

Original Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA)  
9 June 2010

The Board of Directors (BoD) of OANA came together at 4 PM on Wednesday 9 June 2010 at the Regency Apartments. Members in attendance were Ted Siff, Perry Lorenz, John Horton, Blake Tollett, Mark Holzbach, Albert Stowell and Christie Nalle. We of course miss the presence of JuanPablo Wright but are very welcoming to new board member Christie. John had spoken very highly of her at our last meeting in May, and she will be an asset to the Board.

There were no visiting association members or guests.

The May 2010 Board meeting minutes as revised, on motion from Albert and second from Perry, were unanimously adopted and Mark was requested to post them at our Citicite electronic page and on our OANA website. Mark suggested that the Draft minutes also be posted onto our website and Citicite as they become available. We agreed to that with the proviso that rough Draft minutes are sent around the Board initially for comments and corrections.

Albert gave us a Treasurer's report, and we have \$1,370.53 in our account. The Board discussed asking association members for additional donations to the treasury beyond their \$10 yearly dues. If for no other reason, the Board is aware of many worthy projects planned and ongoing in the neighborhood that could benefit from a small cash infusion. Ted is going to send out an email solicitation.

The next order of business was the discussion of the beforehand-submitted committee reports.

#### **Government Relations Committee, John Horton, Chair**

On May 13th, I attended the Travis County Central Campus Master Plan meeting held at the Commissioners Court. This was an open meeting for all interested parties in the TC plans. The room seemed to be mainly attended by judges and attorneys, as well as, representatives of the Austin Bar Association. The TC consultants, Broaddus & Assoc. made an introductory presentation, primarily pointing out the needs of TC in the central campus. An interesting estimate is that they have anticipated the growth of the TC space needs will increase 110% by the year 2035. Since TC has purchased the 700 Lavaca building, their office space needs should be covered for some time. Evidently, the most important need of TC is a civil courts building. As the neighborhood, we need to stay engaged in this process and make our concerns and recommendations known to the Commissioners. An overview of the plan is available at this site:

[http://www.co.travis.tx.us/facilities/central\\_campus\\_study/overview.asp](http://www.co.travis.tx.us/facilities/central_campus_study/overview.asp)

#### **Parks and Open Space Committee, Mark Holzbach, Chair**

Following up on my past report: The May 15th Rude Mechs performance in Wooldridge Square I mentioned in the last report was cancelled due to heavy rain earlier in the day. The "Cinco de Mayo" event went well according to Leslie Strickland of Travis County. I've been asking Michael McGill to help me document the duties of heading up a park committee (as he is). My

thinking is that having a list of duties like this would help in recruiting committee chairs to head a Duncan Park, Shoal Creek Greenway, and possibly House Park committee chair.

**Wooldridge Square** “Friends of Wooldridge Square” (FOWS) (lead by Michael McGill) held a meeting on May 24th, and among other things, there has been encouraging progress with getting the bandstand structure repaired and painted. I will post the FOWS meeting news, agenda, etc. in the OANA Citicite forum dedicated to Parks and Greenspace. I’ve posted the upcoming Wooldridge Square Juneteenth celebration (June 18th, 11 AM to 2 PM) on the events page of the OANA Citicite forum.

I have been inquiring through Michael about how I can find out what events are scheduled in the OANA parks, publicize it, and also encourage more neighborhood activity and use of the park by clarifying the park reservation process. This issue has been rising in priority prompting the Austin Parks Foundation (Charlie McCabe) and Downtown Austin Association (Melissa Barry) to hold a May 19th meeting with the Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) to discuss measures to improve the reservation process and event publicity. PARC asked APF/DAA for a proposal for a process, outputs and a more rational fee structure amongst other ordinance changes. Sara Hensley, Parks Director, is supportive (it's one of the first things she noted when taking her job a year ago) and will advocate it to City Council that then would have to adopt. It appears this will take time to propose, negotiate, and then implement.

Charles Peveto’s co-worker at the Texas Historic Commission, Bob Brinkman, is experienced in recording personal recollections/oral histories. We are planning to schedule a visit with Forrest Preece, Sr. (99 years old) and his wife Florence (90 years old), to record their oral recollections of Wooldridge Square Park. This will be made available online. We also discussed the idea of printing note cards with historic photos of Wooldridge Square Park and selling them with the profits benefiting the park’s upkeep.

**Republic Square** On May 6th I sent out an email to [daniel.woodroffe@gmail.com](mailto:daniel.woodroffe@gmail.com) and [republicsquare@yahoo.com](mailto:republicsquare@yahoo.com) asking them to put me on the email list for any activities regarding Republic Square Park. I have not yet received any reply or emails from the list, so I will keep trying. I attended a celebration in Republic Square on 4/23/10 to celebrate the partial completion of the improvements there, and saw a number of other OANA board members present. At this event, a “Republic Square Fellowship” competition was announced and a bake sale was held to raise prize money for this Fellowship “recognizing outstanding cultural contributions to the city of Austin”. I nominated Sean Gaulager who runs the Co-Lab art space on Austin’s East Side, and he won! I think the amount awarded him was \$500.

**Duncan Park** On May 6th I visited the <http://ninthstreetbmx.com/> website and viewed their online petition for the 9th Street BMX trail (which I consider to be part of Duncan Park). Ted Siff and I have scheduled a meeting with their apparent leader, Todd Moon, on 6/11/10 to talk about common interests and mutual support. I would like to find an OANA committee chair who would enthusiastically embrace and work on Duncan Park issues (including the 9th Street BMX trail). I still have a few ideas of places to look for this individual, including Khabele School parents, and the property owners close to Duncan Park.

**Shoal Creek Greenway** Ted Siff and I have been trying to schedule an OANA community event at Spring Condominiums with resident leaders Mitchell McGovern and/or Kathy Marcus with Shoal Creek Greenway improvement being the topic of discussion. On March 3rd 2010, the developers of the Spring Condos (including OANA board member Perry Lorenz) donated \$50K to the APF for Shoal Creek Greenway improvement. Ted and I will keep after them, and are hopeful that they will respond with interest.

### **Membership and Marketing Committee Report, Mark Holzbach, Chair**

There are currently 45 registered users on the OANA Citicite website. We are hoping to continually increase it. I am not sure how many people are reading the website without registering, but I've asked Kevin Ludlow (Citicite creator and administrator) if he has a way to check this.

### **Planning and Zoning Committee, Albert Stowell, Chair**

**The Downtown Austin Plan (DAP)** for the Northwest District is moving forward and OANA needs to get involved to help with the process. I have sent the board a copy of the DAP. The proposed zoning changes will be a good thing but many of the other proposals could create many logistic, financial and administrative burdens that could interfere both with DAP's own stated goals as well as OANA's. It appears that a Judges Hill overlay is being generally applied to the NW plan. Specifically the Compatibility Standards, Creek Setbacks, Special Districts, Historic Character, Permitted uses need to be clarified, deleted or redefined. Areas of concern are:

On page 17 under Historic Character the proposal states that restricting future development will reduce the carbon footprint.

Page 19 NW4 promotes outdoor events that could include Outdoor Music Events:

“NW-4: Promote and market the heritage of the Northwest District, through website development, expanded historic building rental for events, district walking tours, a unique district way-finding system, interpretive displays, etc., to bring attention to this unique Downtown district and create a draw for visitors.”

Page 24 Setbacks. This could reduce our effort to work to bring better design and reduce the benefits to the community.

Page 46 is supporting the bike boulevard be placed on Nueces and is proposing almost all of our streets be bike friendly (I thought the whole idea of the recent bike wars was to support a bike street that would be Rio Grande).

Page 51 Permitted uses include cocktail lounges but do not exclude outdoor music venues.

These are just a few of the issues that have been a concern of our members. Please chime in with any ideas that will help with the plan.

**The Allan House** There is nothing new to report.

**Bike Boulevard** The final council briefing will be June 24th. The City's project manager has informed me that if the council supports the draft proposal that the implementation could start as soon as this fall.

**New cases** OANA received notices on are:

Austin Music Hall 208 Nueces is asking for a one-year extension on its approved site plan.

Paul Dunham 601 W 17th is seeking a zoning change from GO to DMU.

Kevin Williamson Ranch 616 at 616 Nueces is seeking a new Outdoor Music Venue Permit.

### **Historic Preservation Committee, Albert Stowell, Chair**

I have sent each board member a copy of the 1984 Cultural Survey. This will be helpful in updating OANA's web site to include historical information on Historic Properties. I have been meeting with several historically minded folks. We are working on a process that would encourage the conservation of OANA's historical nature without layering administrative burdens that could be counterproductive in the implementation of our goals.

The Board first unanimously accepted the submitted Committee reports.

We then discussed the absence of a report from the **Social Order Committee, Chair, Kevin Williamson**, and Kevin's continuing absences from Board meetings. Ted will endeavor to find an amicable resolution to the concerns voiced by the Board.

**Camaraderie Committee** With JuanPablo's resignation from the Board, this committee is currently without a chair. Christie graciously accepted this new duty with very little pressure, although there were subtle glances directed her way. She felt confident in her ability to host a social event. We discussed the upcoming membership recruitment get together at the Star Bar on June 30th.

We then moved on to **Action Items**:

**600 West** It was decided that we would work in concert with the Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association (DANA) in welcoming the new project, and would follow DANA's lead.

**Ranch 616 at 616 Nueces** This establishment has recently filed an application for an Outdoor Music Venue Permit that the Board has concerns about. It is our understanding that there are no self-imposed limitations in the application such as Little Woodrow's agreed to on their across the street permit. It was also noted that association members from the El Rey complex, a close neighbor to the applicant, have filed strong objections to the issuance of the permit. Blake and Albert were tasked with contacting Clara Hilling, Watershed Protection & Development Review Department (WP&DR), City of Austin, for what our options are in the matter.

**Edgewater District Downtown Block Party** Perry talked with us about the proposed event that would close Nueces Street between 2nd Street and 4th Street and 3rd Street from San Antonio

Street west until it dead ends into the now demolished Green Water Treatment Plant. This would be a one-day event on (**date?**) and is supported and organized by the business and property owners that will be directly affected. Although this writer's notes are a little vague on any potential conflicts already scheduled for the proposed date, the Board gave initial endorsement of the idea.

**City of Austin Transportation Bond Proposal** Ted talked with us about projects in the downtown area that have been either included in the City's "wish list" (the official list has over 400 projects of which only the top 50 or so have a chance of being implemented this go round) or were not included at all. Two in our neighborhood are the **Bowie Street Underpass** (priority 224) and the **Shoal Creek Greenbelt** improvement project (priority 66).

The Bowie Street project involves the construction of a tunnel beneath the Union Pacific railroad tracks to link the Pfluger Bicycle & Pedestrian Bridge and the Lady Bird Lake Trail with the West End Commercial District and the rest of the Central Business District (CBD) through the Lance Armstrong Trail.

The Shoal Creek Greenbelt improvement project as proposed begins just south of West 6th Street and goes to the lake. Ted feels if the scope of the project were expanded from W 6th up to W 38th Street, the project could be seen as "regional" and therefore more likely to make the cut. The costs associated with this extension of the project would be small in comparison with what could be accomplished.

A third project put forward for consideration by the Board is the **Waller Creek, Phase 1** project. This item would fund the design, environmental and engineering plans for the pedestrian and bicycle facilities recommended in the Waller Creek District Master Plan, and is the initialization point of the entire project.

On motion from Albert seconded by Mark, the Board voted to recommend all three projects to the City for inclusion in the proposed bond package. NOTE: Subsequent to the Board meeting, Ted generated letters recommending all three projects for funding and the Board agreed in their issuance.

### **Dates to Remember:**

The OANA Board and the DANA Board will have a meet and greet on 15 June at the Austin City Lofts.

The OANA Neighborhood Social is at the Star Bar on Wednesday 30 June from 6 to 8 PM.

The next meeting of the Board will be Tuesday 13 July at the Regency Apartments from 4 to 5:30 PM. All are welcome!

Adjourn

Blake Tollett, Secretary

