

Job Action Committee Meeting September 20, 2007

Present: Peter, Paul, Anne, Janis, Jane, Chris S., Christina, Thomas, Rita, Brian, Nita, Alexis, Cynthia, Chris M., Gordon

Media Clarification Committee:

- Guy is the chair of the committee; Christina was attending the meeting on his behalf and as a member of the committee
- The committee checks morning media reports daily and writes clarifications and responses
- The results are then sent to the Coalition Building Committee

Acknowledgement Committee:

- Various pictures from our job action have been made into cards
- Yukiko coordinated some paper heart origami production and these have been added to the cards along with the message "Heartfelt thanks"
- A letter will be inserted into all the cards and all will now be mailed out
- Requests for acknowledgement or thank you cards can be sent to the Union Office
- A request was made to post a list of who cards are being sent to
- Need to consider those who want to remain anonymous

CUPE 391 blog:

- People and committees have been sending information directly to Janis to post to the blog
- Sending information that is "print ready" is very helpful
- Keeping the tone positive and keeping spirits up
- Basically summarizes what has been happening and where, letting people know what we are doing is important and valued
- Janis is off all next week; someone else will be taking responsibility for the blog
- Some discussion ensued about what constitutes picket time
- A reminder that picket time and picket duty need to be done on the picket lines; volunteer time for committees etc. does not count as picket duty unless done on the picket line
- A request was made to blog a summary of the crew talks
- Crew talks tend to be an elaboration of information that is already available on the blog

Coalition Building Committee:

- This group has been doing a lot of background research for use by the Bargaining Committee and others as needed
- Building links and coalitions in the community
- Have produced several documents including the "How We Got Here" sheet, the petition, etc.
- Background research work is mostly complete

Financial Committee:

- People with experience are working on this committee
- Also includes data entry responsibilities, cheque writing etc.
- A reminder that all expense claims and weekly job action report sheets need to be into the office as quickly as possible so that cheques do not need to be rewritten; remember that all cheques are being written by hand and this is very time consuming
- As soon as 20 hours of picket time are complete, send in your job action record
- A suggestion was made at the meeting for a committee focusing on our return to work
- The Coalition Building Committee is working on some research on the experiences and strategies of other locals returning to work after a strike
- Alexis will take the idea for this committee forward

Britannia:

- There have been difficulties getting people to arrive before 8am to set up
- Asking for a commitment for one day per week that people can arrive before 8
- Call the BRI cell phone if you can do on day per week
- It is essential to maintain picket lines at this site, otherwise VSB will go in and open the doors

Strathcona:

- Flying pickets visit STR at least twice a week and CUPE 15 has a permanent picket line at the site

Joe Fortes:

- Need regular deliveries of granola bars
- Suggested t-shirt slogans were given to the JFS picketers to consider; the consensus was that they wanted something a little more edgy
- Picketers have been receiving a lot of support from the high school students

Kerrisdale:

- Also hoping to get more regular deliveries of granola bars and water
- Need new picket signs
- CUPE 15/1004 had good information on the last hot sheet about how mediation and bargaining works
- Hot sheets are for CUPE 391 as well but more specific information for us would be useful
- Hot sheets are linked on the blog but they are hard to find
- Clarification was also requested around where the petitions are going
- Response is they are sent to the Union Office where they are copied; originals are filed at the office and copies are sent to LMT and City Hall
- Copies of the petitions have been forwarded to the VPL Board
- Petitions are very important and are having influence so encourage people to continue collecting signatures

Champlain:

- Pickets are Monday to Thursday from 8-5; going very well
- Now have an information booth as well
- Getting petitions signed around the mall and support from the community is strong

Renfrew:

- New picket times at this location are also going well; Monday to Thursday, 9-1
- To increase visibility, picketers perform the occasional "Ruckus on Renfrew" to get honks and support

South Hill:

- A picket line was set up on Wednesday from 9-1 and the same will happen next Wednesday
- Petitions were signed

Kitsilano:

- Job Action Coordinators will be going out to KITS next week to provide some support and encouragement
- Need for more consistent picket captains at the site

Flying Pickets:

- Continue to visit various sites from 9-1 on Tuesdays and Thursdays

- Will let Janis or blog coordinator know the meeting place each week so that other members can join them

Bike Pickets:

- Continue to travel the city Monday to Thursday with an epic journey every Wednesday
- Usually meet at BRI at 9am and leave from there; watch the blog for any exceptions
- There is a “no one left behind” philosophy for the bike pickets, including on the long Wednesday rides, so encourage individuals from other picket lines to join in if interested

Other Business:

- A heated space will be arranged now for Central as the days and evenings get cooler.
- Letters are being sent out to all who have booked events in the rooms at CEN or the promenade, asking for their support
- Noised complaints have been received at the KIT and CHA sites
- Picket captains are asked to consider ways to manage large numbers of people such as sending out flying pickets or getting people to take off their signs and go out to collect petition signatures
- We will be maintaining our picket lines for Word on the Street and the organizers are aware of this
- Word on the Street will be moved onto the streets around CEN

There will be another Job Action Committee Meeting next Thursday at 9am at the Union Office.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00am