

A general membership meeting of the Original Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA) was held on Wednesday 20 January 2010 at the Regency Apartment Community Room. Our President Ted brought us to order around 6:04 PM.

Before beginning official business, Ted introduced Dan Ross, the owner of the historic Allan House on the corner of West 11th and San Antonio Street. Dan spoke to us about a reading project his sister, Melanie White, a teacher at Pease Elementary School, was trying to implement. They need funding for a computer based reading assessment program and Dan encouraged us to go to the school's website at <http://www.austischools.org/campus/pease/index.html> to learn more. Mark is going to put a link on our Citisite web page.

Administrative Reports

Membership-113 with one new member just prior to the meeting
Treasury-approximately \$1617 on hand

We then heard from the heads of the current standing committees. For these notes, I will list each committee and its chair, outline its 2010 descriptive charter, and report any ongoing activity.

Planning & Zoning, Chair: Al Stowell.

Planning and Zoning Committee/Purpose and Goals 2010
Albert Stowell, Chair
Members: Blake Tollett, Mark Holzbach, Perry Lorenz, and Rick Hardin

The purpose of this committee is to provide a forum that will review and inform our OANA community of planning and zoning issues that affect OANA members. Our goal would be to try and find solutions to and encourage the consensus of any zoning, transportation, or planning issues. We will encourage every OANA member be involved in this process.

Government Relations, Chair: John Horton

Government Relations Committee/Purpose and Goals 2010
John Horton, Chair

The primary goal of this committee is to establish communication and interaction with the governmental leaders and departments that have relevance to OANA. The primary concern is Travis County since the County Courthouse and Criminal Justice Complex are physically located in the neighborhood.

The next goal is to voice specific concerns of the neighborhood to the appropriate personnel within the appropriate government entity and work on solutions.

Issues relevant to OANA:

- Indigent outreach in the neighborhood

- City of Austin Bike Boulevard
- Crime and trash concerns

NOTE: John reports that his committee will be meeting with the Travis County folks the first week of February to discuss their possible expansion of their campus. He will also be meeting with the City of Austin folks in early February to discuss the proposed bicycle boulevard.

Historic Preservation, Chair: Al Stowell

Historic Preservation Committee/Purpose and Goals 2010

Albert Stowell, Chair

Members Rick Hardin, Mark Holzbach, and Bridgette Beinecke

Historic preservation committee would seek to preserve, conserve and protect specific buildings that are of a contributing historic significance. These historic structures can provide the foundation for the new development of the non-contributing buildings and other developable non-contributing properties.

This committee will encourage urban redevelopment and urban conservation, while maintaining the remaining historic structures. We will work to find common ground with the new and old so that we can enhance and add variety to our everyday surroundings with new development, while at the same time conserving the remaining contributing historic structures. We will encourage adaptive new uses for the historic structures so that we can blend the old historic structures with the needs of new and modern developments. Historic properties contribute to our community, and are tangible evidence of our history that can be a solid foundation that will encourage and contribute to our new downtown. OANA is a unique community with diverse and exciting opportunities. The Historic preservation committee will work to find and encourage those new opportunities while preserving our neighborhood character.

Parks and Open Space, Chair: Mark Holzbach

Parks and Open Space Committee/Purpose and Goals 2010

Mark Holzbach, Chair

The primary purpose of this committee is to oversee and coordinate OANA's plans and efforts to restore and preserve the parks and open green spaces such as Wooldridge Park, Duncan Park, and the Shoal Creek Greenway. As the neighborhood has evolved from residential to commercial uses, many of its yards, and some entire lots, have been paved to meet parking requirements for commercial uses. The loss of green space erodes an important part of the neighborhood's character, and undermines the preservation of the tree canopy.

Committee goals:

- Build the up committee membership to at least four people through networking and holding community events

- Develop a Parks and Open Space strategic plan
- Encourage increased local community use of our neighborhood parks
- Encourage volunteering time and donating money

- Plan and hold community events such as March 6th, 2010 “It’s My Park Day” event with community participatory activities planned - find sponsors & raise money to support the events
- Discuss and implement ideas likely to result in improved park maintenance and increased neighborhood usage and enjoyment of the parks
- Set up special designated funds to support OANA parks within the Austin Parks Foundation – solicit donations to these funds
- Oversee and coordinate sub-committees
- Conduct annual evaluation of activities

Key Deliverables: information posted on the website

Members: Currently just the chair – plan to recruit three additional members

Seeking new members that offer the following resources:

- Time, interest, and enthusiasm in supporting OANA
- Expertise in parks and open space issues
- Local sponsors who are willing to volunteer work and make donations (possibly in-kind)
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Challenges facing this committee in executing its purpose:

- Apathy & Inertia regarding park maintenance (“The city will take care of it.”)
- Potential for conflict between strict preservation advocates and those who would like to see new development in the parks

Quality of Life/Social Order, Chair: Kevin Williamson

The Quality of life and Social Order goals for 2010 will include:

- To foster good communication between Residences and Businesses within our boundaries;
- Work with appropriate agencies regarding homelessness within the neighborhood;
- Work with appropriate agencies regarding graffiti removal and abatement within the neighborhood;
- Work with neighborhood association members to make clear what the law requires and work with businesses and agencies regarding the impact of noise within the neighborhood; and
- Report issues relating to Quality of Life/Social Order to Original Austin NA members.

Membership & Marketing, Chair: Mark Holzbach

The primary purpose of this committee is to maintain and increase OANA membership and create opportunities and get the word out regarding any opportunities for neighborhood community involvement.

Committee goals:

- Increase committee size to at least two people
- Develop a membership and marketing strategic plan.
- Represent OANA to the community in ways that will increase visibility and membership
- Bring the OANA membership to 200 or more
- Oversee and coordinate sub-committees
- Conduct annual evaluation of activities

Key Deliverables: messaging documents posted on the website and possibly sent out via direct mail

Members: Currently just the chair – plan to recruit one or two additional members

Seeking new members that offer the following resources:

- Time, interest, and enthusiasm in supporting OANA
- Expertise in building community and awareness (e.g. social networking)
- Local business sponsors who are willing to make donations (possibly in-kind) in support of membership events.

Challenges facing this committee in executing its purpose:

- Increasing the priority of OANA neighborhood issues in the minds of its property owners and residents
- The need for members to feel represented and mutual trust with a transparently run organization

Social Events and Camaraderie, Chair: JuanPablo Wright

The primary goal of this committee is to build a stronger community between the residents and property owners within the OANA boundaries. As the neighborhood grows and changes it is vital to host events fostering a spirit of community between the people who make up the face of the neighborhood. The events planned by this committee are meant to introduce neighbors to one another and provide a more casual setting to discuss issues relevant to the community.

We then went on to discuss proposed changes in the bylaws. First up was a general housekeeping change, specifically Article III paragraph 2 where the adopted bylaws reference the election of three (3) board members for 1-year terms and four (4) board members for 2-year terms when it was intended and should be four board members for 1-year terms and five board members for 2-year terms. The motion to so change the bylaws was brought by Al and seconded by JuanPablo. In discussion, member Susan Morrison pointed out that in some versions of the bylaws the organization's name is still referenced as "Old" rather than "Original", so a friendly amended was suggested and accepted to just correct any further obvious typos. The motion as amended passed unanimously.

NOTE: We deferred until the next Board of Directors meeting on 9 February 2010 the official adoption of these above outlined Committee Charters and goals for 2010.

We then had a discussion on whether to keep the neighborhood association boundaries as the City officially notices them (15th Street, Guadalupe Street, the lake, Lamar Boulevard) or to change the southern boundary to the southern edge of West 7th Street. During the general discussion, amongst other things, the April 2009 meeting of OANA was discussed. On motion by Al Stowell and seconded by Dan Ross, the members voted to keep the organization's boundaries as the City currently recognizes.

Mark and JuanPablo discussed a potential Spring Social for OANA, perhaps tied into the 6 March "Its My Parks Day", and will get back to the board.

Having accomplished the published agenda, we adjourned.

Blake Tollett, Secretary
OANA