

Occupy CU General Assembly Minutes

Friday, April 20 2012

Champaign Public Library

NEXT MEETING: Friday, April 27, 2012, Champaign Library, Room 222 , 6 – 8 pm

In attendance: Sandra, Ian, Pam, Theresa, Michael, Ya'aqov, Dada

LOGISTICS/AGENDA PROPOSAL

An agenda was presented on the white board and we had a very loose, free-wheeling, but interesting meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

~ There will be an on-campus protest for Flex N' Gate workers and against Khan on 4/26 at noon at Huff Hall, 1206 S. Fourth Street.

~ The Weekly Street Corner Protest for Saturday, 4/21, 2 – 4 p.m., will be at the corner of Broadway and Main Streets.

~ A semester-end performance of the SDaS will take place on April 26th – 27th from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. This is a circus-like event with performances on all manner of topics.

~ On 5/11, CUCPJ will host a forum at the City Building in Urbana at 6 pm about the jail issue. In attendance will be Carol Ammens, community members, as well as citizens near Bloomington who have averted a jail expansion and want to give us information about how they were successful. **THE GA FOR THIS EVENING MAY BE CANCELED TO ACCOMMODATE THE JAIL MEETING.**

NEW BUSINESS

~ Pam and others from the SDaS will record some songs at WEFT in the next week or two.

REPORT ON COMPLETED ACTIONS

~ Theresa reported on the tax protest on 4/17 against the regressive tax system in Illinois. The small but committed group of people gave out all of the fliers they had. Ricky was also interviewed by the television news.

~ Many attended the Mitch Daniels rally on 4/19. Michael said that this could have been a great opportunity for us since there were 5,000 people in attendance. We should think about how we might want to take advantage of things like this in the future. Ian said that it might have been used as coalition building.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Outreach Committee: Chris Evans came to the Outreach meeting and will write up some information on the jail issues and it will be emailed to us. There was also a discussion about the NATO protest. There was also some discussion in the SDaS about how some individuals may participate in the rally (e.g., skits, songs, etc.). There was also a discussion about whether or not to move the GA time. Rachel sent an electronic survey to which not many people responded. Some at the meeting said

that they did not respond because they did not have a preference. Ya'aqov suggested that we should send out an email that informs people of the tentative time change and ask people if they have any preferences. Ian said we may have to think that the issue people have with the GA may be less about the time but more about the purpose of the meeting. Dada felt that the meeting needs to be just 2 hours long and that people need to feel that the time was time well-spent.

Ian reported on the www.occupycu.org website. He said that there are 20 to 30 hits a day. Occasionally there is a big spike. One day there was 700 hits. He has started posting information about events using certain key words so that searches will lead people to the site.

PROPOSALS/OPEN DISCUSSION

There was a discussion about how we might interpret the thumbs down we get as we hoist signs about fair taxes or the group that denied passage of the leafletting agenda item at the town meeting in Champaign. It might be a general negative feeling about the Occupy movement. Who could these individuals be? Ya'aqov suggested that we have a teach-in where we discuss ideas of how we reach people and people's reactions to us. Ian said that perhaps it's a gut reaction to the Occupy "brand" and not the issues.

Pam brought up how we can change our image with the public. Theresa suggested that we put forth the face of our local movement to the public. Michael said that the *News Gazette* will publish anything so feel free to write letters to the editor. The media controls what they say about us so we will have to take control our own image. Ya'aqov suggested that we do things that are new and different so that the media will report on us. Pam said that even though it is not new, music is magical and when people engage in music something can happen. Dada said we need to get the message out over the stereotypes people have of protesters. Ian said there are many types of people who we want to reach. The hippie image will appeal to some. Ian said that is great that we have a multi-media approach: radio, fliers, street corner, web, etc. We are trying in many ways. Ian tries to think of ways to reach people wherever he goes. For example, when he is in a bar, he might use the napkins to write riddles on: what has two Cs and 3 Us? Or he writes Occupy CU. What is missing? You!! Ya'aqov said that we need to rewrite our resumes. Michael said that we need to go TO people and not make them come to us since that limits our reach. Pam said that she sometimes gets angry because we don't want to necessarily change who we are or become too sanitized.

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OCCUPYCU.org <http://occupycu.org>
OCCUPYthe AIR weft.org or occupytheair.blogspot.com OR
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