

**MINUTES**  
**ORIGINAL AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (OANA)**  
**FEBRUARY 5, 2013**

The Board of Directors of OANA met at 4:00 p.m. at the Community Room, The Regency Apartments, 601 West 11th Street, Austin, Texas 78701. Chairman Ted Siff called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Directors in attendance were Ted Siff, Perry Lorenz, John Horton, Bill Schell, Rick Hardin, Ray Canfield, Paul Isham, Tom Borders and Karen Armstrong. Directors Blake Tollett and Albert Stowell were absent with approval. No guests were present for the meeting.

Since Blake Tollett was absent, Paul Isham volunteered to record the minutes of the meeting.

Ray Canfield moved for approval of the minutes of the January 8, 2013 meeting and Bill Schell seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously although Tom Borders and Karen Armstrong abstained from the vote since they were not directors at the January Board meeting.

Chairman Ted Siff welcomed new Board members Tom Borders and Karen Armstrong to the Board. Tom Borders inquired about the boundaries of OANA and Ted Siff responded to his inquiry.

Chairman Ted Siff circulated a draft of **2013 Goals** for OANA and suggested that either the Board schedule a work session to discuss them or for a committee to be appointed to develop the Goals and return to the Board with a recommendation. The consensus of the Board was for the appointment of a committee and Ted Siff, Perry Lorenz, Karen Armstrong and Paul Isham were appointed to the committee. It was agreed that the committee would submit its recommendation on the Goals at the March meeting.

The Board then considered the **Committee** reports.

- a. **Membership and Marketing:** Chairman Siff reported that OANA continues to receive monies from membership renewals and new memberships. OANA has received \$700 in 2013 from these memberships.

Bill Schell passed out a proposed OANA News Publishing schedule for 2013 and explained that February 14 is the target date for the next issue. The handout included proposed content for the next issue. In addition, the other three issues of the News are targeted to be published on May 22, September 5 and November 28.

Mr. Schell also reported that the distribution list has been expanded to include City Council members and staff as well as participants with the Shoal Creek Conservancy. He has been successful in contacting the property manager of Austin City Lofts, and has tried to contact property managers with Nookonah, Regency and Monarch.

- b. **Finance:** Ted Siff reported that OANA's checking account balance is \$4,265.05.

- c. **Government Relations/Social Order:** John Horton reported that **Wooldridge Park** is looking really good and that he and others have encouraged the City's Park and Recreation Department (PARD) to leave the fencing up at least until the new sod is rooted. John commented that PARD is feeling pressure to open the park. John also reported that the Downtown Austin Alliance (DAA) Park Committee met about a week ago and he attended that meeting and the DAA is hosting a meeting about safety in the park which is scheduled to for February 14. Ted Siff commented that the DAA, Friends of Wooldridge and hopefully OANA would like PARD to develop an operating plan for the Park prior to its reopening, Ted asked for board support of this position and it was granted by consent. Ted also comments that PARD's appears to be resistant to addressing the public safety concerns that OANA has.
  
- d. **Planning and Zoning:** Ted Siff and Rick Hardin reported that the reconstruction of **8<sup>th</sup> Street** is moving along nicely. It was mentioned that the contract with the City requires a complete reconstruction of the street from Brazos to West Avenue including sidewalks.

Ted Siff reported that the **Austin Community College (ACC) Rio Grande Campus (RGC)** zoning case is moving along slowly. It was reported that the ACC RGC Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) met on February 1 and voted to approve the zoning outlined in OANA's letter to ACC. The CAC also voted to preserve the Annex Building and the historic fabric of the campus. Ted Siff mentioned that OANA originally approved demolition of non-historic structures on the ACC RGC, but in light of opposition by various groups, OANA revised its position to recommend preservation of the Annex Building. It was also discussed that the recommendation to ACC by OANA included placing a restrictive covenant on the parcels owned by ACC that would limit use to "educational purposes." Ted reported that ACC has agreed to a restrictive covenant for such purposes only on the old Austin High School campus.

Finally, Ted Siff reported that ACC plans a bond election in November for capital improvements to all of its campuses. It is anticipated that the bond amount will include \$127 million for new construction at the ACC RGC. At the meeting on February 1, the CAC voted to appoint Ted Siff to represent the RGC on ACC's bond advisory committee.

On the **605 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street zoning request by Wells Fargo**, Ted Siff reported that the bank is seeking removal of a restrictive covenant limiting the site to a drive-in bank so that a new bank building and/or office building can be built on the site.

Next, the **401 Guadalupe zoning by Gables and ZaZa** for a combination hotel and apartment building was discussed. Ted mentioned that Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association (DANA) supports the project and that the City's Planning and Zoning Commission approved the project with a 9-0 vote. The location of the project is across the street, but outside the boundaries of OANA. It was also mentioned that the Downtown Commission does not support the project.

The Board next discussed the issue involving the **Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the 7 Rio Project at 615 West 7<sup>th</sup> Street**. Rick Hardin outlined a history of the Project for the Board and explained why the CUP was being requested. Basically, the original project, which contained some commercial uses on the ground floor, included an underground parking garage with 50 spaces for commercial parking. Since originally approved by the City, the property has been sold and the new owners/developers desire to construct an all-residential building, i.e. eliminate the commercial uses. However, the new owners are still committed to building the underground parking garage for commercial uses. The owners/developers now need a CUP in order to construct a garage for commercial uses since the Project has become all-residential.

Chairman Siff suggested that he and Albert Sowell perform a due diligence and if the purpose of the CUP is as represented by Rick Hardin, that a letter of support for the CUP be circulated via email to the Board for its review and approval. Perry Lorenz moved approval and Paul Isham seconded. The motion was adopted with Rick Hardin and Tom Borders abstaining.

- e. **Parks and Open Space:** Ted Siff gave a report about Shoal Creek and the Shoal Creek Conservancy and a feasibility study. The group held three lunches to discuss the possibility of the creation of a non-profit to finance and promote improvements to Shoal Creek. In addition, a website ([www.shoalcreekconservancy.org](http://www.shoalcreekconservancy.org)) has been created. Finally, a budget for the proposed non-profit was developed that has a funding range between \$75,000 and \$125,000 annually and includes a position for a full-time staff member. Ted explained that the next step is to determine whether there is actual support within the community, both private and public, for the creation of another non-profit organization. Finally, Cirrus Logic had graciously agreed to pay the expenses to date for the study group and Bill Schell delivered a check from Cirrus in the amount of \$2500 to cover those expenses.
- f. **Cirrus Logic Zoning Update:** The Board had overlooked discussing the Cirrus Logic zoning matter under Planning Commission (PC) and returned to that item on the agenda. It was mentioned that the Cirrus Logic Zoning matter was scheduled on the City's PC agenda for February 12, 2013. Ted Siff reported that the attorney for Cirrus Logic, Richard Suttle, had said that OANA's position letter had been delivered to Cirrus Logic, but that no response has been received to date. A lengthy discussion occurred during which Karen Armstrong, who is also a Board Member of the 706 West Ave Condo HOA, said that the 706 West Ave Condos now oppose the Cirrus rezoning on 702 and 704 West Avenue. Ted mentioned that he did not believe any further action was necessary by the Board of OANA at this time because OANA's position(s) on the rezoning are on the record and before the PC. No action was taken by the Board on this item.

No additional matters were discussed by the Board and the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for March 5, 2013 at 4:00 p.m.  
Paul Isham, Acting Secretary