

Old Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA)
3 April 2018

The Board of Directors (BoD) of OANA came together on Tuesday 3 April 2018 at the Regency Apartments just after 4 PM. The clement weather allowed us to meet outdoors. BoD members in attendance were Paul Byars, Ted Siff, Blake Tollett, Katie Jackson, Michael Portman, Charles Peveto and Diana Zuniga. Advisory Council members present were Roger Cauvin, Dorothy Doolittle and Chris Riley. Guests included Alumni BoD members John and Perry Horton and visitors Bill and Kathy Darling from the Seaholm Residences.

Upon motion from Paul with Katie seconding the minutes from our March 2018 BoD meeting were unanimously adopted as submitted.

Under **Committee Reports and Action Items, Parks**, we began by discussing the allocation of \$750,000 of Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) monies to the rehabilitation of Brushy Square Park, one of the remaining original City squares (the three squares are Republic, Brushy and Wooldridge). [NOTE: the Parks & Recreation Department (PARD) had previously allocated 2012 City bond monies for the Brushy Square master plan, a planning process that is currently ongoing.] In addition to this specific HOT monies allocation, the Bond Advisory Task Force has recommended a million dollars going to the rehabilitation of the downtown squares.

Charles reported that the Friends of Wooldridge Square continue to await an accounting of their 2012 City bond allocation earmarked for the Wooldridge Square Park Master Plan. On a positive note, the Austin Parks Foundation (APF) sent over some UT's McComb's School of Business students to do weeding around the trees' mulch rings and APF will schedule further weeding events this spring. Laura Schuman from PARD's Forestry Department has promised more mulch as needed. Over at Duncan Park Charles reports that the Watershed Protection Department will hold a public meeting on Saturday 21 April at 9 AM to discuss the progress on the master plan. Hopefully the use of purple pipe water for irrigation will be on the agenda.

Ted brought us updates from the Shoal Creek Conservancy (SCC). The Gap Project along the trail at W. 3rd Street is soon to be wrapped up. Once the Independent is completed in 6 to 9 months (or so) a pedestrian or bike rider can go from the lakeside Butler Trail to W. 38th Street without having to detour topside. There will be a release of the Shoal Creek Trail plan, a vision of the trail from Butler Trail to the Pickle Campus, plus, in about a month. The purpose of the plan is to inform and incent the public government so that they will understand the need and then activate (Ted's phrasing). To fully implement the plan would cost 45 to 50 million dollars, most of this cost being associated with the lower portion of the creek. Proposed improvements along that portion of the trail include the wooden railroad trestle at W. 3rd Street and a new wooden hike and bike bridge over the creek. The railroad trestle rehabilitation, provided the trestle receives historic designation, could be a candidate for the use of HOT monies, and there is still the idea of expanding the Seaholm Tax Increment Financing (TIF) boundaries to benefit the creek trail.

Under **Planning, Zoning and Historic Preservation**, Blake reported that the Gilfillan rezoning seems to remain dormant. The redevelopment of the DMU-60 (Downtown Mixed Use-60 feet developmental height) property at 1108 Nueces appears to progress with the filing of a site plan.

Under **Financial Report and Membership**, Michael reported steady progress. As Bill could not join us there was no **Marketing Report**.

Under **Old Business, Items for Updates, Discussion and Action**, Katie gave us a recap of the meeting with the website designer Grayson. Grayson proposed that our host be changed to Square Space, an easier to maintain and upload to website. The goal is to update and add to the content and enhance the site's overall appeal to drive membership and become a more convenient vehicle to connect with neighborhood residents and businesses. His proposal contains our suggestions such as adding some sort of business sponsorship/membership opportunity, delineated sections for boundaries, mission, minutes, etc., and a strong emphasis on neighborhood preservation. He suggested we look for a student photographer to record significant properties in our area with an emphasis on historic structures (projected cost \$200). Beyond our initial financial allocation of \$1,000, Grayson has proposed to maintain and update our website and compose and send out newsletters to our membership through Mail Chimp for a flat \$50 per month. A final proposal from him was a reworking of our official logo, a proposal that elicited discussion. [NOTE: Roger volunteered to take our current logo and reproduce it in a vector form so it can be more easily used on various social and media platforms.] After discussion, two separate motions were unanimously adopted. The first committed us to allocating \$200 for a student photographer and a \$50 continuing fee to Grayson for maintenance of our website once the new site is approved. The second motion allocated \$100 to a logo redesign.

Our final agenda topic was a quick discussion of the upcoming November elections; national, state and local offices will be on the ballot along with a bond, City charter revisions and possibly a referendum on CodeNext. It is going to be a long ballot and hopefully folks will weigh in on all of the issues.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 7 May at the Shoal Creek Saloon beginning at 4 PM. This meeting adjourned early to take the Hortons up on their offer to tour us through their recently renovated home facing on to Wooldridge Square, the last originally residential structure that does so.

Blake Tollett, Secretary
OANA