

Old Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA)
Annual Meeting
26 January 2015

The neighborhood association came together for our Annual Meeting around 5:30pm on Monday, January the 26th, 2015. This year we met at the Shoal Creek Saloon, the fine restaurant of Board of Director (BoD) Ray Canfield. Besides Ray, BoD members in attendance were Paul Isham, Albert Stowell, Ted Siff, Perry Lorenz, Bill Schnell, Michael Portman, Charles Peveto, John Horton and Blake Tollett. We had a nice crowd.

Our President, Ted, opened the formal meeting at 5:55pm. A warm welcome was offered to everyone and the BoD members were introduced to the audience. Former City Council Member Chris Riley, a long time member of OANA, a founding member of the Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association (DANA), and a good friend to the neighborhood, was recognized and thanked for his work on behalf of all of the citizens of Austin. Amongst other good deeds specifically focused on our neighborhood, Chris had placed a virtual tour of the neighborhood on the OANA website as part of our reorganization. Again, thank you Council Member.

We then proceeded to elections of BoD members. Ballots were passed out to those in attendance who were current with their dues. Four current members stood for reelection, Bill Schnell, Perry Lorenz, Paul Isham and Blake Tollett, and after brief campaign speeches by each, on motion by Charles with Michael seconding, the slate was unanimously elected. A fifth position was open due to the departure of Richard Hardin, and Diana Zuniga's name was put into the ring. She stood unopposed, so on motion by Paul with Albert seconding, Diana was welcomed to the Board.

At this point we enthusiastically thanked BoD member Ray for opening up his restaurant and bar for our Annual Meeting. Wonderful food and tasty beverages as usual.

Ted then led us through the draft revision of our goals, a copy of which was distributed along with the meeting agenda and is appended below.

Kristin Fine spoke briefly to us about the Shoal Creek Conservancy's fundraiser on Tuesday 21 April and Ted encouraged us to save the date. Kay Stowell and Charles will be on the planning committee for the event.

Charles reported that the rehabilitation of the W. 6th Street Bridge over Shoal Creek, recently listed on the National Register, progresses with the securing of a grant to begin assessing the bridge's current structural state.

At this point the Annual Meeting came to a close and we resumed eating, imbibing and socializing. All had a good time.

Blake Tollett-Secretary
OANA

Old Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA) Goals 2015 Proposed Draft

1. Preserving the Neighborhood's historic character

Even with all the changes that have taken place over the years, this neighborhood still retains much of the character that has always made it so appealing. We hope to make sure that character survives for future generations.

2. Bringing residents back

This neighborhood has changed dramatically over the past 70 years. It was once almost entirely residential then transformed to office use as residents moved to the suburbs in the 1960's and 70's. Now there is a resurgence of people returning to the neighborhood to live. This return is seen in the construction of high-rise condominiums and apartments in the southern part of OANA. The conversion of existing housing stock from office back to residential, made possible in part through DMU zoning, is also happening at an increasing rate. This residential densification of the neighborhood is good for Austin and the neighborhood and we support more of it.

3. Preserving the Tree Canopy

The neighborhood enjoys an abundant tree canopy that is important to the livability of the community. The planting of trees and care of existing trees on private property and public right-of-way is encouraged. The neighborhood supports burying overhead utility lines that will open the opportunity to plan more trees.

4. Preserving Green Space

The "green space" in our neighborhood is precious. Our original city park, Wooldridge Square was completely restored in 2013 and is now beautiful and active green space. We now want to see improvements to Duncan Park and Shoal Creek Greenway in the near future.

5. Improving our sidewalks

There are still some gaps in our sidewalk network, and many of the sidewalks we have are too narrow, or lack curb cuts, or are otherwise in need of repair.

6. Improving connections for bicycles

There are many bike routes through our neighborhood. Rio Grande Street was designated as a "bicycle boulevard" in 2010 and round-a-bouts were created at 8th Street, 10th Street and 18th Street. These improvements have calmed vehicular traffic and have made the neighborhood more bicycle friendly. The neighborhood encourages the use of bicycles, walking and alternative transportation.

7. Involving more members

We're hoping to make contact with others in the neighborhood who are interested in helping out. If you'd like to be involved with OANA, please let us know.

8. Participating in the Downtown Austin Plan

OANA participated in the creation of the Downtown Austin Plan (DAP) adopted by the city in 2010. This comprehensive long-term plan for downtown has helped define the direction of downtown Austin paying close attention to the neighborhoods within downtown. We want to continue to work with the city as the DAP is implemented.

http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Redevelopment/dap_summary_120710.pdf