

7/13/10 OANA board meeting started at 4:10 PM

Christie Nalle, Rick Hardin, Perry Lorenz, Ted Siff, Al Stowell, Mark Holzbach, and Blake Tollett and John Horton arrived after the start of the meeting

There were no others in attendance.

- 1) Kevin Williamson has not responded to Ted Siff's messages requesting confirmation of his intention for continuation on the OANA board, and the board therefore unanimously considers him to have resigned.
- 2) A specific minimum board member attendance and participation requirement discussion occurred. We discussed various ideas, and Mark Holzbach will collect input from various board members and guide the discussion between now and the next board meeting.
- 3) Ted will send an email regarding candidates for the OANA board position vacated by Kevin Williamson.
- 4) June 2010 Minutes: Ted suggested edit on paragraph about Ranch 616, "El Ray" should be corrected to read "Posada del Rey". Al made a motion to approve, Perry seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- 5) Christie Nalle verbally went over her camaraderie committee report. All were delighted with the way the June 30th 1st-ever OANA happy hour turned out.
- 6) There will be a July 19th follow-up meeting about the city's effort to manage parking. Discussion of OANA and DANA's position that seems to follow logically according to geographic areas. OANA (through Al Stowell) will ask DANA to join together in support of no extended meter hours north of 7th St. OANA (Al Stowell) is concerned about potential unintended consequences of this effort.
- 7) Mark reported briefly on the Parks Committee and Membership committee. Next membership recruitment event will be an event with date TBD, at the Spring condos to discuss Shoal Creek and to socialize.
- 8) Ted recommends we send out a mid-year OANA report of issues taken on, and accomplishments. Unanimously accepted.
- 9) The application for entertainment permit at Allen House has been denied. There is an appeal to city council scheduled for presentation on August 5th, any concerned residents should attend.

- 10) DANA's downtown living tour is coming up. Al Stowell is recommending the tour include a historic perspective.
- 11) Discussion of bicycle boulevard issue. No change in plan.
- 12) Al Stowell expressed concern about potential unintended consequences regarding historic preservation in the recommendations of the Downtown Austin Plan (DAP). An effective building moratorium would be undesirable. Regentrification of historic properties is a goal, but the current historic renovation cost of \$1000 per square foot is counter-productive. Al volunteered to sit down with any OANA board members to go over DAP and discuss the items he is concerned about. 357 historic properties within OANA boundaries are targeted for historic preservation. Rick Hardin suggests we send representatives to the City sub-committee meetings. Ted Siff suggested we meet with OWANA leadership, and Al said he would try to arrange it. Ted suggests we also develop the OANA relationship with McCann/Adams studio. Al suggested ways to encourage potential residential use of downtown historic properties, in the context of zoning. In advocating for historic preservation, OANA would like there to be as many tools as possible (e.g. with regard to zoning, etc.)
- 13) Ted Siff asked for authority from OANA to oppose Emerald City Press' application for a city liquor license by adding OANA's name to a cease and desist letter that Perry Lorenz presented from Brown | McCarroll LLP. Perry brought the motion, Rick seconded it, and the board agreed unanimously.
- 14) Ted described \$90M package of transportation projects to be brought to council by 9-citizen task force. It is not expected to be an easy election. There is a \$35M alternative transportation package (including \$14M for board walk completing town lake trail for example). Enough money is included to do what needs to be done on Shoal Creek, as well as \$55M for roads. It will be discussed at both July 29th and August 5th city council meeting. No OANA board action requested.
- 15) Rick Hardin described efforts to form local historic districts (Hyde Park and Castle Hill). The tax base erosion created by large increase of historic property designations (mostly high-end houses in suburban West Austin) is economically unsustainable and therefore change is inevitable. The Austin Statesman announced on July 9th that ACC is eliminating these tax exemptions. Rick will make an OANA position statement proposal for review.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM
Mark Holzbach, Assistant Secretary

OANA Treasurer's and Committee Chair Reports for July 13, 2010 Board Meeting

Treasurer's Report by Albert Stowell

There was only one transaction of \$10; this was from a new membership. OANA's current bank balance is \$1,380.53. OANA currently has 114 members.

Camaraderie Committee Report, Christie Nalle-Chair

The Camaraderie Committee organized the first OANA Happy Hour, which took place on June 30th at Star Bar. The event was from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Kevin Williamson, member of OANA and owner of Star Bar and Ranch 616, graciously offered the use of the patio at Star Bar. Max Moreland, manager of Star Bar, coordinated the event with Christie Nalle, chair of the Camaraderie Committee. Happy Hour prices were in effective for the event. Ranch 616 donated appetizers. A sign acknowledging the donation was posted next to the food.

An email group has been created in order to send Evite invitations to all members of OANA for any future social events. The President of DANA is also on the email list so that DANA members can be included, when appropriate. A request has been made for the Membership Committee to forward email names of new members so the email list can always be current.

Government Relations Committee Report, John Horton – Chair

On June 28th I attended the Downtown Parking/Planning Meeting held at City Hall. The presentation was made by Larry Schooler, City of Austin Public Information Office. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss enforcement, demand, accessibility, and future possibilities for downtown parking. They have conducted a survey and 82% of residents, business owners, and employees in downtown Austin do not think there is enough on-street parking for employees and customers. There seems to be a push to extend the days (weekends) and hours (evenings) of the metered parking in downtown to stimulate turnover. This has been discussed before and we (OANA) have expressed our resistance to this in our neighborhood but our sister NA, DANA is in favor of extending the metered parking.

There will be another meeting with this group on July 19, 2010 4:00-6:00 at City Hall and I plan on attending.

Parks and Open Space Committee Report, Mark Holzbach-Chair

In my effort to document what an OANA Park committee chair's role and responsibilities should be, I have been directed to the APF's "Adopt-A-Park" website: (<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/adoptapark.htm>) It is a great web resource, although I am not sure how much of the discipline implied on this page is really being followed by any of the park stewards working through the APF. (Are there any quarterly reports being filed by the park stewards)? I will ask Charlie McCabe to provide me with any reports concerning the parks within OANA boundaries.

Wooldridge Square

The most recent "Friends of Wooldridge Square" (FOWS) (lead by Michael McGill) was the one held on May 24th that I reported on in my June OANA Parks and Open Space committee report. The next FOWS meeting is scheduled for July 26th at the Travis County Facilities Management 4th floor conference room, 1010 Lavaca (corner of 11th and Lavaca - between the Governor's Mansion and the Travis County Courthouse), entry at the street corner. I encourage all interested parties to attend.

Michael encouraged everyone on the FOWS mailing list to participate in the Austin City Budget Priority online process, and to vote for the support of a Downtown Parks Maintenance Crew. I think Michael's effort had a positive impact in raising the priority of this line item.

Giant Chess games are still being held in the Wooldridge Square bandstand every Saturday from noon to 3 PM. There will be a 'Chess Under the Stars' event there on Friday, July 30th from 7-10pm.

The effort to collect oral recollections related to Wooldridge Square Park has begun. Bob Brinkman of the Texas Historical Commission conducted a lengthy oral history interview with Forrest Preece Sr. and his wife Florence. Bob's recording equipment is analog and not easily convertible to digital format without some volunteer expertise of an experienced person who we haven't be able to identify. Bob has volunteered to transcribe this interview into text at his own pace, which may take several months. I understand that the interview was very fruitful in general about Austin history, but not so much specifically to Wooldridge Square Park. Charles Peveto also interviewed Frances Nail at her home, on 6/24/10 and asked her for her recollections of Wooldridge Square Park. She generally recalled attending concerts and art events there, but not many specifics. Charles and I decided we should first compose a list of past events (including speeches, concerts, and art events) that have occurred at Wooldridge Square, and then approach long-term residents with the list and ask them if they have recollections related to any of the documented events.

The idea of printing note cards with historic photos of Wooldridge Square Park and selling them with profits benefiting the park's upkeep is still being considered by Charles Peveto.

Republic Square

On 7/10/10 I saw Charlie McCabe and Danie Woodroffe planting and maintaining the vegetation in Republic Square Park during the Austin Farmers market. I mentioned my lack of success in getting added to the Republic Square Park mailing list, and they directed me to a paper mailing list sign up sheet they had brought with them. I signed up on the sheet, and hope it will result in my being added to their announcements which I can then forward on to OANA via the Citicite website.

Republic Square seems to be thriving, it is looking well maintained, and it is enlivened by Austin residents of all ages particularly during the Saturday Farmers Markets.

Duncan Park

Ted Siff and I met with Todd Moon 6/11/10, who leads the BMX trail maintenance. Ted and I were very impressed with Todd, and think he has already proven his ability to unofficially steward Duncan Park and the BMX trail over a period of years. He comes with a network of young people who are willing to be volunteer labor. I am delighted to report that Todd has verbally agreed to be an OANA Parks and Open Space committee member, and will be our point person for Duncan Park.

Shoal Creek Greenway

Ted Siff and I are still hoping 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. Perhaps due to summer vacation we should now target a date in September or October?

Membership and Marketing Committee Report, Mark Holzbach-Chair

There are currently 49 registered users on the OANA Citicite website.

Al Stowell's report on the number of registered OANA members is as follows: "We gained one member in June which gave us 116 members. Then we lost JuanPablo and Whitney Bates because they moved and became ineligible for membership. This left us with 114 members. With the new application you sent me from Connor that will make 115. However Connor did not include his \$10 membership fee so I will add him to the list as soon as he pays."

The OANA and DANA board members gathered informally at the Austin City Lofts home of Jaime and Alisha Lagarde on 6/16/10. It was a wonderful way for us to get to know each other better, and to preserve and strengthen our camaraderie.

We held a wonderful OANA happy hour open to all at Kevin Williamson's Star Bar on 6/30/10. There was a very good turnout of people, and Kevin very generously provided delicious food. Thank you Kevin!!

The next OANA social event may be the event Ted Siff and I have yet to plan about the Shoal Creek Greenway at the Spring Condominiums.

Planning & Zoning: Chair: Albert Stowell-Chair

DAP Downtown Austin Plan: The plan is moving forward at light speed. I suggest that OANA formulate a response to the plan. I fear that there might be several issues with DAP's implementation. The zoning change from CO/GO to DMU is long overdue and could encourage re gentrification of many of the historic properties. The overlays, setbacks, compatibility requirements, and proposed historic districts might have the same effect as a general moratorium on any new construction, but unlike a temporary moratorium the DAP plan would be permanent. These changes could create negative unintended consequences and actually depress the future success of our community.

Bike Boulevard: Staff briefed Council and it appears that the Rio Grande option survived intact. Hopefully COA will follow through and start the project late this fall. Thank you for all your patience and support through this process. I will follow up and stay involved with the project manager.

Allan House: The application for outdoor sound permit did not receive an automatic approval and the applicant has requested an appeal hearing before Council on August 5th. OANA will need to follow up with personal letter to Council supporting the non-renewal.

DANA: Parking is a major issue. John and Ted can update us on this issue and the conflicts with DANA. DANA is generally supporting the after hour parking.

DANA'S Downtown living tour is coming this fall. More info to follow. This is the main fundraiser for DANA. This event will feature several downtown properties that will be open for the general public to experience living downtown.

Historic Preservation: Albert Stowell-Chair

Tied to DAP: Unintended costs associated with Historic Districts. Added cost to remodel if required to go through public process to repair and remodel historically designated properties.

According to authors of DAP there are 7,300 additional historic properties in central Austin that can be targeted for historic preservation if the City funds anew Cultural Resource Study. The current study is now 25 years old. Estimated costs of new study range from \$300,000 to \$7,000,000 depending on the intended function of a new study.

OANA is challenged with creating a method that will allow us to balance re-development of our community while at the same time simultaneously maintain the historic character of the community. Development and Historic Preservation can be compatible.