

Original Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA)
11 October 2011

The Board of Directors (BoD) came together at its regularly scheduled meeting on the second Tuesday of the month at 4pm in the Common Room of the Regency Apartments. Members in attendance were Bill Schell, Ted Siff, John Horton, Albert Stowell, Blake Tollett and Rick Hardin. There were no visitors. Ted led the discussions.

Our first order of business was the adoption of last month's minutes. John moved and Bill seconded and we unanimously accepted them.

We then discussed the vacant BoD positions, but there is a difference between interest and commitment and the process continues.

Albert reports our financial picture remains unchanged at \$2,498.14 in the bank.

Government Relations Committee, John Horton, Chair, reports:

I called Councilmember Chris Riley about two weeks ago to discuss the ongoing homeless feeding issues at Wooldridge Park. Chris related that he was aware of the problems associated with feeding the homeless at the park by the Mobile Loaves & Fishes organization and it was on his list to call Alan Graham of MLF. I expressed the concerns that OANA has with the feedings and that the trash, public urination & defecation, and the continual presence of the homeless in the park has led to a degradation point that the park looks terrible and the public rarely uses it. Chris related that he understood and he will work to help find a solution.

I encourage all members of OANA and the neighborhood to express their concerns on this issue to the City Council and the Mayor.

We discussed John's report, and yes, there are no easy answers here either morally or politically. These folks are obviously in unenviable circumstances and Mobile Loaves & Fishes does compassionate work, but this is a City park and should benefit the entire City. Ted volunteered to work with John in an ongoing discussion with the City Council. An interesting side note is that all three historic squares in Austin (Wooldridge, Republic and the Bakery) are owned by the State of Texas and the City has a 99-year lease. These leases are coming up for renewal soon and the Downtown Austin Alliance (DAA) is working on their renewals on behalf of the City.

Membership/Marketing/Camaraderie Committee, Bill Schell, Chair, then gave us a tutorial on our Twitter account. Very exciting stuff. We talked about general rules and guidelines. Ted suggested that all BoD members have the ability to Tweet with the understanding that we all need to keep in mind "official" OANA positions and that potentially, **Twitter accounts are in the public domain** (emphasis added by the Secretary). We then discussed our CitiCite account, another social media tool, and decided that OANA would withdraw from posting on the site and take down our pages. Ted generously offered to set OANA up with a basic Facebook account.

Planning & Zoning Committee, Albert Stowell, Chair

705-711 West 7th Street/710 West Avenue; C1402011-0058

The rezoning request from the GO zoning district to the CS-CO zoning district passed Council. There is an enforceable by OANA restrictive covenant on the property dealing with the commitment by Cirrus Logic to roll the property to DMU when the targeted uses required by the applicant become available under the DMU zoning district. Amongst the various conditions on the rezoning imposed by Council, future development of the parcel is currently limited to GO building standards.

As a sidebar, Albert reported that he recently met with aides from Council Members Morrison and Tovo regarding OANA's downtown residential density goals and iterated our position that it is sometimes beneficial to give a little in order to realize these goals. The balance here is to get firm, binding and enforceable commitments from all interested parties.

311, 313 & 315 Bowie Street-Heritage Tree Issue

The question here is not whether a heritage tree can be taken down, as that is allowed under the ordinance with appropriate compensation. The question seems to be whether with all due consideration, has the applicant shown that a viable project is not feasible while protecting the heritage tree. Should the rule be that no heritage tree can be removed if there can be a reasonable use of the property? OANA voted last month unanimously that in this case and considering this tree, saving the tree would preclude a reasonable use of the property and appropriate compensation can be achieved. BoD member Perry Lorenz, a financially interested party in this matter, reported that the current property owner is offering \$40,000 in mitigation costs, \$30,000 to help 5 trees in Duncan Park remain healthy and viable, and \$20,000 to fund an intern program to study heritage trees in the downtown area. This matter comes back up for the Planning Commission this evening and Ted is authorized to present OANA's position.

We then revisited Conditional Use Permits (CUPs) for new bars and nightclubs in the West 6th Street area. Based on the motion passed at our September meeting, and reaffirmed by a 5-0-1 vote at this meeting with Rick abstaining, the following letter will be sent by OANA:

11 October 2011

**Mayor and Council
City of Austin**

RE: CUP Requirement For Entertainment Venues/DAP

Mayor and Council:

I am writing to you today as President of the Original Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA). Our association boundaries are east of Lamar Boulevard, West 15th Street, Guadalupe Street and Lady Bird Lake. We are asking you to require new predominately liquor sales venues, specifically bars and nightclubs, within our association boundaries to go through the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) process prior to being allowed to operate.

We believe this public scrutiny before the appropriate land commission is a necessary condition in the preservation of the residential viability of our neighborhood.

Our sister organization, the Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association (DANA), is on record as vigorously supporting this CUP requirement for cocktail lounges throughout the CBD. DANA, being essentially a residential focused neighborhood association, stressed to you in their letter dated 26 April 2011 that such a requirement is a necessary component to improve the quality of life for those who live, work and play in downtown Austin. Both neighborhood associations believe it is a mix of uses in the downtown area that is crucial to maintain a successful and livable environment. Areas with too high a concentration of predominately liquor sales venues are contrary to this urban residential density goal.

We endorse DANA's position on this matter and would respectfully urge the Council to adopt this requirement into the proposed Downtown Austin Plan.

Sincerely;

Ted Siff, President, OANA

We next turned to a noticed intent to rezone a property within our boundaries.

702 San Antonio Street; C14-2011-0124

The requested rezoning is to go from the GO-H zoning district to the DMU-H zoning district. Albert reports the owner is looking down the road at perhaps converting the historic office building into a boutique hotel. Realistically the property is constrained not only by its historic designation but also by its lack of onsite parking. Rick and Blake were tasked with coming up with an OANA position on the matter that is consistent with previous conditions precedent for our support of rezoning requests.

Time was starting to run short so a discussion of how the Downtown Austin Plan (DAP) envisions the incorporation of the CURE ordinance (or not) into the plan was postponed until our December meeting.

Shoal Creek Committee

Ted gave us a quick update. Right now, GSD&M, Cirrus Logic, Constructive Ventures (a development vehicle of BoD member Perry Lorenz), the Austin Parks Foundation and OANA are all working towards a unified effort to enhance the creek. Richard Craig and Ted Eubanks of the Pease Park Conservancy and the Trammel Crow Group are also onboard in the effort. What is envisioned is a public-private partnership tied into the year out City bond program, a successful project example being what was accomplished at the Deep Eddy Pool Bathhouse rehabilitation project.

Albert reported that he attended a called meeting concerning Local Historic Districts in the City.

It was noted that the Arrow Paint store's former home is being converted to an upscale country venue nightclub called the Rattle Inn. The neighbors at the Posada del Rey are concerned about the potential trespass of noise and nuisance into their property. Albert is trying to work with the City's sound engineer in a positive manner while being sensitive to the neighbor's concerns.

Finally, Ted recommends that everyone vote for both Travis County bond propositions (one for transportation facilities and one for parks and open space) that are on the November 8th ballot.

Having overrun our time, we adjourned.

Blake Tollett, Secretary

OANA