

Original Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA)

11 May 2010

The Board of Directors of OANA began its regularly scheduled second Tuesday of the month meeting at The Regency Apartment fairly close to our announced start time of 4 PM. Those Board members in attendance were Ted, Perry, Albert, JuanPablo, Mark, John and Blake. No one came to visit with us and we had no outside presentations. We had hoped that Terri Rhyan, the manager of The Regency would be able to briefly drop by for a meet and greet but JuanPablo explained she had got tied up on another matter.

The minutes of the last board meeting on 04-13-2010 were reviewed and accepted with Perry having to abstain as he was not able to join us that day.

We then moved to **Committee Reports**. NOTE: Below are the committee reports as submitted to Ted prior to this meeting. Our Board policy is for the committee chairs to submit their reports in advance of the scheduled meeting, and the Board in turn will have reviewed the reports and be ready to discuss them. The idea is to compress the meeting somewhat, and this seems to work although the reports are generating good general discussions.

Membership and Marketing Committee, Mark Holzbach, Chair

I have been regularly maintaining the OANA Citicite website, updating it with news articles and reporting items of OANA interest as I find them. I notice that a few of the other OANA board members have posted some items since our last meeting, and I would like to continue them to use this website to help transform it into a lively forum. I need to remind people that they must keep the trailing slash when they type in the URL: <http://www.citicite.com/oana/>

I sent out a request to Forrest Preece at the "360" to get the word out for new members. He referred me to 360 board member, Stacy Paulson, who will bring this request up at the next 360 board meeting on 5/10/10.

I asked Rich Bailey – former Mayor's aid to Will Wynn, to request Will's help in recruiting OANA members residing at Austin City Lofts. Rich said he forwarded the message, but I haven't received any reply from Will. Rich said Will had been lying very low since leaving the Mayor's office.

I sent out an email request to Grayson Norwood at the AMLI downtown to get the word out for new members.

I sent out an email request to Terri Rhyan at the Regency apartments to get the word out for new members.

I have sent out an email request to Nokonah resident Gail Niederhofer downtown to get the word out for new members.

I have sent out an email request to daniel.woodroffe@gmail.com and the yahoo group for the friends of Republic Square to get the word out for new members (and to request their adding me to their mailing list).

Ted had conversation with the “Mayor” of Spring condos and will try to determine a date for a presentation there regarding Shoal Creek Parkway. I have asked Ted to send him an email request downtown to get the word out for new members.

We are waiting for Kevin Williamson to pick a date for a social event at Star Bar in early July.

I have reached out to the 9th Street BMX group (<http://ninthstreetbmx.com/>) to try to get to know them.

Discussion: Mark tells us he has been circulating a membership flyer targeting the condos/apartments in our southern quadrant. The flyer is a continuing restatement of ongoing current events and a description of the association. Albert and Mark are going to look at Paypal as a means of accepting online memberships and donations. We generally discussed lining up more social events for our target residents as a means of membership recruiting. The proposed Star Bar fundraiser was discussed with a date of sometime at the end of June or early July.

Parks & Open Space Committee, Mark Holzbach, Chair

I have spoken with Erin Harrell of the Khabele School about the possibility of a Khabele staff member becoming a “point person” (sub-committee chair) in charge of Duncan Park or Shoal Creek Greenspace issues. She indicated Khabele staff wouldn’t likely have the time because they are understaffed and juggle too many responsibilities. She offered her help to identify OANA Khabele parents (with residences or offices within OANA boundaries). I will try to make a prioritized list of “stakeholders” with properties near Duncan, Shoal Creek, etc. and approach them one at a time.

Michael McGill, head of “Friends of Wooldridge Square: is helping me to publicize the May 15th 2 PM – 4 PM performance in Wooldridge Square Park’s Bandstand, by the Rude Mechs “Grrl Action” program for teenage girls featuring a performance, a fashion show, and sculpture on display. A long while ago, I had inquired about the “Cinco de Mayo” event usually held at Wooldridge, and Michael had been told that it would move to the Mexican American Culture Center this year. Many of us received a puzzling email from Travis County’s Leslie Strickland informing us that it would be held in Wooldridge Square Park on Friday, May 7th. I quickly put up an event notice on OANA’s Citicite events page, and I assume Michael McGill is promoting it on the Wooldridge Square Park Facebook page. OANA board members are encouraged to befriend Wooldridge Square Park on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/wooldridgesquarepark>

Michael has been trying to keep me updated with status on Austin Parks Foundation attempt to clarify issues with CoA Parks and Recreation Department (PARD). Michael, Melissa Barry (DAA), and I are trying to get PARD to keep us updated on planned events in the park so we can let others know and increase involvement & attendance.

Discussion: Not much except that Mark is commended for his continuing work on both of the committees he chairs.

Historic Preservation Committee, Albert Stowall, Chair

National Register Historic District proposal:

April 14th: Meeting with Charles Peveto. Charles works for the State of Texas Historic Commission as an Architectural Historian. Although Charles does not live OANA's boundaries he is very interested in creating a historic district for OANA. Charles has a vast amount of experience in historic research/ preservation and is certified to survey historic properties. Charles thinks that it is important for OANA to do a new historic survey that would be beneficial to help create a National Register Historic District. He was very well informed and is interested in helping OANA develop a historic preservation guideline. We had a good frank discussion on how to define historic character, design standards, property rights, re-development issues, and zoning problems. He clarified why he thought that a new survey needed to be done. He explained that since the last survey was done in 1984 this older survey would leave much of what he considers historic stock at risk for redevelopment. The old survey only includes the properties that were fifty years old in 1984 (built 50 years prior to 1984 or back to 1935). A new current survey would include properties built prior to 1960. Charles is very interested in voluntarily helping OANA create a new survey so that he could include more of the properties as historic. Those built prior to 1960. I asked whether or not we could use the 1984 survey to help lay a foundation or starting point. I suggested to Charles that it would be better to start a dialog with the stakeholders so as to find property owners who would voluntarily agree to start a pre survey planning process. I asked whether or not Charles would agree that this voluntary process would be less controversial since everyone that was listed as contributing in 1984 might be more willing to participate. He commented that there would not be any negatives in doing a new survey.

(REFERENCE NOTE-The Board discussed the very distinct differences between a National Register Historic District (NRHD) and a Local Historic District (LHD) at our last meeting in April. The notes from that meeting reflect those differences, but a shorthand version is that a NRHD does not unduly burden the inherent property rights of a property. It would not be as restrictive as a LHD but would burden property owners with an extra public hearing for any work or changes to the structures exterior. We are hoping to meet the neighborhood association's preservation goals with voluntary commitments to preservation and by encouraging zoning changes by property owners to allow residential use).

April 16: Meeting with Phoebe Allen and Bridgette Beinecke. They are proposing that OANA hire them to do a new historic survey. Phoebe Allen has just completed a historic survey for Judges Hill. She has a projected cost proposal for OANA of \$12-15K for inventorying 100 structures.

May 4: DANA board meeting. Several of the DANA board members expressed a very determined interest of doing a new survey of OANA's properties. They had been ill informed that the bulldozers were lining up to demolish our neighborhood for redevelopment. I tried to assure them that was not even a remote possibility and asked for the DANA board not to take any actions at this time and to try to have a reasonable understanding of the issues OANA is working on. They want to have Phoebe Allen and Susan Harris come and explain historic preservation.

Discussion: A general discussion of Albert's report ensued. He told us he has been told that an electronic version of the 1984 historic survey exists, but the trick is to find it. We discussed whether Rio Grande Street could be designated as an historic boulevard although further research may be necessary to determine what such a designation entails. It would be nice to restore the thinned mature tree canopy along the street. Albert reported that the City's Historic Preservation Officer Steve Sadowsky did some research on the neighborhood in anticipation of the building of the ACC garage and he has asked Steve for a copy of same. There is excitement on the board about adding properties to our OANA website. City Council Member Riley left us a good foundation to work from.

Government Relations Committee, John Horton, Chair

On April 22nd I attended the Travis County Central Campus Master Plan meeting held at the Commissioners Court. This meeting was specifically arranged for the neighbors of the Travis County campus and was lightly attended. The only other member of OANA that was there was Michael McGinnis. The purpose of the meeting was to receive neighborhood input regarding the TC Master Plan. This was one of many such meetings with different interest groups, and a Public Listening Session, open to the public, will be held on May 8th at 10:00 am. At this point TC is trying to gather as much input from many different stakeholders to help them develop a Central Campus Master Plan. It seems like the primary need for TC is an expansion of the civil courtroom space. They have expressed that they need a civil courts building and because the courts have special space requirement it is difficult if not practical to combine them with other offices. The biggest challenge for the county is "where" would a new building go; this is a challenge because of Capitol View Corridor (CVC) restrictions that affect so much of the county's property in the TC Campus area. It is important that the neighborhood stay involved with this issue because anything TC does will have an effect on us.

On May 4th Ted Siff and I met with Larry Schooler, City of Austin Public Information Office and Steve Grassfield, City of Austin Transportation Regulatory Manager. The primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss and "get the neighborhood feelings" toward our current street parking management in the neighborhood. Steve's office manages the parking controls for the City and through his office, metered parking time limits, rates, fines, and hours and days of operation are coordinated. Ted and I related that we did not see any big problems regarding the street parking at this point but we would discuss the issue with the OANA BOD and get back with him any input. An example of how Steve is trying to help in the area is they recently increased the maximum parking limit time in the courthouse area to five hours from three hours to accommodate people going to court. The primary point we wanted to make to Steve and Larry is that metered parking should only serve the purpose of "turning over" the parking so our

clients and visitors can find adequate parking. Management of the metered parking should never be based on revenue maximization.

Discussion: Together the Board revisited the May 4th meeting with the City concerning metered parking parameters in the neighborhood. After discussion with emphasis on what the residents experience we felt charging for metered space on nights and weekends needs to be reexamined. JuanPablo related that many of the tenants at The Regency need parking at night and on the weekends. The most notable pressure on the neighborhood streets during these periods comes from the entertainment venues along West 6th Street. The patrons of these establishments that have perhaps overindulged may view the “free” parking they secured prior to their visit as encouragement for them to seek an alternate mode of transportation when they leave the district. As for the proposed Travis County campus expansion, as John reminds us again, we need to keep an eye on the process. There apparently have been some in-house charrets the results of which will be made public around mid summer.

Planning & Zoning Committee, Albert Stowall, Chair

Allan House:

The Allan House’s March 16th new application for a Temporary Use Permit was automatically and administratively granted by staff for six months and will expire on September 16th 2010.

Bike Boulevard Progress Report:

I am glad to report that there has been progress on the Bicycle Boulevard. On April 20 I met with DANA's Urban Living Team to share the progress on the bike boulevard and received their support. On behalf of OANA I addressed each of the following COA commissions to state our support of the Staff's recommendation: April 21st Downtown Commission, April 26th Design Commission, April 27th Planning Commission. All three Commissions were unanimous in their approval of the Staff recommendations. Additionally the Downtown Austin Alliance Mobility and the Council Streetscapes subcommittees unanimously supported the Staff Recommendation. Hopefully DAA is going to officially support the staff recommendations as well. On April 30th I met with the project manager Annick Beaudet, project engineer Jason Fialkoff and their new boss Gary Schatz. I met with them to restate our support for their recommendations and to encourage them to continue to work with OANA as they finish the final design work on the engineering of the bike boulevard. On May 11th at the Urban Transportation Commission will be the final chance to publicly voice support for the bike boulevard. June 10th the City Council will be briefed on the plan but the Council will not be required to take action on the plan and there will be no open forum for comment from the public. Luckily the final staff proposal incorporated much of OANA's proposals. Continued support and supervision of the progress of the Rio Grande option need to be advocated by all of us to make sure that the City won't get sidetracked or diverted from the current proposal.

Discussion: Accepted as reported.

In other business, the impending loss from the neighborhood of JuanPablo and his family was accepted. After extended discussion, John was tasked with contacting a potential replacement and we await her response.

The recently reported plans by Cirrus Logic to purchase the land noticed as 800 West 6th Street (or 600 West Avenue) was discussed. We all welcome them into the neighborhood, but we would also like to see some sort of residential component in their plans, It was suggested that we might encourage them in this, even something along the lines of in house corporate housing. Ted will mull over sending them a letter.

There has been a request from the Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association (DANA) that our two boards get together socially. Sounds fun.

Perry's participation on the citizen's task force making recommendations on the upcoming City Transportation Bond proposal was discussed. These monies will be used for a full spectrum of mobility projects some of which will be located in our neighborhood.

My notes end, so we must have adjourned.

Blake Tollett, Secretary
OANA