grand Lake Theater is putting on a benefit – “V for Vendetta.”  Let’s round up people and make sure every seat is filled.  Doors open at 6:30.
* Medic: Dispatch – 510-712-8129  This is not a replacement for 911.
* Outreach: We need volunteers to collect information from people at the West Coast Port Shut Down.  Email; occ4oakalnd@gmail.com
* Tree People: Our occupation has been going on for a month.
* TAC: We need people to sign up for shifts and workshops at the new community center.
* Vigil: We need food and tactical and logistical support.

**PROPOSALS**

**F: Proposals may be submitted to the FWG by three or more people.  Proposals are then presented to the GA.  We’ll have a round of clarifying questions, pros and cons, a final statement by the proposal makers, and then we will vote.  We have a process for financial proposals.  The finance proposal is presented (see form on website).  We open for a round of clarifying questions, then straight to the vote.  The thresholds are the same for all proposals – 90% approval,  70% for amendments, less than that will lead to a proposal being tabled.**

1. Tree People Financial Proposal: We propose that we receive $3,000 to clean, prune, and connect five trees to create structures.  We need climbing rope, carabiners, harnesses, pulleys, cell phones, flashlights, food, waterproof digital cameras, Purell, toiletries, clothing and jackets, sleeping bags, walkie talkies, a bicycle, and more. This could help protect the people in the movement from the police, and we could place the sound equipment into these structures. We will hang banners from the trees for greater visibility of the movement.

Clarifying Questions

* How do you rationalize asking for half of the remaining money? – (*no answer)*
* Are there going to be any more financial requests?

**F:** **The process doesn’t allow other committees to speak for the Financial Committee**.

– **A:** Yesterday I spoke to Leslie from Finance.  Before money is allocated, the funds have to be requested.

* Have you priced all of the items you need? **A:**Yes.
* Are there donations? **A:**We are looking for donations.  We have received a few used items so far.
* How will the training happen for people to go into the trees?  How would know that it would be safe for people? – **A:**The equipment that we would use would ensure safety.
* Have you reached out to the climbing facilities in the area? – **A:**I appreciate your offer. (*I was not able to hear the rest answer)*
* Should this include bullhorns? Have you itemized everything– **A: (***No answer to first part, but an itemized list was read aloud)*
* Have you collaborated with the sound committee to check about the sound system can be placed in the trees? –**A:**I don’t need to consult with the sound committee.

(*Two people approached the stage and wanted to add more comments and questions.  The air became very charged and agitated.  Shouting ensued around the GA.)*

Point of Process: Why aren’t there any pros or cons?

**F: Stack has already been closed.  We are going to stick to the process that the GA approved, so there will be no pros and cons for this proposal.  Agitation is normal, but let’s not attack each other.  We want to remind you that all proposals are living documents, and no proposals are “refused.”**

(*Shouting and arguing continued in my seating section during voting.)*

**F: We’ll now take it to a vote.**

**Vote Results:**

YES:  64

ABSTAINED: 10

NO: 22

74% Approval.  **This proposal is tabled for further work.**

2. General Assembly at Major Events: We propose that a GA take place after large actions.

Clarifying Questions:

* What would be the content of that particular GA? –**A: No answer.**
* Why would we need to do this? – **A:** The actions that draw people are more representative of the city, unlike these small GAs.
* Should we fix our own GA before expanding? – **A**: I think our GA is dysfunctional because it is small and only one kind of person comes here.  I’ve attended a successful GA with thousands of people.
* Do you have logistics planned for thousands of people in a GA?- **A:** We’ve done it before, and it was easy.

**F: I am a little bit stumped.  I want to support this process and this group.  We need to make ourselves more accountable.  We are all co-facilitating here.  We can all do our part when we know the process.  Let’s do a check for quorum.**

Pros

* More people should get involved.  This might attract more people to participate.  I support it.
* It’s an excellent proposal, but refine it and work on some points.

Cons

* I don’t care about any of this and I’m not letting the mic go.
* It’s a good proposal but sometimes it might not work to have a GA at every action.
* Not everyone will participate in mass actions.
* We need to fix the process before we add more GAs.

Response

* Part of the reason why this process isn’t working is because there aren’t different kinds of people in the GA.  There seems to be some confusion about this adding more meetings, which isn’t necessarily the case.

**Vote Results:**

YES:  56

ABSTAINED: 4

NO: 14

80% Approval.  **This proposal is open for amendments.**

**F: We have lost quorum.  We cannot continue voting.  The proposal makers have asked to table their proposal.**

**ACTION AND GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* Financial Emergency Proposals have bumped other proposals down the stack.  One function of money is to alienate us for our neighbors.  We need to reconsider OWS’s donation to the movement to be detrimental to the movement.  Let’s reconsider how we are using money in the movement.
* I am donating posterboards at the West Oakland action at 1:30.  I want the posterboards to say “End The Fed.”  Another idea is to have people to make a human sign with people at the port.
* I have a screen printing studio up for use – talk to me with the rent strike people over here.
* We need to create a bank blockade and an ATM blockade.  Haarisabbasi@gmail.com
* 15th of December: The Commonwealth Club is hosting a panel discussion, which will be aired on radio.  “Occupy, What Now, What Next?” is the topic.  Jean Quan will be there, which might be entertaining.

**F: Thank you for letting me host my first GA.**

**CLOSING**

8:30 pm

 **0**

**One Response to “GA Minutes: 12.9.11”**

1. GNUWorldOrder[December 13, 2011](https://occupyoakland.org/2011/12/ga-minutes-12-9-11/#comment-2964)

There is a mention in the minutes of a new community center. Is that a reference to the vigil or is there some other new facility? I went through the GA minutes for the last couple of weeks and didn’t see anything. Guess I can ask around at the next GA.

# GA Minutes: 12.16.11

December 18, 2011 at 7:29 pm.

Posted by [Facilitation-Committee](https://occupyoakland.org/author/facilitation-committee/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

Oakland General Assembly

12/16/11

Approximate Arrival Time: 7:30 pm

*These are brief notes.  Be aware that the minutes are very incomplete.  I arrived late and when I arrived, not much had proceeded because a volatile confrontation occurred amongst members in the movement.  A woman reported to me that “The Tree People” from the Vigil were threatening the body of the assembly to pass a finance proposal that had failed nearly a week prior.  Another participant reported to me that there was a harsh exchange that occurred in the beginning of the GA.  This conflict distracted most in attendance.*

PROPOSALS

1­. Temporary Reduction of GA’s For the Holidays: We would like to have the GA meet for twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays until the end of the Holiday season.  The regular schedule would resume January 8, 2012.

*This proposal passed.*

2.GA at the Oakland Police Department Downtown: We propose holding GA inside of the Police Department.

*This proposal was tabled since there was no quorum.  The proposers later announced that it would be an autonomous action.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* Thursday 6pm: Interoccupy discussion
* Saturday 12 noon: John Nady Demonstration – meet at the Grand Lake Theater and march to Piedmont to Nady’s home to protest vacation homes being built on sacred land at Rattlesnake Island.
* Ooplugins@gmail.com : if you want to get involved in community based actions, contact us!  Tues – utility advocacy for tenants to have power; Wed- Holiday Turkey service; Sat/Sun – canvassing to stop triggers on the budget that would affect the poor and disabled.
* Continue to come here to this space, even if there is no GA or if it seems like no one else is showing up.  We can do this!

#  GA Minutes: 12.18.11

December 18, 2011 at 7:34 pm.

Posted by [Facilitation-Committee](https://occupyoakland.org/author/facilitation-committee/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

Oakland General Assembly

12/18/11

Approximate Start Time: 2:35

Approximate Head Count: 91

Notes updated by MR

**WELCOME**

**FORUM**

**F: We are trying something new today.  We’d like to collect ideas for forum topics from the crowd.  If you have an idea, come up here and we’ll write your idea down.**

GA participant: We would like to have a special speaker lead a workshop and forum about empathy.

**F: Would people like to have the empathy discussion?  Would people like to do both?**

Commentary

* I think we need to stick to the structure we already have.
* A workshop is not what needs to take place during a GA.
* We invited this speaker to come to lead the forum not as a workshop, but as part of the GA.  We were told that it would be OK to do this.  I feel frustrated about the miscommunication here.

**F: Here are the forum topics today – empathy, safe and welcoming GA, linking OO with Central Labor Council, reconciliation between the GA and the vigil, outreach events, foreclosure defense, public elections, or none of these.**

GA participant: Mic Check!  I propose we go to proposals now since we have quorum.

**F: The Facilitation Committee cannot change the structure during the GA process, but you all can.  What do you all think of this idea?**

GA participant: People can vote later and do forum topics now.

**F: Perhaps we can take stack to talk about it.**

* We haven’t had quorum in a while, so let’s vote now and talk later about whatever we want to talk about.
* For me, conversations build community.  Proposals can be divisive.  It’s important for us to come together and talk.
* Please, let’s do the proposals.  We can build community through voting on proposals.
* I’m a visitor and I like what you all are doing.  Please stop bickering about things that don’t matter.
* There should be a GA for committees so that random people don’t just come into GA’s and make random proposals.

**F: We counted your votes and we found that more than 90% of you would like to move toward making proposals now.  That is what we will do.**

**PROPOSALS AND OVERVIEW**

1. GA at the Oakland Police Station: This proposal has been pulled and will be an autonomous action.
2. Buy Local: Proposers not present.
3. Taking of a Social Center: Postponed until Wednesday
4. Treat Proposals at Living Documents: Proposers can make changes to their proposals during pro’s, con’s, and discussions during the GA process.  This should be done so we can improve upon our consensus model.

Clarifying Questions:

* Isn’t building consensus about discussion?  – Yes
* Would a proposal still be a living document after it passed? – (Notetakers are not in agreement regarding the answer to the question.  Please refer to livestream<http://www.livestream.com/occupyoakland> or to audio:<http://hyphenatedrepublic.wordpress.com/general-assembly-audio-recordings-111611/> )
* Would this replace the friendly amendment process? – I am not speaking to that.  This is about the initial presentation of a proposal.
* At what point would the changes be made within a proposal? – During the discussion as we have it.
* Can any one of the proposers make the changes? – Yes.
* Would a proposal be rewritten so changes aren’t made and forgotten? – Yes.

Pros:

* I wanted to do this for the name change proposal, and it would have passed if we could have hashed it out.
* This is a common sense proposal.

Cons

* My concern is it sounds like a good idea until we start doing it.  People will be frustrated.  This is something you get outside of GA.
* When we had tents here, proposals were more vibrant back then.  Come here and talk to people before you propose ideas at the GA.

Response

* I agree that people should talk about proposals with as many people as possible.  This is going to help us to work toward consensus.

**Vote Results:**

97%: THIS PROPOSAL HAS PASSED

YES: 87

ABSTAINED: 6

NO: 2

10th and Mandela Funding and Endorsement – TAC Committee: We want endorsement from the movement.  We need food, towels, toiletries, towels, toothpaste, etc.  We are also collecting food and medicine to the community.  We need $500.  We have a moving crew that will pick up used furniture and bring it to the home.

Clarifying Questions:

* Are there written standards regarding smoking and drinking? – Yes.  We have house rules, house administrators, and agreements.
* Who owns the space? – We run the lodging upstairs, and Just Cause is in charge of the space downstairs.  They have the legal right to the land.
* What budget plan do you have? – It’s for necessities.  You can come with it to see that we are buying things for the house.  Everything will be put online.
* Does this have to go through finance? – It needs to be passed through GA since it is over $500 and it needs to go through Finance.
* Who can we talk to get involved? – Call 510 282 1121.  You may also talk to Just Cause from 11am to 8pm.  The address is 1437 10th Street.

Pros:

* I’m in favor.
* You can support the cause by buying some of this artwork (through the Foreclosure Research Action Committee).  We’ve been using the proceeds to repair the house.

**Vote Results:**

100 %: THIS PROPOSAL HAS PASSED

YES: 97

ABSTAINED: 1

NO: 0

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

* Anti repression: antirepression@occupyoakland.org – We meet Tuesdays at noon at the Brown Couch Café except for 12/20/11.  Let’s support our comrades who are in jail, particularly Truth – who was arrested on 11/2/11.  His court date is Jan. 31st at the Davidson Courthouse at 12th and Oak.  Three others were arrested this week.  Arraignments are coming up soon.
* Vigil: We’d like to keep holding the vigil down.  We need your support!  We would like reconciliation between the GA and the people supporting the Vigil.

**ACTION AND GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* (Ali) Thank you to everyone here.  You all are beautiful – thank you for what you did for me!  My bail was $500, and we were $100 short.  The bail bondsman worked with us.  I’d appreciate it if you could donate money for the remaining $100.
* (Ali) Thank you – I collected $100 here for bail and extra money too.  I would like to put this money on Kali’s books for the commissary.  Is everyone OK with that?  OK, that is what I will do.
* Check out the free box.
* Media committee meetings are live streaming now.  Hellaoccupy website is linked to OO site.
* Labor solidarity committee is debating the relationship with organized labor, concern with union leadership selling out workers.
* Medics are available 712-8129, occupyoaklandmedics@gmail.com.  They are now providing wellness support for occupied houses.
* Contact person re permit for vigil Becca: becca.v.b@gmail.com.  Vigil folks need support, connection, supplies.  Monday there will be an action in response to the clamp-down on umbrellas as “structures.”
* Apology was made for disruption at Friday GA.
* Holiday schedule: GA only Monday and Wednesday until 1/8.  Facilitation committee meets noon those days.  Occupyoaklandfacilitation@gmail.com.
* Contact Guy at the vigil regarding an action to burn student loan letters.
* Mike is supporting a constitutional amendment regarding public elections.  Contact him on Facebook: Amendment 28.
* Be aware of the National Defense Authorization Act about to be signed by Obama.  OO could be considered domestic terrorists and detained without any legal rights.
* Evan from New York Occupy spoke about their process.  Identity politics is challenging their ability to have conversations in a civil way.

**CLOSING**

I left early at 4:30 pm before all announcements were made and before the forum took place.

 These minutes now include MR’s notes – she stayed for the whole GA.  This is a compilation of our notes (12/20/11).

# GA Minutes: 12.19.11

December 20, 2011 at 3:16 pm.

Posted by [Facilitation-Committee](https://occupyoakland.org/author/facilitation-committee/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

Oakland General Assembly

Date 12/19/11

Approximate Start Time: 6:25 pm

Approximate Head Count: 100

Notes by P

**WELCOME**

**F: At the general assembly we try to facilitate a direct democratic facilitation process.**(*Reviews hand signals)* **For legal support contact: 415-285-1011.  Write this number on your body or memorize it.  For text updates, text BAYACTION to 41411.  Please be considerate of those around you if you are smoking.**

**AGENDA OVERVIEW**

**FORUM**

**F: Please form groups and discuss topics that are on your mind.  You will have fifteen minutes for a discussion, then we will have reportbacks.**

Topics people discussed included

* more community outreach
* neighborhood GA’s
* focus on local issues and what people need in encampments
* confronting patriarchy and sexism in the movement.

**COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* Antirepression: Please support Kali.  His court date is coming up this week.
* Events: Thursday there will be a forum at 6pm – Interoccupy discussion with OWS.  Christmas day we will have an OccuPresence from 9am to 7pm here at the plaza.  We’ll trim and decorate the Oak Tree.  At 2pm there will be a holiday feast.  We’ll have music, performers, and we encourage you to bring presents.  We are also planning an Occupy 2012 event for New Year’s Eve.  Contact us: events@occupyoakland.org.
	+ Facilitation: GAs will be on a reduced schedule, Mondays and Wednesdays, until Jan. 8th.  The Facilitation Committee meets on the days we hold GA at noon.  Contact us at occupyoaklandfacilitation@gmail.com
	+ Foreclosure: Research Action Committee: Contact us at oakfrac@gmail.com
	+ Habeas Defense Caucus: We will have a speaker at 5pm, here at the plaza on Tuesday about the NDAA.
	+ Labor Solidarity: We have an action planning session coming up 12/29/11 at the CNA on 2000 Franklin Street at 20th.  Contact us at occupyoaklandlaborsolidarity@gmail.com
	+ LBL:  Please send a thank you email to Mr. Micchan at the Grand Lake Theater for supporting us.  We meet at 4pm at The Rising Loafer.  Contact us: lbl@occupyoakland.org
	+ Occupy The Hood: We meet Tuesdays at 7:30.  We are open to all!  Look for us on Facebook.
	+ On A Boat Committee: We deliver furniture to homes that need it.  We are our own union.  Help us take back 10th and Mandela and hold it down.
	+ Vigil: We have a dated journal book at the info table for equal access.  We deeply appreciate your support in our umbrella action.  We were amazed by how fast word spread on Twitter and Facebook.  Thank you everyone!

**PROPOSALS**

**F: Proposals may be submitted to the FWG by three or more people.  Proposals are then presented to the GA.  We’ll have a round of clarifying questions, pros and cons, a final statement by the proposal makers, and then we will vote.  We have a process for financial proposals.  We ask proposers to clarify finance proposals, but we do not have a round of pros and cons.**

1. Rent Strike Proposal:*Proposers were not present.*

2. Straw Poll to Use the People’s Mic vs Amplified Mic: *Proposers were not present.*

3. Finance Proposal for $1,825 toward January 1st Oscar Grant Action: We propose that $1,825 be allocated to the Oscar Grant Speak Out and March.  $825 would go toward posters, a PA, flyers, a banner, and a mobile sound system.  $1,000 would go toward the use of a flatbed truck, and would be refundable.

Clarifying Questions

* Does the $1,825 include the $1,000 for the truck? – Yes.
* Don’t we already have a sound system? – We were told it wouldn’t be available until next year.
* If someone lends you a sound system, would you refund the money or reduce what you are asking for? – Yes. *Someone offered to lend this committee a sound system.*
* How can we as a GA occupy “Oscar Grant Plaza” if we don’t stand behind this?

**Vote Results (***I think the count was actually 94 yes, 0 no, and 6 abstained; I was told that the following was the reported vote count)***:**

YES:  94

ABSTAINED: 0

NO: 6

**This proposal has passed.**

**ACTION AND GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* City Council will be having a vote at Tuesday’s meeting (5:30pm) regarding a resolution to prevent any port shut downs in the city.  We should let our voices be heard.  You can sign up to get on their stack online, or you can do it in person.
* Use the main Occupy Oakland Website to make comments about proposals that are pending.  Click on “About” and “GA Proposals.”  We encourage proposal writers to use the comments to modify and refine their proposals before coming to the GA.
* If you are a proposer, please respect our time by showing up when it is time to present your proposal.
* On Friday there will be a rally at Justin Hermann (Bradley Manning) Plaza at 3pm, and a march at 4pm, regarding the NDAA.
* We will have to postpone the autonomous action for a GA at the Oakland Police Department.  Many people were positive and showed interest in the idea, but due to time constraints, we’ll plan it for later.
* OTX West is offering volunteers free laptops in exchange for 30 hours of service.  This program will begin again on January 4, 2011.  (“Volunteers will receive 1 “service buck” for every hour they work. These bucks can be used to purchase items from our tech store that’s located inside the OTX-West warehouse. Depending on what we have available in the store, you can purchase a set of speakers, printers (ink and paper not included), black mice and keyboards, black monitors, and routers among other things. These items range from 1 to 15 “service bucks” each (e.g. speakers=1 buck, black mouse=2 bucks, router=5 bucks). You can also purchase an upgraded computer that may have a CD burner, more memory, and a faster processor by trading in your old computer and paying between 8 and 20 “service bucks.”  *More information online:*<http://otxwest.org/volunteer.html>*)*

**CLOSING**

**F: This was a good assembly.  Thank you for being here.**

*We ended with a Unity Clap and some cheers to release energy and spread support for the Vigil.  Many stayed afterwards to hold a presence at the vigil, or to have extended discussions with comrades.*

8:30 pm

# GA Minutes: 12.21.11

December 21, 2011 at 9:46 pm.

Posted by [Facilitation-Committee](https://occupyoakland.org/author/facilitation-committee/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

Oakland General Assembly

Date 12/21/11

Approximate Start Time: 6:00 pm

Approximate Head Count: 120

**WELCOME**

**F: At the general assembly we try to facilitate a direct democratic facilitation process.**(*Reviews hand signals)* **For legal support contact: 415-285-1011.  Write this number on your body or memorize it.  For text updates, text BAYACTION to 41411.  Please be considerate of those around you if you are smoking.**

**AGENDA OVERVIEW**

**FORUM**

**F: Please form groups and discuss topics that are on your mind.  You will have fifteen minutes for a discussion, then we will have reportbacks.**

Topics people discussed included

* We need to unite our movements
* Portland is experiencing the same things that Oakland is experiencing with the loss of camp/community
* Examine how the United States allocates funds to military action and arms

**COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* Antirepression/Free Kali Committee: Please support Kali. He is still being held on a probation violation. He was charged with 3 misdemeanors.  We saw him in court and noticed that his face was swollen and bruised.  We want him to be released so that he can receive medical attention.  He will not be released allegedly because he is homeless, but he does in fact have proof of residency.  We attempted to bond him out last night, but now he is being charged with a felony (assaulting a CO).  Dan Siegel cannot take this case.  Kali has a hearing in Dublin at 9am, Department 701 this Friday.  Come wearing red – that is his favorite color.  We need to support him and fight together.
* Anti Poverty: Nurses are taking an action tomorrow, at 3300 Hawthorne.  We have been working with the TAC committee for the house at Mandela.  They need locks, cleaning supplies, food, etc.  oaklandacts@gmail.com
* Events: Thursday there will be a forum at 6pm – Interoccupy discussion with OWS.  Christmas day we will have an OccuPresence from 9am to 7pm here at the plaza. Breakfast served at 9am.  Noon, we’ll trim the tree.  At 2pm there will be a holiday feast.  We’ll also have a vigil at 6pm.  We are also planning an Occupy 2012 event for New Year’s Eve.  Contact us: events@occupyoakland.org.
	+ Facilitation: GAs will be on a reduced schedule, Mondays and Wednesdays, until Jan. 8th.  We have a new section on the website where people can comment on proposals.  The Facilitation Committee meets at noon on the days we hold GA.  Contact us at occupyoaklandfacilitation@gmail.com
	+ Finance: Spreadsheet of all transactions is complete and will be posted to the website.  Nov. 30th was the last day transactions were accounted for.  $3,800+ remains for OO operations.  $14, 280 remains for bail and medical.  Grand Lake may give us around $6000 the fundraising event.  When we had a camp, we were receiving donations, but now we aren’t receiving daily donations.
	+ Habeas Defense Caucus: We have an event coming up this Friday to fight the NDAA.  We need people who know how to socially network to spread the word about the Friday action at Bradley Manning Plaza this Friday at 3pm.  We need speakers as well.  If you cannot get to SF, meet us at 2:30 and we will arrange transportation for you to get there.
	+ Interfaith: Winter Service, 10pm Dec. 26th. Saturday.  Saturday Dec. 31st, 2pm-5pm, conversation regarding spiritual struggles regarding this movement.
	+ Labor Solidarity: We have an action coming up, meeting on 12/29/11 at the CNA on 2000 Franklin Street at 20th.  Contact us at occupyoaklandlaborsolidarity@gmail.com
	+ Media: We need more people!  We meet Saturday at 4pm.
	+ Occupy Oakland Ports: We are working to overturn Citizen’s United.  We meet Wednesdays at 5pm at the Plaza Café.
	+ On A Boat Committee: We deliver furniture to homes that need it – we need more furniture donations.  We are our own union/collective.  Help us take back 10th and Mandela and hold it down.
	+ Vigil: We need people to cook, sit in at the vigil, we need donations, hot beverages, drivers late night, and more.

**PROPOSALS**

**F: Proposals may be submitted to the FWG by three or more people.  Proposals are then presented to the GA.  We’ll have a round of clarifying questions, pros and cons, a final statement by the proposal makers, and then we will vote.**

1. Emergency Proposal to Support the EGT Grain Shipment Action: This concerns a shipment due to arrive in Longview in MidJanuary.  There has been discussion between occupies to caravan to Longview.  We would like to support this action through the network we have already created.

*A woman approached the stage, took the microphone, and started talking about the importance of raising awareness about autism.  Another individual was also on stage, shouting incoherently.  Confusion ensued for about 5 minutes until the woman left the area.*

Clarifying Questions

* Where would these funds come from? – This is only an endorsement.  There is no finance component.  Any finance would be introduced later at another GA.

Pros/Cons

+ Solidarity is important.

+The Longshoremen shut down the ports and held a rally in support of justice for Oscar Grant.  If the EGT is not stopped, it will destroy the whole ILWU, the most militant union.

+We are independent of republicans and democrats.

**Vote Results**

YES: 123

ABSTAINED: 4

NO: 2

**This proposal has passed with 98.4 % approval.**

2. Emergency Proposal for Solidarity with Egypt: This entails supporting two actions: Friday December 30th, regarding the struggle of women, and the other regarding a global day of action on January 25th.   It also involves general acts of solidarity.

Clarifying Questions

* Do you have cities/locations for those events? – We’ll start in Oakland with a march and rally for the first event.  I’m not sure about the other event.
* Do you have specifics about next Friday’s action?  – I thought of this yesterday, so I am still working out the details.

**F: It has just been pointed out to me that a majority of speakers on stack have been white males.  I encourage having a progressive stack, and I may move others to the front of the line to have a greater diversity of voices.**

Pros/Cons

+ I think we’ve passed a proposal like this before.

**Vote Results**

YES:  119

ABSTAINED: 0

NO: 1

**This proposal has passed with 99.2%**

3. Establishment of a Large Social Center: We propose to occupy and hold a large building on Saturday January 28, 2012.  The building will have space for committees, an auditorium, and sleeping space.  The action will take place on a weekend in daylight, and will begin with a march toward the space.  The address of the site will be kept as a surprise, but members of different committees will know where this space is for coordination of this action.

Clarifying Questions

* How soon would we get raided? – We wouldn’t be able to know this, just like how we camped at the plaza.
* Are there any squatter’s rights/laws for protection? – There are laws that are complicated.  That would be a good conversation to hash out on committee meetings (5pm Wed/ 1pm Sun).
* What would this place do for the community? – It’s what the community wants it to be.
* What area of the city is it in? – Come to the meeting to find out.
* What about utilities and water? – We can organize skill shares for that.
* What about infiltrators? – There is probably no way to get around that.  That is why we’ve decided not to make this public knowledge too soon.
* Are we going to stay inside or will we still hold events outdoors?  – It’s whatever we want to decide!
* This is trespassing right?  How would we hold the space down and protect people from arrest? – We have done things in the past without permits and at our own risk.  We have to build strength in numbers.

Pros/Cons

+ We can go into the new year reenergized.

+ We should do it.

+ It’s cold and it might be raining soon.

+ This is the logical next step, after being evicted from outdoor areas.

– Part of our strength is our visibility.

– If it is in a residential neighborhood, we should build relationships with neighbors first.

**–**We shouldn’t forget about the plaza and the vigil.

Response

* Neighborhood relations and visibility were taken into consideration.

**Vote Results**

YES:  110

ABSTAINED: 12

NO: 12

**This proposal has passed with 90.16%.**

4. Rent Strike: *The proposers were not present.*

5. Solidarity with OSF: We propose that we shut down the Financial District on January 20th, and form working groups to support this.  This would be a nonviolent action.

Clarifying Questions

* What is the goal? – They will be blockading buildings and leading solidarity marches.  We want to support their action, and have an Oakland street party.

Pros/Cons

+ We should do it.  It was modeled after another action that completely shut down the Financial District after the Iraq War started.

–       It sounds like there is a plan for people to do whatever they want, like vandalism.

Response

* We don’t want to limit people or encourage people to do any certain actions.  We are working on our movement and how to support what they are doing.

**F: We cannot count the votes unfortunately.  This will be tabled until Monday.**

**ACTION AND GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* Occupy Berkeley Update:  This morning the police handed out eviction notices.  Berkeley wants our support tonight and throughout the morning.
* City Council Report Back: We showed in great number in the chambers to speak in opposition to the resolution to stop us from shutting down the ports.  Union officials spoke from the heart, our folks gave great speeches, and Elaine Brown was present  as well.  Today, we were asked to make a complaint with the Citizen’s Review Board.  I don’t think we should do it, but I just wanted to let everyone know for sake of transparency.
* March against NDAA is this Friday.  We will meet at 2:30 pm, leave at 3pm, and meet in SF at 4pm.
* SF Mime Troupe: We are working with OWS, OSF and OLA on a show.  We will be doing a free reading on Saturday here at noon.  It’s an adaptation of A Christmas Carol, told from a worker’s point of view.
* January 1st: March to Fruitvale in honor of Oscar Grant.
* Occupy Oakland Courts: We meet Wednesdays at 3pm

**CLOSING**

*I left a little early because it was so cold.*

9:00 pm

# GA Minutes: 12.26.11

December 29, 2011 at 10:36 am.

Posted by [Facilitation-Committee](https://occupyoakland.org/author/facilitation-committee/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

These notes have not been transcribed yet.

# GA Minutes: 12.28.11

December 29, 2011 at 10:42 am.

Posted by [Facilitation-Committee](https://occupyoakland.org/author/facilitation-committee/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

Oakland General Assembly

12/28/11

Approximate Start Time: 6:45 pm

Approximate Head Count: 110

**WELCOME**

**PROPOSALS AND OVERVIEW**

**F: We are going to do something different tonight.  We’re going to start with proposals.  There is an emergency proposal, followed by a proposal to support the January 20**th**day of action.**(*Reviews handsignals)*

1. Emergency Proposal for OWS:  We have a statement that we would like to read for $30,000 reimbursement for funds spent on the West Coast Port Shut Down.  Today, December 28th, OO’s GA hereby requests funds for the reimbursement of the West Coast Port Shut Down in the amount of $18,000.  It is also requesting funding for continued port actions called for Occupy Longview in the quantity of $12,000.  The total budget will be sent to the OO Finance Committee, which will account for and disburse funds to other West Cost occupies.  The receipts have been and will continue to be available to OWS in a continued process of accountability and transparency.

Clarifying Questions:

* Why was it not communicated to the GA that money was asked for before the Port Action two days before the action?   I will clarify.  Someone just asked “what did I mean?”  I looked on the livetweets of OWS and there was talk of someone from OO asking for $4,500 for the five cities involved in the WCPS.  I want to know why that was not communicated to the GA. –**A** When the proposal for the WCPS passed, it created a working group that created a budget and did report back to the GA.  It tried to get money from OWS, but those attempts were not successful the first or second time around.  This attempt is being brought forth by a member of OWS.
* Why do we need to beg for OO to give us money? I know we need money, but why do we need to beg?  I think OWS thinks that they are a larger entity that might be above us.  They should give it out to us without having to make a video.  My question is: Why should we have to make a video? –**A**There has been a concern that OWS has many more funds than the rest of us.  We are in a movement that believes in an equal distribution of resources – why isn’t that happening in the movement?  We are not begging, we are asking for equal distribution in a specific way.  OWS are the ones who wants this video tape.  To be clear, there are people in NY who want to show solidarity and support us financially.  This is a bureaucratic request from the Finance Working Group at OWS.
* How was OWS able to get $30,000 in a such a short amount of time? What is the major source of their money?- (*No answer given)*

**F: We are going to move forward to pros and cons.**

Point of Process: I thought that there were no pros/cons for finance proposals?

Response: This is not a finance proposal because it does not concern our FWG.

Twinkles:

* OWS has a lot of visibility, thus, they have a lot of money.  They are willing to extend their hand toward OO.  Let’s let them be in solidarity with us.
* I’m in favor of this proposal, but we can learn something from them – we should raise our own money also, like OWS.

Concerns

* We should only ask for money that we spent, not money for Occupy Longview. OWS has its own process for dealing with other occupations that need money.  We should respect that process.  I have a pro for asking for the money, but it should be reduced to what we actually spent.

Response

* We budgeted money for other occupies after we made the original proposal– that’s why we should have more money for them. This proposal involves other occupies because it allows OWS to streamline the proposal, and since we have been doing the finances in that network, they don’t have to create massive infrastructure to get money up and down the coast.
* The reason they have so much money is because OWS’s name is emblematic of the larger movement.  When people want to donate somewhere, they don’t think of distributing it all around the country, they just go to OWS.

**Vote Results:**

100%: THIS PROPOSAL HAS PASSED.

YES: 109

ABSTAINED: 7

NO: 0

2. Support for the January 20th action: We propose that we  support OSF for its day of action (mass occupation of the Financial District) January 20th.  We propose that OO form working groups that will meet before the action, and show up at 7am to hold an action.

Point of Process: There was a question back here that was not answered after the passing of the proposal.  Does the $18,000 go to the OO (General Fund) or does it only go to the Port Shut Down Committee?

Response: It goes to OO.  That’s the answer.

**F: Are there other questions about this proposal?**

Clarifying Questions:

* Why 7am?  It seems to me that a street party can tie up the cops, since most of the banks do not open till 8am.  Might it be better to start a little later? **A**– OSF is putting out a 6am call out.  We thought 7am was more reasonable than this.  We’ll be ready by 7:30 as people gather.
* When will we know about the convergence point? – **A** – We’ll meet after this if you’d like more details.  It’s a sensitive location that we want to discuss in the working group.  We will make sure to report back at GAs.

Twinkles:

* It gives us another big event like the General Strike.
* It’s important to be early at about 7am.  The goal is not just to block customers to banks, but employees, so they cannot operate at all.
* Many of will be going to SF that day.  It will be nice to have a place to meet up and move together in the streets.
* We should think about having this move toward a full day of work stoppage.

Concerns

* We should think about the bank employees.  They are exploited, and do not receive health benefits.  We should also have literature and be campaigning for them to have union rights.  They are a part of our movement also.

**Vote Results:**

100%: THIS PROPOSAL HAS PASSED

YES: 96

ABSTAINED: 1

NO: 0

The next meeting for this action is this Saturday at 12 noon in the north plaza.  We’d love to get as many people as possible.  You can also meet us after GA tonight.

Point of Information: This proposal (*asking* *for $30,000)* in NY hasn’t passed yet, it’s coming up tomorrow.  Give a call out to your friends.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

* Anti repression/Free Khali: We need to mobilize against repression.  We meet Tuesdays at noon at the Brown Couch Café.  Contact: antirepression@occupyoakland.org
* Courts: We are a new committee – a part of a larger movement called Occupy The Courts .  We meet at Wednesday at 3pm.  We will start here in Oakland at 14th and Clay on January 20th.  Then at 11am we will join with OSF.  Contact us: oacklandmta@gmail.com.
* Facilitation:  We need help!  Please come to our meetings.  Our meetings are at noon on the days we have GA.  The next meeting is Monday, next week at 12 noon.  This is our last GA of the year!!
* Interfaith: Contact us: interfaithtent@gmail.com ;  Join us at the tent and support the vigil!  All are welcome – we don’t preach to you, only lend support.
* Labor Committee: We are planning tomorrow how to help Occupy Longview and the ILWU struggle.  We are also going to identify other labor struggles to get involved in.  We meet Thursday at 6pm, 1440 Bway.  Contact:  occupyoaklandlaborsolidarity@gmail.com
* Media: We meet every Sat. at 4pm.  If you want to make blogsites, if you want to stream, meet with us!
* OG Gazzette: We have been around since the first week.  We need more people to join!  Meeyings: 5:30 Wed. at the Brown Couch Café.  gazette@oscargrantplazagazzette.com
* Vigil: thank you for showing up to hold space and donate food.

**FORUM: Discuss what you would like – for 15 minutes!  We’d like to call people up for report  backs about your discussions.**

* Dorothy wants us to continue to support to support the original occupation at the plaza – through bulk purchases or donations.
* We talked about why we are here and why we keep coming back.  We talked about how to get more people involved across the nation.
* We talked about how positive it has been meeting each other through the movement.  We talked about the pros and cons of consensus (in our GA).

**ACTION AND GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* Noise Demo: 9pm, march from the plaza to the jail.  At Glen Dyer on New Year’s Eve – in solidarity with those who are inside but cannot party like us…afterward, we will march to the plaza for a dance party and fun for support.
* I want to remind you about the January 1st march and rally in honor of Oscar Grant.  The Oakland GA is one of the sponsors of this march.  It’s on the webpage of OO.  We are very excited about it, and I think it will be a memorable occasion.  Please tell everyone you know about it.
* Our GA is waning.  Let me remind you that in three mere months, we shook up America.  Some of our less mature members may think that the GA is their personal toy.  They have grown tired of it.  Know this: the GA is the foundation of what is left of our occupation.  Do not take it lightly.  We need to rebuild our GA and keep it going.  Without the GA, there is no more OO.
* Occupy the Rose Parade: Jan. 1st!  We’ll have four human floats – the constitution, a top hatted man representing the 1%, and an octopus representing the Fed, and more!
* Protest at the railroad stations in memory of the birth of the corporations – this is an informational action. (*not sure of the day, but it’s in January)*
* Large strike coming up in February!
* Occupy Education; March 1st!  March from East Bay to Sacrament, along with a convergence at the state capitol.

**CLOSING**

8:15 pm

 **0**

**3 Responses to “GA Minutes: 12.28.11”**

1. doctor[January 2, 2012](https://occupyoakland.org/2011/12/ga-minutes-12-28-11/#comment-3269)

When/where does the Port shut down committee meet? Or is it the Labor committee? I am confused. I can not find a corresponding committee in the calendar for the EGT actions. How does one get involved?

1. a\_small\_voice[January 1, 2012](https://occupyoakland.org/2011/12/ga-minutes-12-28-11/#comment-3263)

i hate to say i told y’all so, but…

once again, the same folks behind the other longview related proposals pushed an emergency proposal through at the last hour, and it successfully ended in their favor.

calveras: the labor solidarity committee has been in communications with individual/s from OWS regarding funding. on 12/10, OO’s proposal for $22,000 was discussed and denied at the NYCGA. on 12/27, another proposal was discussed, but tabled at the NYCGA. the finance proposal was slated for 12/29 to be reconsidered and discussed.

that brings us to 12/28 in oakland at our GA. the labor solidarity committee submitted an emergency proposal at the oakland GA in order to submit videotaped support for the tabled OWS finance proposal (to be discussed the following day in NY). i think that the labor solidarity considered the timing of several events; the year would be ending soon (meaning it would be difficult to hold GA’s in any city, due to the holidays), 12/28 was OUR last GA of the year, and the NYCGA would be coming up the very next day. so yes, it was truly time-sensitive.

was it an emergency for OO to have a large sum of money for an action that had already passed, AND for a future action that has no determined date?…maybe? i’m undecided about that.

most of us know that the facilitation committee meets at noon and sets the agenda for the day on that same day. the policy that they follow is that anyone who wants to submit a proposal needs to meet with them during the first hour of the meeting. when i checked the agenda on Facebook, posted somewhere between 2:00 and 3:00 pm, the emergency proposal was not on the agenda. so…some time between 3:00 and 6:00 pm, people decided to submit a proposal (was it written? maybe, maybe not), and people decided that it would be added to the agenda. so there you have the timeline…hope it’s clear.

the actual outcome at the NYCGA ended in OO’s favor. OO was funded $25,000. “\*Occupy Oakland proposal: $20,000 to help defray costs of Port Shutdown action, receipts are available and money will go to other West Coast Occupies who participated too. Friendly Amendments accepted by proposer: Add $5,000 to cover bail, food and travel costs; put receipts online.” per the NYCGA website.

it’s unclear how much of this money will go directly to the other cities on funds that were already spent for the 12/12 action. it does seem, however, that the bulk of this money is for the labor solidarity committee’s actions.

1. calaverasgrandes[January 1, 2012](https://occupyoakland.org/2011/12/ga-minutes-12-28-11/#comment-3255)

I am confused by the “emergency proposal”. What is the criteria for this to be an emergency? Did OWS say they are only handing out money to any “occupy” that requests it before the end of the year? I really dont understand why some things get thrown to the top of the proposal stack so easily.
I also am kind of balking at the $12,000 explicitly earmarked for EGT related actions. That is an awfully large amount of resources allocated, in advance, to problems that are not in our backyard. Meanwhile our people are still in jail, our people are still homeless and we have no permanent base of operation going into the rainy season.
We could rent a decent sized commercial space for 6 months at $2000 in Oakland. This would give us a dry place to have meetings that isnt “illegal”.

# GA Minutes: 1.2.12 HAPPY NEW YEAR!

January 2, 2012 at 8:20 pm.

Posted by [Facilitation-Committee](https://occupyoakland.org/author/facilitation-committee/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/)

Oakland General Assembly

1.2.12

Approximate Start Time: 6:10 pm

Approximate Head Count:  81

**WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*(Review of hand signals; Review of the voting process*)

**We are now at 81 people.  We are trying to recruit people to join us so that we can reach quorum.**

**PROPOSALS AND OVERVIEW**

1. Buy Local Proposal: *Proposers were not present*

2. Rephrase Pros and Cons to Friendly Suggestions Proposal: The current system is formed as a pro/con debate.  This construct is combative.  We propose that constructive suggestions be given.  People can express supports or disapproval as needed.

**Clarifying Questions: None**

**Twinkles**

* I like what I am hearing.  Another suggestion I have is that giving some people time to organize to reformulate their proposal if they don’t reach 90% approval.
* In other models, people say things like, “This is ok, but could we work on this?”  Allowing people to say what they have a problem with in a proposal is good.  Having that person say, “How can we work on this so you can live with it” is a great idea.
* Another thing I have seen is “tabling” rather than having things debated.

**F: We don’t have quorum, so we can do a straw poll.  As facilitators, we can vote upon this in the facilitation group and bring it back to the GA.**

Response: I like this proposal and I see that people want to support it.  I only want to point out that if we leave it to the discretion of the facilitators to decide how they want to tweak GA, that sets a precedent and leaves the door open for other things.

**Straw Poll Count**

40 yes

10 Stand Asides

3 No

**F: We’ll bring this back to the facilitation committee and discuss it further.**

**FORUM: We have not had a preassigned topic for the last few meetings.  After about 15 minutes of small group discussions, we’ll have share-outs.  Please form a group and talk about an aspect of occupy.**

* We talked about outreach and why people aren’t involved – maybe people are busy or have other things going on in their lives.  We talked about the Jan. 28th action.  We talked about how our movement is critical to the nation.
* We think we need to do outreach with specific organizations that we know and are already a part of.  Bring people to GAs and events.  Because of police brutality and harassment, people might feel it’s either unsafe or not worth the risk.  We need to let people know what we do and what has been accomplished.  We also talked about having events before GA’s.
* We need to stay on point and spread the word.
* We talked about joining with smaller occupations, like Occupy Silicon Valley, and perhaps setting up a monthly bay area occupy meeting.  We also talked about setting up a relationship with a sister city.  We talked about using texts, pagers, phones, and ham radios to connect with each other around the world.
* We talked about raids and arrests.  We learned form the Chief of Police that the permit for the vigil has been revoked, and a raid could be imminent.  We are looking into negotiating with the police about this, because it’s an illegal revocation of the permit. (*Recounts how many people have been arrested in the  last week.  More comments below in Committee Reports).*
* The police love it if we are compartmentalized.  Come back to the plaza and defend the commons.  We can drive them off verbally, as TAC has done with us (*Tree People)*.
* We need to share info about ourselves, show videos, do teach-ins, etc.
* Occupella is singing in BART stations – singing political and resistance songs.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

* AntiRepression/Free Khali/Free Tiffany Tran: We have several people who have been arrested and need support.  Arraignments tomorrow at 9am and 2pm at 7th and Washington.  Tomorrow, bail will be reduced, but we need to figure out how we are going to cover the costs.  People are being abused, taunted, and threatened while in custody.  They are being segregated in cells, and are suffering other abuses. antirepression@occupyoakland.org 415-285-1011.  We meet Tuesdays at noon, at the Brown Couch Café, unless there is a court date. Text “JOIN” to 510-343-6525, and you will get announcements when we need support against police repression.
* Facilitiation: On Wednesday, we meet at noon.  Next, on Saturday at 4pm we will meet to plan the Sunday GA  Join us – we need more faces!
* Labor Solidarity: We can use tactics outside of unions to support local worker struggles.  Come and support pickets, hunger strikes, etc.
* Media: hellaoccupyoakland.org – join us!  You can express yourself freely, create an account and go for it.  We meet here at the plaza on Saturdays at 4pm.  Twitter: benzotweet.  If you need other support with media, blogging, come and meet us or contact us.
* Occupy OPD Workgroup: We are still working on this…Stay tuned!
* Vigil Committee: We have people here doing tree sits and staying here on the ground.  We have been holding the space energetically.

Q: Is the financial committee supporting the vigil?

A: People who are participating in the kitchen committee are still supporting.  Others have brought in food that is prepared offsite, or is uncooked.  I’m interested in following the Food Not Bombs model that is decentralized.

**ACTION AND GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* Hi, I’m visiting form Puerto Rico.  Yesterday’s march was wonderful, and so was the “Occupy the Rosebowl” event.
* Sign up on occupyreport.org for mailing lists so that you can communicate about what groups are doing.
* Jan. 20th is the anniversary of Citizen’s United.  There is a ntl. mvmt. to occupy the courts.  We have an action in Oakland to be in front of the courts on that day – we’ll have theater, Occupella, skits, and more.  Contact: occupyoaklandcourts.org
* We need to start some real boycotts  against companies who are…? (*did not specify).*We should begin on Groundhog Day.
* Wed. – 12pm – 4pm, we are working on a few actions for a roving street party.  First one will be a “pigyata” that will be a piñata we will break open and there will be surprises inside!  Also on Sat, 12-4pm we’ll have a work party.  This will also include TV bowling, jugglers, dancers, etc/. The hold idea is a “carnival of resistance.”
* The UnConference: Jan 21st.  This is a space to share ideas all day long with each other about the occupy movement.  Childcare will be available.
* Oak tree update: If you see the sprinklers on, report it to the city.  We’d like to meet Saturday at 1pm  to discuss planting ideas in the space (native plants near tree).
* I photocopied some of the chapters and articles form this new book, entitled “This Changes Everything.”  Donate a dollar for each one you can…I can make more copies.
* I have copies of The Constitution available.
* SF Chronicle – Dec 13th edition says that there is a community group that holds a Sat. night vigil regularly.  The author of the article implied that Occupy has no connection to the black community.  What do you all think about that?  What if we joined this vigil?  Would anyone be interested?

**CLOSING**

7:43 pm

# GA Minutes: 1.4.12

January 6, 2012 at 6:05 pm.

Posted by [Facilitation-Committee](https://occupyoakland.org/author/facilitation-committee/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/)

Oakland General Assembly

Date: 1/4/12

Approximate Start Time: 6:20PM

Approximate Head Count: 130

**WELCOME**

(Facilitators moved the GA to 14th and Broadway to support the individuals holding down the vigil)

**AGENDA OVERVIEW**

**OPEN FORUM**

F: Each person will have about a minute and a half to report back on their group (or their own) thoughts.

* **MIC CHECK!**Peace Oakland and our human family around the globe. My name is Angel Love and I am an Oakland Resident. I would like to first say, that I believe in our young people. I respect their wisdom. I do hear their cry. And I am here to support them as well as issues at large. Long before I saw Occupy Oakland here, downtown Oakland, I saw our young people. I would see them just hanging out, and I continued to see that. I see a great need to provide safe places for them to socialize without being harassed by police and other business owners. I do see a lot of positive changes taking place here in Oakland. More and more I see young people getting more opportunities to excel. I feel we can do more. Wouldn’t it be nice to walk down any given street in deep East Oakland or other poor communities in Oakland and see fruit stands, clothing stores, banks that actually lend to the people in those communities. I love our young people, I am not afraid of them. I feel we should focus a lot of our attention and our resources in these communities in Oakland and around the globe. Some folks say there isn’t any money. Yet I see buildings being put up every day. As I do support Occupy Oakland, I do not want it to be looked on as a separate group. I want us all to be in this great movement to improve life for all together. I would like to see us all embrace other ways to make a positive change as well. I would like to see us walk arm in arm down those so-called ‘dangerous’ areas in our communities.
* **MIC CHECK!**My name is Frank and I’m a journalist. I’m coming to you after Rose Parade with messages of solidarity and hope. What I saw from that movement was a coming together of many different interests from many different places. From an outside observer, it seems there is positive change en-masse. There are movements coming together from different locations and collaborating for increased impact. I would encourage you all to further your ties with different occupy communities. Seeing the Occupy Rose Parade and the hundreds if not thousands in attendance, and the messages of support from those in the crowd, I can see the momentum is still going. So I appreciate you all being here, and I encourage you all to keep working because it’s working. Thank You.
* Unable to work out what this individual is saying.
* **MIC CHECK!**My name is Chloe. I am a student. And I’m a feminist. And I support Occupy. Today I represent my group of activists here and students worldwide. My group today talked about a variety of issues. One, the idea that a physical presence is really important. Two, that the idea of occupying a foreclosed home is powerful but one needs to be careful as a whole because we don’t want to divide (not in the physical sense but in the sense of the movement). We don’t want the splitting of the people to different locations to diminish the solidarity of the people existing here. Three, that we need to fight the repression of this movement because it still stands STRONG! Thank you.
* **MIC CHECK!**My name is Patrick. Thank you all for being here. My group talked about four main points. One, that we’re still here, so please support this beautiful village, it is 24/7, it is under direct, the permit’s been revoked. We’re not going anywhere. Second point, we had a gentleman from Occupy the Hood. He was telling us how important it is to combat non-violence. We also talked about the committees we were part of and how important it is to join a committee. Last point we talked about how important it is to support OakFoSho.
* **MIC CHECK!**My name is Glen. I am a small business owner in Oakland (for a store) called Ancient Ways. I support Occupy Oakland> All of us who work there support Occupy Oakland. In the small group I was in just now, we had a few questions, but not a whole lot of answers. The first was a good one. What next? Well we mentioned the building occupation and that that would be the one pretty soon. The next question that arose was, how long do we expect to be in that building. I don’t have any real expectations of holding that building or losing that building. I have a dream for that building and we all have that dream that the abandoned building to be for all of us people to use for helping our needs. We also asked how safe would it be to be in that building. One person mentioned that she wouldn’t put her children in there in a childcare. (interruption) They’re for us. I said in my group that I can’t really afford to get arrested at this time so I would want to be on the outside and help. But farther than that we don’t know. That’s okay, because another possibility is that circumstances can direct our actions. If the banks fail. Again. Or if a war is declared on Iran. If any other things happen locally, we will pop up like whack-a-mole.
* Hi I’m CJ and my group covered a lot of these things and it really brings something out that we should all notice. We are at the point in this movement where “I don’t know” is no longer an acceptable option. The fact of the matter is a lot of us don’t have homes. For a lot of us, this vigil is where we are. This is what we have. While it’s great that we’re planning for this building occupation, that’s still 24 days where the people like me are going to be sleeping in the cold. We can’t accept undecided opinions. We need to figure out action. Tonight. And I would ask that none of you leave until you have figured out something concrete that we can use to move this movement forward. I would suggest thinking about education, getting our message out to everyone who can benefit from it. But beyond that I’m only one person, we need to figure this out together and we need to do it now.
* My name is Joey, I correspond to and distribute Revolution Newspaper. We have an important article calling for mass action against the suppression of the Occupy movement. I think we have to keep a few things in mind. When we’re talking about the 99 percent we’re talking worldwide. Last year, even the bourgeois media had to call it the year of the protestor. All across the middle east, in Spain, in Greece, in London, millions of people came out. And fought. Tenaciously. With persistence and spirit. We have to keep that up. We can’t let the suppression of this movement to stand. It was Jean Quan who said the suppression of Occupy was coordinated with Homeland Security. They can’t stand occupy being an alternative to their zombies from their bourgeois elections. I mean look at that shit. Santorum. Romney. Those other brain dead fuckers. Which represent the same. So let’s think about the stakes. What’s called for. What’s needed. Is a day of mass action all across the country in the thousands of cities that took up occupy to put us once more in the media throughout the world. There’s a lot at stake for the people of humanity. We got to keep the initiative.
* **MIC CHECK!**My name is … and we talked a few things in our circle. First, we want to publicize the city’s harassment and call for our right to assemble to be respected. We have phones, we should call the city. If we have the means, we should attend council meetings. Two, publicize the vigil with various groups. Churches. Mosques. Synagogues. Local Communities to come out for an hour or two, to see for themselves what we are about. We can pass out information when they attend. Three, separate the vigil area from the sleeping area. We do not want to give an excuse for the city to raid the vigil. We want the vigil to be a vigil. Also, speaking only for myself, I would like to see more of an American Indian presence. Not only that, but all groups of people who feel they need to be heard. Thank you.
* **MIC CHECK!**My name is Tess. In my group we had people from the children’s village and with the interfaith tent and we were talking about how good it feels to have the commune back together with the tree-sit there and the interfaith tent there and the vigil here and how beautiful last night was with children running around and someone playing the violin and people all together. The police came by today and asked if, when the interfaith tent was still up if they had a permit, and they aid “yes I do, it’s the US constitution”.
* **F: There is one last speaker, then we’ll move on to report-backs from Committees, Sub-Committees, Workgroups, and Caucuses.**
* I spoke with some of your homies before GA about the next coming events. So if I’m making an event and I need some things, I can either do them myself or get people to do them for me. I think my doing them myself is something we need to come to more often. For example, I wanted to cook today and the meeting somehow fell apart. Luckily I met Robin Hood at Whole Foods. For example, if we want to hold down this spot, it’s up to me to stay for as long as I can, but then when I leave and I meet someone in the elevator, I’m like HEY MAN YOU’RE BEAUTIFULTHERE’S A LOT HAPPENING IN THE WORLD HERE’S LIKE FIVE-THOUSAND THINGS. (Hellicopter) Something about synchronicity. Everything that I do is very important but only if everything that everyone does is very important. We have more potential than we realize. ALL IT TAKES IS A SLAP IN THE FACE (SLAPS HIS OWN FACE), SHIT. FOCUSED. LOOK AROUND, I’M BEAUTIFUL, SO ARE YOU, THANKS.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**F: I forgot to read something, it’s important. But it relates to announcements. “The bulk of the work we do does not happen in the General Assembly. It happens in various committees that report back to the GA. Everyone participating in Occupy Oakland should be part of at least one committee. Before committee announcements, we have an emergency announcement.**

**Emergency Announcement: I have a request. Some of you may know that a lot of our comrades got grabbed up on Friday and it’s been a harrowing week. They suffered at the hands of the police both out here, on the way to jail, and especially in jail. Most of them are out now. Thank God and the Universe. A couple of them are having a real hard time tonight and would do much better if someone who is a saint could give them a spot or a couch or a bed or somewhere they can lay down or a shower so they don’t have to be on the streets tonight. It’d be greatly appreciated. Come see me.**

* **Events:** My name’s Leo and I’m with the events committee! There are a few events this week as well as the big ones. Friday, Occupy Art Murmur, Sierk, and LBL will have a presence at Occupy. Sunday 12-5 there’ll be workshops at 19yth and telegraph that Occupy Patriarchy is organizing. Check it out. On top of all this, e-mail events@occupyoakland.org and get involved because we (and mainly I) need help and it’d be awesome. Peace.
* **Occupy Patriarchy:** We want to say something about the event on Sunday. It’s Oakland Queer and Feminist Occupy and it’s leading up to a larger occupation, a building occupation. There’ll be workshops ranging from self-defense to occupying buildings 101. There’ll be food, music, fun stuff for kids, and you’re invited. Sunday, 12-5PM 19th and Telegraph. More information at occupyoaklandpatriarchy.wordpress.com.
* **Oak Tree:** Hi I’m Molly, and I’m here to give you an Oak Tree update. Because of the impact that the tree has had, we want to convince the city to do away with the lawn and plan a smarter, more beautiful landscape that’s not so water-loving and is compatible with the Oak Tree. If you want to be involved, we’ll be meeting on Saturday at 1PM> We’ll be throwing around ideas, our wildest dreams, what we want our plaza to be, but thinking about the oak tree. If you see the sprinklers on, call the city and videotape it. We have not gotten confirmation that the sprinklers are off. Saturday at 1PM near the tree.
* **Anti-Repression:** I’m Lalei with the anti-repression committee. As you all know last week we suffered a wave of arrests and ten of our comrades spent four nights in jail. The DA never filed any charges yesterday and we were able to get eight of our comrades out of jail last night. Two of them still remain, Alex and Momo, and we’re trying to find out what we can do. Also, this coming Monday is the court hearing for Khali at 9AM, Pleasanton court house department 701. Please come and help us with your support. If you can offer rides or if you need a ride please come see me. Free Khali, Free Mo mo, Free Alex.
* **Theatre Group:** Hi everybody, I am CJ and I am forming a new committee tonight. I personally have a Bachelor’s degree in Theatre Performance. As you can tell, my voice is somewhat powerful. I am interested in teaching people both public speaking and getting across yuour point, and improvised acting which I’ll use to educate our populous. So if you are interested in street-theatre, mobile teach-ins, and in being fucking active, please talk to me tonight so we can figure out when to meet and when we can do rehearsals. Thank you, I’ll be right here tonight.
* **Oscar Grant Committee:**Hello, my name is Gerald and I’m with the Oscar Grant committee. We were discussing the possibility of filing a complaint with the city’s civilian review board on behalf of this Occupation. But this requires your agreement. I’d like people to think about it, discuss it, and if you’re interested I think we’re going to put a proposal for it through the GA to make it our join policy. I have no illusions in any of these bourgeois institutions But I don’t think it’s good to let them abuse us many times illegally according to their own laws and not respond. We can respond and I think we should. Talk to me later about this.
* F: As you all know, we’re doing proposals after, there are a couple of emergency ones, so make sure to stick around so we don’t lose quorum. We’re currently straddling it.
* **Children’s Village:**Hello everybody, my name is Samsara and I’m with Oakland Children’s Village, and the Parents and Allies committee. We haven’t been with you. The village hasn’t been here, but we’ve been with you in spirit. Because we can’t trust our city government to behave in a legal fashion, our little ones haven’t been hgere. SO I would like to stand here and say SHAME ON YOU. There should be no reason why the Children’s Village can’t be standing right there (points to park). We want you to know that actions are being planned. Actions involving our tree, and actions to support our comrades in jail. If you would like to help us, please contact us, e-mail is oaktownchildrensvillage@gmail.com. Long live the Oakland Commune!
* **Boycott Workgroup:**Hi  my name is Rick. The GA on Monday, I brought up on Monday that a few of us have been talking about, which are some large, mass boycotts of companies/corporations that are the largest political contributors and drawing a line from those corporations to the politicians so that everyone in the entire 99 percent can see what’s going on and can actually do something about it. So we’re starting a working group. First meeting will be next Sunday at 1PM at SF Pizza, they’ll be called the Groundhog boycotts because we’ll start them on Groundhog day and run them every single day until something changes. So if anyone is interested in recreating the Groundhog day movie, if you’re interested in joining the committee please come to the first meeting at 1PM at SFPizza on Sunday. Bring your ideas.
* **Occupy the Courts:**Hi my name is … and I’ll be talking about a new working group called Occupy the Courts. This is in conjunction with the national move to amend movement about ending corporate personhood and repealing Citizens United. We meet every Wednesday at 3PM in front of the Rising Loafer at the north side of the plaza and we are having an action here in Oakland that will go to San Francisco on January 20th at 8AM until 11AM at 14th and Clay. You will see these flyers. We hope you can attend. This will be part of Move to Amend, a national day of action, the two year anniversary of Citizens United passing. We will have a sign making and general brainstorming at noon on Saturday on the plaza. So we hope you can attend and give Oakland a voice and move to amend.
* **5 Ideas Conference:**Hello Everyone, later today we’ll be discussing a proposal to endorse THIS event. I’ll pass out information so that you have it before the proposal comes up.
* **Labor Solidarity Committee:**Hi I’mfrom the OO Labor Solidarity Committee and we’ve been very busy. There are several local actions being planned including Licorice Workers in Union City. Also Castlewood Country Club in Pleasanton, workers have been locked out for two years. They’ve come to us and asked for our support. Stay tuned for those two. Of course, we’re organizing a caravan for Longview Washington to support the ILWU and Local 21 to prevent the first ship loaded with scab labor by EGT. We don’t know the date, we know it’ll be mid-to-late January or early February and will likely be a 5-day trip. We have sign up forms which I’ll be passing around and I hope you’ll all come to Washington.
* I’m here to remind us that we agreed to support this vigil at the plaza and having meetings at places where it costs money to sit instead of having the meetings here at the plaza keeps some people from meetings and keeps all the people from the plaza. Please quit scheduling meetings at other places. Please schedule your meetings here at the plaza.
* My name is Owen and I occasionally work with the Facilitation Committee. We could really use more help. We staff the GAs. The GAs would happen without us, but they are a lot smoother with us. As you know, we’ve been working on a Holiday Schedule. Welcome back to the GA happens Sunday. From then on, it’ll be our regular Schedule. MWF 6PM, 2PM Sunday. Facilitation meets at the north end of the plaza to prepare for the GAs at noon MWF and at 4PM on Saturdays. Please get involved. Another way to get involved, or submit a proposal, is to e-mail us at occupyoaklandfacilitation@gmail.com.
* **F: Next we’ll take proposals. A quick overview of the process. Finance proposals don’t have pros and cons, but for other proposals we do. We work on a consensus basis to its 90 percent or more it passes. If a non-finance proposal gets 70 percent or more we open it up for friendly amendments. First proposers.**
* **Announcement**: To add to the Labor Solidarity announcement. There is an immediate need to support the picket line for the Licorice Workers in Union City, particularly evening shifts and graveyard shifts. If anyone is interested in that (they’ve been striking since December 5th) I can plug you into that.

**PROPOSALS AND OVERVIEW**

**Proposer: We need Tim from finance to give a quick brief of finances.**

Emergency Finance Proposal for the Building Occupation/Move-in Assemblywhich is requesting $3300, $2000 for printing, $300 for sound truck, $1000 for misc supplies such as cleaning/coordinating/securing the building.

**Proposer: Since then we’ve been in touch with finance and it seems like we have much less money in all of Occupy Oakland than we thought is going to give a brief run-down of the situation.**

**Finance: So Finance Committee cannot recommend disbursement of this $3000. Obviously it’s the GA’s decision but let me give you some numbers of where we are. I can tell you these numbers are publically available at occupyoakland.org. You can review the spreadsheets at the website. Right now we can estimate that we have $3846.72 available. Let me explain how the numbers break down. So we have $14,280 that is dedicated for bail funds only. That money cannot be spent on anything else. We also have allocated $9,000 for the very successful West Coast Port Shutdown day. We are still reimbursing people from that money. But we promised we’d reimburse these people so we have to do that. That leaves us only the $3846.72. Frankly, we spend most of our money these days on food and bail and we spend a lot more than we take in. So if people want us to fundraise, or if individual event groups wants to fundraise for their events, the finance committee recommends that we do that ASAP.**

Clarifying Questions:

* Q. I have a question about the money situation, uh we have fundraised at the Grand Lake Theatre which I heard was around $6000. Also, Occupy Wall Street had given us a large amount ($30,000).
	+ (from Finance) I can say this, that money from OWS was earmarked for two things, one is bail, and the other is the Longview Port Shutdown. We’re still waiting for that group to propose their budget so that we can be given funds for that.
	+ As far as the Grand Lake fundraiser, to my knowledge we have not received that and the accounting is not finished for that.

**Proposer: In light of this information, how do people feel about amending the request to $1000 for now, and then doing a big fundraiser specifically for this event and requesting more once we get the grand lake money in. So, basically, I’m at a little bit of a loss, as I’m amending this as its going on and if anyone else wants to jump up with any ideas, I’m open.**

**Vote Results:**

82  %: THIS PROPOSAL HAS BEEN TABLED

YES: 55

ABSTAINED: 24

NO: 12

**Proposer: We’re going to re-think this and we’re going to have another proposal on Sunday now that we know the financial situation better.**

1. Emergency Proposal to accept assistance in finding a building or commercial space to rent for an Occupy Oakland center space, or to utilize however Occupy Oakland sees fit

**Proposer: Off the Grid foundation has offered Occupy Oakland and 4 other occupations to lease a building for us, and pay rent for us. This a building or commercial space that we can use as an Occupy Social center. I need to get the okay from everyone that we want this kind of assistance so that we can proceed in finding this space. Details will come, I have a simple right up. If anyone wants to look at it after. Off the Grid subsidizes organic farmers and gives grants to farmers and people who are doing sustainable living projects. They decided to give 5 occupies a chance to have a stable space and they want to fund us. But they need GA approval before we can proceed.**

Clarifying Questions:

* Is this in addition to the Move-In day action.
	+ It is completely separate from that although I think both are valid and important. I also don’t want whatever building we open to pull away from what we have here. I want it to be another branch in helping what we’re holding here and to help expand whatever we’re doing anywhere.
* Will this space include gardening space.
	+ Yes. I just want to say that everyone’s making a choice together on what space we take so I imagine we’ll get a committee of 10 or 15 people to help plan this where we’ll have a constant dialogue with everyone else involved in the occupy movement. I can answer from my own personal standpoint but that can shift depending on our needs.
* Will there hopefully be a legal kitchen?
	+ Yes, but that’s to be decided.
* Will this be a place to live?
	+ No, but that’s to be decided.
* Will there be alcohol allowed?
	+ No, but that’s to be decided.
* What would be timing…what would be the earliest that this branch will open?
	+ No idea, but in the next couple of weeks.
* Who is going to be responsible for the building that we take as far as having keys, as far as when the city inevitably harasses us. That kind of responsibility.
	+ Clarifying the proposal, do we want assistance from Off the Grid in establishing and being funded to having a community space. Could be a building or commercial space.
* **Proposer: So the concerns are valid, but we can dialogue about this during committees. I imagine there’ll be a group of 10 or 15 people (a committee) that will take full responsibility in managing the building and keeping it a protected, space, and productive place.**
* Is off the grid aware of move-in day and would that change anything?
	+ They aren’t aware, I have barely been able to talk to them, but the two are separate.
* Who is going to be paying bills/water etc.
	+ I imagine that they will.

Constructive Suggestions

* I suggest we definitely vote yes. We need a place to organize and get away from OPD harassment. If they  arrest (cite) us for reading poetry while riding a bike, then this place is not good for organizing all the time. I’m all for having committee meetings here but we need a steady space to be. Thank you.
* I have a constructive suggestion. I think there are too many things that are unclear about this proposal like who this organization actually is, what they’ll actually be paying for, where the building is, how they would take liability for people planning illegal activities in a rented space etc. I think we really need a space but I also think we need more information before being able to vote on this proposal.
* My constructive suggestion is that you vote for this. Yes. Because they’re already aware of the occupation movement being entirely illegal. So we have two spaces in being secure.
* I support this for all the reasons already stated, I really wanna go steady with the space, I really wanna get out from under the threat of OPD fucking with us so that we can’t get anything else done. I would suggest that the proposers note all the questions and concerns that have come up tonight as the basis of the work to be addressed by the committee. I would also suggest that these questions (within reason) in response to this foundation to find out if there are strings that they might attach to their gift.
* I think everyone should be in support of this given our financial status, we can use all the help we can get. We shouldn’t cut our allies before we get them.
* Firstly, whoever pays the piper always winds up calling the tune. Secondly, this committee could wind up with more power than intended because of the nature of the power of the purse to become the focus of legislative action and I mean action within which is what is currently the role of this GA. We may find that as in many organizations which have some kind of executive or steering committee that this assembly may become a mere rubber stamp or advisory body. This was come to the end of what we stood for and came together for. Thirdly, we should not back down from the necessary struggle with the OPD in which we shall ultimately be successful.
* My constructive suggestion is to confirm that once these details have been worked out, the proposal will be brought back to the general assembly. My understanding is that this is just an approval to begin exploring the issue. I would urge to support this exploration. We will need a safe-space when we run out of money to bail people out of jail. We need a place to organize. Please let’s support an investigation into this option. Thank you.
* A lot has already been said. I want to echo what Spence said. I want to note what we are all doing here and doing right now. Every time we struggle with the police, we get stronger, and that is what the occupation is about. If we do it, let’s have an office space but stay out here and keep doing this shit, it’s working. One final thing, I’ll never call it a constructive suggestion. It is a CON.

**F: Proposers will now read their proposal, keeping in mind that all proposals are living documents.**

**Proposers: All the concerns are valid, we obviously need to know more information. I’ll get back to everyone so we can continue. Basic proposal is to pursue this option and get details.**

**Vote Results:**

92  %: THIS PROPOSAL PASSES

YES: 70

ABSTAINED: 50

NO: 6

**F: Reminder that we return to regular schedule this Sunday, 2PM. Facilitation meets 4PM Saturday to prepare for that.**

**ACTION AND GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* We’re going to be voting on Sunday to endorse the 5 Ideas Conference. Even if we never get to vote, the event will still be happening and we would love to see you there. To tell you a bit about the event, organizers from around the occupies around the bay area are working on bringing all who want to participate into a research-rich space of art supplies, food, tables, etc. to work on 5 ideas that will be selected on the day of the event. The process of selecting them will be transparent and democratic. Small groups will present their ideas and put them on paper on the walls. Folks will get post-its to comment on them and stickers to vote on which ones they like. The most promising ideas we’ll work on the day of to pull them off and launch them for the spring. There’s a lot more information on line and on these flyers so pick one up. You can get involved with making this awesome. We ask that people RSVP because we’re providing food, childcare, and potentially carpooling but we need to know who is coming in order to do that. Flyer: tiny.cc/5ideasflyer E-mail: 5ideasforoccupy@gmail.com
* This coming Friday evening and also on sat5urday afternboon, we’ll be discussing four articles from the book that’s called “This changes everythning: Occupy Wall Street and the 99 Percent Movement”. I put these four articles on a URL that’s on this flyer. If you want hard copies, buy them off me (since I paid for printing). The articles can be found here: The articles we’ll be looking at (which can be found here <http://www.yesmagazine.org/>) are:
	+ 1 — How Occupy Wall Street Changes Everything, by Sarah van Gelder
	+ 2 — Ten Ways the Occupy Movement Changes Everything, by Sarah van Gelder, David Korten, and Steve Piersanti
	+ 3 — What Can Stop the One Percent?, by Naomi Klein  [[Note: In the book “This Changes Everything” this essay is entitled “The Most Important Thing in the World”]]
	+ 4 — 10 Ways to Support the Occupy Movement, by Sarah van Gelder
	+ This coming Sunday at 10AM on whichever side of the plaza we’re not using at that time a Christian Service will be set and the sacrament of holy communion will be celebrated. Anyone desiring to be baptized should make themselves known to me (Svend) tonight so I may begin assessing you for baptism.
	+ I just wanted everyone to know again that if you are interested in street theatre, being a better public speaker, or improvised action, talk to me tonight so we can get this shit working.
	+ Last announcement, this is my first time co-facilitating so I would like feedback (Owen).
	+ Can we get a Hey Tree People, Thank You form the crowd? (Spence)
	+ So I am here to make a quick request on behalf of the entire plaza. We are here to hold the light every night every day. We need to have a literal light. We need candles. Please bring candles. Thank you.
	+ Once again my name is Frank and I am a journalist in this movement. If you have anything to say or any ideas for solutions, come see me. I would love to hear them so I can put out information that you all want to read. Thank you come see me. E-mail me ftc6@humboldt.edu

**F: If there are no more announcements, thank you for staying, have a goodnight.**

**CLOSING**

8:40  pm

# GA Minutes: 1.8.12

January 15, 2012 at 10:13 pm.

Posted by [Facilitation-Committee](https://occupyoakland.org/author/facilitation-committee/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/)

No minutes have been transcribed or posted yet.  Please check livestream.

# GA Minutes: 1.9.12

January 15, 2012 at 10:13 pm.Posted by Facilitation-Committee

No minutes have been transcribed or posted yet. Please check livestream. 16021

# GA Minutes: 1.11.12

January 15, 2012 at 10:14 pm.Posted by Facilitation-Committee

No minutes have been transcribed or posted yet. Please check livestream. 16023

# GA Minutes: 1.13.12

January 15, 2012 at 10:15 pm.Posted by Facilitation-Committee

No minutes have been transcribed or posted yet. Please check livestream. 16025

# GA Minutes: 1.15.12

January 15, 2012 at 10:18 pm.

Posted by [Facilitation-Committee](https://occupyoakland.org/author/facilitation-committee/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/)

Oakland General Assembly

1.15.12

Approximate Start Time: 2:30 pm

Approximate Head Count:  100

**WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FORUM**

* I’m here with OWS for the first time.   We talked about what’s going on there, Move In Day, and the differences in POV of the movement based on the gender gap.
* We talked about Move-In Day and how important it is to hold space.
* We talked about the news that has come about regarding the decline in crime since the inception of our camp.  This shows us that it is important to hold space.

**PROPOSALS AND OVERVIEW**

1. Proposal to reduce the GA schedule to twice a week: People are working on several action projects and are finding it difficult to attend all the meetings.  We propose reducing the GA to twice a week to improve attendance and to increase time for people to work on other actions.

**GA participant:** There is a man who is about to be arrested by the cops.  They are citing a charge that has already been dropped.  Please come over here and help this man NOW.

*Majority of the crowd left to support the man.  Few stayed with their children or with friends.  Chants of “Cops go home” could be heard down the block.  Everyone returned about 10 minutes later.*

**Clarifying Questions**

* Would the facilitation team be able to call another meeting in case of emergency?  – We facilitate making that happen. Any time there is a group of people gathering here, people could hold a GA.  In case of emergency we could put out a call on twitter.
* Which days of the week? – Wednesdays at 6pm, Sundays at 2pm
* It may begin raining next Wednesday for the next 5 days.  Have we considered indoor locations? – That has nothing to do with this proposal, but we are looking into other locations to make meetings more accessible to everyone.
* Can we recount for quorum?  – Yes.  We have quorum.

**Twinkles, Concerns, and Comments**

* On Fridays we could have a community orientated GA.

**F: Are we ready to vote?  Do we need to hear the proposal again?  No?  Let’s proceed.  Please give us some feedback about today’s GA on the back of your agenda.  Give it to one of the crowd advocates.**

**RESULTS**

YES: 94                       STAND ASIDE            : 4                    NO: 3

This passes by 97%.

2. Longview Caravan: We already passed a proposal to support the Washington action.  We got together with Occupy Longview and Occupy Portland, and thought we should put out a call to action to all occupies around the countries. *Resolution was read aloud.*

**Clarifying Questions**

* Can you say more about what EGT is doing?  I don’t know what “rupturing jurisdiction” means. –  It means that they are trying to bust the union.
* Why isn’t Seattle on there? – We’re trying to do this as soon as possible rather than wait for specific occupies.
* What will the union say? Does the resolution reference the Labor Council?– Some unions have made resolutions in support of this.  This is just for occupy – we aren’t as concerned about getting union approval.
* Is there a provision for other occupies to become signatories to it? – Yes.  We are asking other occupies to pass it through their GAs.  You can see this online at occupytheegt.org
* Is there a time frame? – We will know for sure about 3 days or a week before the ship comes in.  We want to make an email list to contact people to get together and make the action happen.  It will be in the next few weeks.

**Twinkles, Concerns, and Comments**

* It’s well written and precise.  It draws threads between things that relate.

**RESULTS**

YES: 87                      STAND ASIDE : 3                               NO: 2

This passes by  98% approval.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

* AntiRepression: We had two arrests last night.  Arraignments Tuesday at 9am.  Please support.
* Children’s Village: We are in support of the Move In Day Festival, and we will have a series of actions going on in February – Supporting our Tree and “Cops Need to Play Nice.”
* Decolonize Womyn and Grrls: Meets Jan. 21st; Sat. 7pm.
* Events: 4pm meeting at Leo’s house, about Move in day.  Join us Friday the 20th for the SF action.
* Facilitation: We will be having a Spanish speaking GA, and a POC/QPOC GA as well.  Committee meetings: Wed 12noon, Sat 4pm.
* Finance: finance@occupyoakland.org
* Occupy Oakland Patriarchy – We meet Thursdays at Leo’s house.  oaklandoccupypatriarchy@gmail.com
* Gardening: We are weeding and setting up a new garden in Lakeside Gardens tomorrow – join us!
* Occupy for Prisoners: San Quentin Action planning meeting at SF pizza on Thursday at 7:00 pm.
* Onaboat: We haven’t done much for the past couple of weeks, but we are gonna try to meet on Sunday.  We want to get furniture for the Move-In – contact me so we can make it happen.  At the Purple House, there is a concert that will benefit the Move In, on 57th and Aileen.
* Web: web@occupyoakland.org We have been meeting on Thursday, 6pm, Location TBA.

**ACTION AND GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* Vigil: MLK speak out at 19th and Telegraph
* We need to think about the three-month anniversary of this movement. We have done many amazing things (*recounts past actions)*
* Occupy Education is planning a national day of action on March 1st.  We will also march to the capital of the state.  Our next GA is Sat. at noon in Berkeley  at the UAW Hall.

**CLOSING**

4:00 pm

# General Assembly Notes 11/11/2012

November 11, 2012 at 8:33 am.

Posted by [GNUWorldOrder](https://occupyoakland.org/author/gnuworldorder/)

Categories: [Front Page](https://occupyoakland.org/frontpage/), [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/), [Open Mic](https://occupyoakland.org/openforums/open-mic/)

**Foreclosure Defense:**

            The defense of Jodie Randolph’s home (1624 Foley, Alameda) continues.  Volunteers are needed to maintain resistance to seizure of the house, which can happen at any time until a reasonable repurchasing agreement is made with Morgan Stanley.  If you can devote some time to being part of the resistance at Jodie’s home, please contact the Foreclosure Defense Committee by email: foreclosure@occupyoakland.org

**Events Committee:**

            Thanksgiving.  Everyone at the GA agreed that we should host a Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 22.  To avoid the problems of no bathrooms at OGP, we’ve submitted a request to The Holdout, at 2313 San Pablo Ave., to serve dinner there.  If The Holdout is unable to host the event, we’ll try to find another space.  So far we have turkey, green beans and potatoes on the menu.  If you’d like to help plan and add to the menu for a diverse Thanksgiving dinner for the masses, please come to a planning meeting at Oscar Grant Plaza on Thursday, Nov. 15 at 5:00PM.  We plan to show some movies, and we’re asking people to bring their musical instruments.

            The Events Committee is working up plans for an Occupy Oakland Open House Tabling Event.  We’ll be asking all the committees and coalitions associated with Occupy Oakland to prepare mission/purpose literature for presentation at tables set up either at OGP or at 19th and Telegraph for the sake of recruiting people attending the tabling event and passers-by.  If you’d like to help plan this event, please attend the next Events Committee meeting at Oscar Grant Plaza on Tuesday, Nov., 13 at 6:00PM.

**Norcal International Socialist Organization:**

            The Bay Area Marxism Conference will be held at the UC Berkeley campus on Nov. 17 from 10:00AM-6:00PM in rooms VSLB 2060 and MOFFITT 101, 102.  You can find out more about this event at <http://norcalsocialism.org/>

**Local Business Liason Committee:**

            Plans were announced for demonstrations/pickets at Walmart on Black Friday, Nov. 23 and for encouraging people to support local businesses on that day.  To find out more, please email lbl@occupyoakland.org

**OWS Strike Debt Coalition**

            On Thursday November 15th, the Occupy Wall St. Strike Debt Coalition is inaugurating The People’s Bailout – a mutual aid project where they will buy defaulted medical debt for pennies on the dollar (like a debt collector would) and then abolish it.

To debut the project, there’s going to be an old-school telethon with live performances from folks from Fugazi, Sonic Youth, TV on the Radio, Jeaneanne Garofalo, and more.  The telethon will be live-streamed at the Niebyl-Proctor Library, 6501 Telegraph Ave., Oakland on Thursday, Nov. 15 from 5:00 – 8:00PM.  You can find out more about this effort at<http://strikedebt.org/>

See: <http://occupyoakland.org/2012/11/debt-resistance-the-peoples-bailout-aka-the-rolling-jubilee/>

**350 Bay Area**

            There will be an organizing meeting for Bay Area climate action hosted by<http://www.350bayarea.org/> on Tuesday, Dec. 4, from 7:00-9:00PM at the Ed Roberts Center/Ashby BART station

**Democratic Socialists of America, EastBay:**

            The DSA-EB announced a panel/discussion event – “Post-Capitalism Envisioned: On Building a Non-Violent Grass Roots Economy”.  Cynthia Kaufman and Wilson Riles will be the panelists at this event, which will be held at the Oregon Park Housing Co-Op Community Room, 1425 Oregon St. Berkeley on Sunday, Nov. 18, 2012 from 3:00-5:00PM.  To find out more about this event, go to <http://dsaeastbay.org/?feed=rss2>

or call (510) 684-6286.

**Committee Tabling Event Before GAs**

During the past few GAs a recurring message conveyed during all the committee report backs was that there was “plenty of work for everyone”, but not enough people to help.

As an attempt to *re-plug* folks back into the movement, folks mentioned an idea at last week’s GA (announcement meeting) about having a tabling event on a Sunday, right before the GA, where committees would set up tables and distribute their fliers, etc, and talk shop with folks about their work and what they need help with.  Finance Committee has also expressed a desire to find a way to get all the committees to come out again and we are hoping the two groups could collaborate.  This event doesn’t necessarily have to happen on a Sunday before a GA.  It could happen at OGP on a weekday instead.  And, of course, Ed has already offered to bring food!!!  Editor Note: Not beans again?

The Events Committee will be holding a meeting this Tuesday, Nov. 13th at OGP, 6PM to further discuss and begin to work through the logistics of putting this together.  If you are not able to attend but are interested in getting involved please respond with feedback, ideas, questions etc.

[**David Rovics**](http://davidrovics.com/)**Benefit for Occupy Oakland on December 10th**

Ed mentioned that there will be a benefit for Occupy Oakland at the [Niebyl-Proctor Marxist Library](https://maps.google.com/maps?ie=UTF-8&q=niebyl-proctor&fb=1&gl=us&hq=niebyl-proctor&hnear=0x80859a6d00690021:0x4a501367f076adff,San+Francisco,+CA&cid=0,0,11850790054610086855&ei=4_OhUNKRBMr5igLuiIFQ&ved=0CKAFEPwSMAA) on Monday, December 10th, doors open at 6 PM, music at 7 PM. David’s music is almost all [Creative Commons](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Creative_Commons) and he puts it out there for [free](http://soundcloud.com/davidrovics) [download](http://www.soundclick.com/bands/default.cfm?bandID=111310), or you can pigeon-hole the groß one and he can give you a pile of [mp3s](http://archive.org/search.php?query=david%20rovics).

**Monday, December 10th**
Benefit for Occupy Oakland! Doors open at 6 pm, music starts at 7 pm…
[Niebyl-Proctor Marxist Library](http://marxistlibr.org/)
6501 Telegraph Ave.
Oakland, California

# Notes from GA 11-4-2012

November 11, 2012 at 2:00 pm.

Posted by [GNUWorldOrder](https://occupyoakland.org/author/gnuworldorder/)

Categories: [GA Minutes](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/ga-minutes/), [General Assembly](https://occupyoakland.org/generalassembly/)

**General Assembly Notes 11/4/2012**

**Foreclosure Defense:**

            The Foreclosure Defense Committee asked for as many people as possible to attend their defense of a home, which is scheduled to be raided on Tuesday, 11/6/2012 at 9:00AM.  The address of this home will be posted on the [occupyoakland.org](http://occupyoakland.org/) website later today (Monday 11/5).  There will be a sleepover tonight at the home, and all are invited to attend.  Bring a sleeping bag, and food, for the sleepover; bring your bodies for the eviction defense on Tuesday morning.

**Web Committee:**

            Boots Riley has asked for someone to interview The Coup for the [occupyoakland.org](http://occupyoakland.org/) website.  Anyone with confidence and the capacity to record an interview should contact the Web Committee: web@occupyoakland.org

*NOTE: Tom Vee has contacted Boots’ folks, so this is taken care of.*

            [David Rovics](http://davidrovics.com/), a political activist, songwriter and performer, has offered to do a benefit concert for Occupy Oakland.  If you would like to help make this event happen, please contact the Web Committee: web@occupyoakland.org

NOTE: We booked the Niebyl-Proctor Groucho Marxist Library for Monday, December 10th, a post will follow shortly.

            Ed from the Web Committee wants to start a regular movie night for Occupy Oakland.  He needs help with creating a screen and with setting up the equipment.  Suggestions for where to show movies would also be appreciated.  OG Plaza is an obvious choice, but with winter weather coming, an indoor location will be needed for at least some of the movie nights.  The Holdout was suggested, and they will be asked if they can host regular screenings.

*NOTE: Still no screen, Ed is shopping around*. A post will follow as soon as a suitable screen has been secured.

**Freeway blogging:**

            Banner blogging on freeway overpasses during heavy traffic is a way to put your message out to approximately 100,000 members of society per hour.  Freeway blogging is a very good idea.  Consider wearing a painters mask to filter out diesel particulates.

**Grand Jury Defense – Panel/discussion:**

            “Resisting Grand Juries and State Repression in the Bay Area and Beyond” is a panel presentation and discussion that will happen at the Holdout on Sunday, November 11, from 11:00AM – 5:00PM.  Speakers at this event will include Kristian Williams and Richard Brown.

**OWS Strike Debt Coalition**

            On Thursday November 15th, the Occupy Wall St. Strike Debt Coalition is inaugurating The People’s Bailout – a mutual aid project where they will buy defaulted medical debt for pennies on the dollar (like a debt collector would) and then abolish it.

To debut the project, there’s going to be an old-school telethon with live performances from folks from Fugazi, Sonic Youth, TV on the Radio, Jeaneanne Garofalo, and more. Hannah (hannah.appel@berkeley.edu) would like to organize an event here in Oakland to livestream this event, and potentially get some Strike Debt actions going on here.          Please email her if you are interested in helping to make this livestreaming event happen.

*NOTE: Simulcast streaming of the*[event](http://occupyoakland.org/2012/11/debt-resistance-the-peoples-bailout-aka-the-rolling-jubilee/)*will be this Thursday at the NPgML:*<http://occupyoakland.org/ai1ec_event/the-peoples-bailout-and-the-strike-debt-initiative/?instance_id=242304>

**OO Tabling at First Fridays**

            It was suggested that “First Fridays” in Oakland would be a good venue for tabling about Occupy Oakland.

**Forum discussion:**

            The forum discussion dealt with the issue of vandalism connected to Occupy Oakland events.

            Some people felt that participation in Occupy Oakland would be greater if there was no window-breaking during OO marches and protests.

            In general, people at the GA seemed to agree that breaking bank windows is justifiable, but it should not be done when we want the largest turnout possible for a protest.  There was also general agreement that cars and other personal (non-corporate) property should not be damaged for the sake of protesting capitalist and statist practices.

            It was suggested that Occupy Oakland reconsider the diversity of tactics agreement with the intention of adding more specific conditions for its acceptance.

            It was also suggested that banks be targeted for vandalism in response to each report of a drone-strike.

*Excellent notes submitted by Mike W.*