

Original Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA)

The interim Board of Directors of OANA came to together at Ted Siff's house on Monday 20 July 2009. The meeting began just after 6 PM. In attendance were Ted Siff, Ben Procter, James Powell, Mark Hozbach, Susan Sullivan and Blake Tollett.

The Sims family (Carol and Bob and son Jonathan), the owners of **900 Rio Grande** came by and visited with us about their proposed rezoning of the property from **GO-H** (General Office-Offices and selected commercial uses predominantly serving community or city wide needs such as medical or professional offices-Historic) to **LR-H** (Neighborhood Commercial-Shopping facilities that provide limited business service and office facilities to the residents of the neighborhood such as consumer repair services, food sales and pet services-Historic). They have owned the property for five years, and in the past it has been used lawyers offices and as an art gallery. With the help of Phoebe Allen, they rehabilitated the structure and had it zoned historic. Their current use of the property is as a tea emporium where they have a mail order business and some limited on site retail of their product, in bulk and by the cup. They are seeking a rezoning of the property not only to conform their use under the Land Development Code (LDC), but they are also contemplating an expansion of the retail component to include outdoor gatherings combined with a mobile food cart. This would be a limited food service use with no on site commercial kitchen. They anticipate adding some tables and chairs to the grounds and will perhaps have the option of entertaining live music. They are scheduled to go before the Historic Landmark Commission of Monday 27 July 2009 and tentatively a land commission on 11 August 2009. We had some questions for them with special focus on the type and focus of the contemplated outdoor events, specifically hours and days of operation, parking and the live music aspects of events. We deferred a formal decision on the matter until a date certain hearing is set and noticed, and thanked the Sims for coming by and talking with us. Subsequently Blake circulated the following email to the Board:

From: Blake Tollett <blake.tollett@earthlink.net>
Date: July 22, 2009 12:27:35 PM CDT
To: Ted Siff <ted@legaldigest.com>
Cc: Mark Holzbach <mholzbach@alum.mit.edu>, Susan Morrison <susan_morrison@lawyer.com>, Susan Sullivan <susan.sullivan@co.travis.tx.us>, Albert Stowell <AStowell@aol.com>
Subject: GO/LR

OANA Board Members:

minimum lot size
GO-5,750 sf
LR-5,750 sf

maximum building coverage:
GO-60%
LR-50%

minimum lot width
GO-50 feet
LR-50 feet

maximum impervious coverage:
GO-80%
LR-80%

maximum height
GO-60 feet
LR-40 feet or 3 stories

Maximum floor to area ratio (FAR):
GO- 1:1
LR- .5:1

minimum setbacks:
front yard:
GO-15 feet
LR-25 feet
street side yard:
GO-15 feet
LR-15 feet
interior side yard:
GO-5 feet
LR-none
rear yard:
GO-5 feet
LR-not required

Our next order of business was a meet-and-greet with **Jamie Lagarde**, the current president of the **Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association (DANA)**. Jamie took office in February of this year and he can be contacted through <www.downtownaustin.org>.

OANA and DANA share a common border and have some overlapping jurisdiction. From DANA's point of view, we share common goals:

- 1) **The Downtown Plan**-the OANA district is designated as the Northwest District under this plan. We talked about the historic fabric of the area along with the nearby Warehouse District and that we need to ensure the continuance of both.
- 2) Historically DANA has been focused on parks and open space. Of special concern is Wooldridge Park just south of the Courthouse. DANA (and OANA) would very much like to see this park returned to some of its historical beauty and utilization as a civic gathering place. The ongoing efforts to revitalize the Shoal Creek greenbelt were also discussed.
- 3) The **Downtown Living Tour (DLT)** is the primary fundraiser for DANA and it will be on 11 October this year. There was discussion that in the future some residences in OANA might be added to the event.
- 4) The dissemination of relevant information to members and interested parties of both organizations through the Web was discussed, and both organizations are in the process of revising/updating their individual sites.
- 5) The definition of and applicability of residential density in the downtown area was discussed, with some emphasis on "affordable" units.

6) We discussed generally traffic concerns of all types noting the proposed curtailment of some Dillo routes and the current frustration over train service to the downtown area.

The interim board members questioned Jamie about DANA's position on the apparently ever expanding downtown entertainment district as it relates to off site audible music, live or otherwise. There are some especially troublesome venues along West 6th Street whose good times spill over and trespass upon the quality of life of some longtime residents to their north. Jamie talked about some of the restrictive covenants and conditions placed on new music venues that have recently opened or expanded operations in close proximity to the residential towers and he seemed amenable to providing assistance to some of our members that are experiencing difficulties in getting the City to examine their concerns.

It was recognized by all that in many areas OANA and DANA can and should work in mutual collaboration to address common concerns. If we can keep our membership informed of the relevant issues concerning the neighborhoods and focus that knowledge into cohesive action, together we should be able to achieve at least some of the outcomes desired.

Thank you for coming to visit with us Jamie.

Our next order of business was a discussion of the **Membership Recruitment Flyer**. We reviewed Ted's latest version, and except for very minor corrections, the form was approved. We then volunteered for specific areas to personally cover:

Ted-10th and 11th Streets from Guadalupe to West Avenue
Susan-7th and 8th from Guadalupe to West Avenue except 706 West Avenue
Mark-706 west Avenue and the Nakona
Blake-12th and 13th from Guadalupe to West Avenue
Ben-14th and 15th from Guadalupe to Lamar
James-9th from Guadalupe to West Avenue

We next discussed the newly formed **Austin Urban Coalition**. The commission is open to public participation at its regularly scheduled meetings. Ted has volunteered and the interim board has accepted his representation on behalf of OANA.

It being after 8PM, and this interim secretary having a previous commitment, these minutes end.

Blake Tollett