

Original Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA)

The Board of Directors (BoD) of OANA came together for our regularly scheduled second Tuesday of the month meeting on 9 February 2010. Due to scheduling conflicts we met at 2 PM rather than 4 PM and at Al's home rather than the Regency meeting room. Board members in attendance were Al, John, Mark and Blake with Ted leading the discussion.

The minutes from the BoD meeting of 01-11-10, on motion by Al with a second by John, were approved. The minutes from the general membership meeting of 01-20-10, with discussed and agreed additions of Committee Chair Charters with goals for 2010, on motion by Blake and second by Ted, were approved.

On motion by Al, second by John, the following reimbursements were approved:

To Mark for his cost in sending out the mailer postcard announcing the general membership meeting and soliciting memberships, \$433.92. To Ted for the graphic design work on our new OANA logo, \$42.76.

Ted is going to email the various committee heads and ask for any projected costs going forward through the rest of this year. With that information, and in conjunction with our treasurer, he will formulate a yearly projected budget.

We then discussed some proposed letterhead designs and settled on the roof design in black and white.

Committee Reports

NOTE: VIA email we had reviewed and discussed the various committee charters and attendant committee goals for 2010 (see the minutes from the general membership meeting of 01-20-10) and at this meeting we unanimously approved said charters and goals, with some minor modifications. We then discussed what inherent powers each committee chair has (I.E.-what a committee can be empowered to do autonomously and what needs to be brought back to the full board for discussion and ratification). We honestly did not come to a definitive answer. This is going to have to be judgment call in situations in which there is no convenient way to bring the matter to the full board. Of course, an individual member of the board, in their individual capacity, can speak as they please.

Planning and Zoning

We reviewed the proposed letter to Schlosser Development re: their project at West 6th and Bowie and voted to go forward (see minutes of the Board meeting on 01-11-10). We then reviewed the proposed letter to the City re: the Bicycle Boulevard and the map delineating Rio Grande Street as our preferred route. Al and the City generated the map that calls for no separate bike lanes or on street parking reductions. Per John's suggestion, Ted will incorporate the map into the proposed letter and then circulate the product to the OANA board. The object here is to get all the board members to sign on. As one of the first documents generated by the newly

refocused neighborhood association, it is important that we act with a united front. The letter will be sent to the City as well as the various self identified stakeholder groups that have expressed opinions on a project the majority of which will occur within our neighborhood boundaries. A big congratulation to Al for his work with City staff on this issue, and Al and Ted are to be thanked for their work in presenting our position to our neighbors along Rio Grande Street. NOTE: A copy of this letter, with accompanying map, once approved, will be posted on our website.

Government Relations

John and Ted have met with the County folks regarding their proposed campus expansion. This was basically an introduction meeting where contacts were established, an upshot being the County wants to join OANA (qualified as a neighborhood property owner). Ted then discussed the intricacies of county government in Texas. This is not a centralized government form but rather a many-headed coalition of which the Commissioners' Court is just one party. John and Ted also met with Commissioner Eckhart and came away with the impression that she and her fellow Commissioners were sympathetic to the neighborhood's concern about potential further expansion to the west. The proposed 700 Lavaca Street purchase by the County was discussed and by motion a letter supporting the proposed purchase was proposed. We see the 700 Lavaca Street purchase as a big win for the neighborhood. Once purchased, and as space becomes available, this project will accommodate Travis County's administrative office needs going forward many years. An immediately felt impact will be the opening of the parking garage at the building for County employees. Regardless of the difference between the final negotiated sales price and appraisal value, this deal will be seen to make economic sense and it will reuse a building already in place.

We then discussed the recent action by ACC Rio Grande Campus in purchasing three properties (1209 Rio Grande Street, 1215 Rio Grande Street and 605 West 13th Street) for their land bank. It was noted that when John wrote his charter and goals that there was no mention of ACC and AISD, and by consent, the Government Relations Charter was so modified to include those entities.

Historic Preservation

Rick and Al have been meeting and have another meeting set with the City's Historic Preservation Officer Steve Sadowsky. Their discussions have been focusing on whether a defined Local Historic District (LHD) in our area is appropriate. Inclusion in a LHD is generally voluntary (or should be) in that property owners' rights are very much restricted by the designation. There is some question as to how LHD boundaries are set and how much gerrymandering is allowed. Our people are on a fact-finding mission and will report back to the board in March. Mark suggested that we might first look at becoming a National Register Historic District (NRHD). An NRHD imposes few developmental restrictions on property owners, and is a good first step towards a LHD in that the compiled historical data necessary to establish a NRHD should be transferable to meet the requirements of a LHD.

Parks and Open Space

As for neighborhood parks, Mark is currently focused on Wooldridge. This upcoming March 6th is "Its My Park Day" and Mark will be joining with the folks from Friends of Wooldridge to spruce up the gazebo's paint put some mulch out around the trees. It was noted that the old-line architectural firm Page-Sutherland-Page donated \$2,500 to the Friends of Wooldridge to help defray the replacement cost for redoing the gazebo's floor down the road. Ted will email to the OANA membership the info about the upcoming "Its My Park Day".

Membership and Marketing

Compliments to Mark on the membership solicitation postcard he sent out. We revisited the general membership criteria but decided to not change the current guidelines restricting membership to those owning property within our boundaries or residing within our boundaries. We discussed the idea of having the board hold its monthly meetings in various locations other than the Regency's meeting room as a way to generate interest in the association. We didn't really come to a decision mainly due to a notice issue. We were in agreement that upcoming OANA social events should be held in various locations such as the meeting rooms of the various towers and perhaps even associations. These meetings should have "meaty hooks" such as a discussion of the proposed bicycle boulevard with drumming up new memberships not necessarily being the focus.

Before we adjourned, we discussed the Allan House matter:

SO-2010-0037M

Project Name: Allan House

Project Location: 1104 San Antonio Street

Project Description: Outdoor Music Venue

Applicant/Owner: Allan-Thrasher, LLC

The City of Austin has received an application for an outdoor music venue permit at this location. This application does not require a public hearing but is considered for approval or denial by the City's accountable official.

We have been following this matter for some time, and once the permit is issued, they will still need to go to the Planning Commission for a change of use permit. There is also a question of there being too much impervious coverage on the site. By motion of Al seconded by John, we voted unanimously that OANA opposes any change in the current land use status of 1104 San Antonio Street (the Allan House) until the previously mutually agreed upon conditions of a Board of Adjustment granted parking variance are met. The current land use does not allow for outdoor entertainment.

Ted and Al also spoke to us briefly about upcoming hearings regarding sound ordinance permits for the Star Bar and Opal Divines.

We ran out of time and thus adjourned.

Blake Tollett, Secretary