

Original Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA)  
3 January 2012

The Board of directors (BoD) of OANA came together for our monthly meeting at the Regency Apartments, Common Room, beginning at 4 PM. Members in attendance were Ted Siff, Albert Stowell, Perry Lorenz, John Horton, Richard Hardin, Bill Schnell and Blake Tollett.

NOTE: By agreement, the Board has changed their monthly meeting date from the second Tuesday of the month to the first Tuesday.

There being no guests to welcome, our first order of business was the review of the minutes from our November 8th 2011 meeting. With some minor spelling corrections, on motion by Albert with Bill seconding, they were unanimously adopted. Bill will post them on our website.

We then went on to preparations for our Annual Meeting to be held this year on Thursday the 26th of January at the Regency Apartments Common Room from 6 to 8 PM.

**The tentative agenda for the meeting will be:**

Annual Report to the Membership-Hopefully we will have Committee Chairs talk about Government Relations such as ACC and our neighbor Travis County, Planning & Zoning issues such as the Bike Lane and the Downtown Austin Plan along with how OANA looks at rezoning requests, and an update from the Parks & Open Space Committee amongst other reports. This "State of the Neighborhood" report will be more of an open format discussion, and we are also encouraging members to bring forward areas of interest or concern to them.

Election of directors to the Board-Albert, Ted and John are current board members standing for reelection and we have two unfilled openings. The Board has asked Ray Canfield, the proprietor of Shoal Creek Saloon, to stand for one of the open seats. NOTE: The current OANA by-laws allow membership in the organization to those owning property within our boundaries or living or running a business within our boundaries. While being on the Board is open to all members, voting for the directors is limited to those who either own property or live within our boundaries.

Bill has sent out an initial email to the edresses we had on file reminding folks as to who we are, and taking into account the returns, will send out another notice soon. The members of the Board were encouraged to send any edresses to him that we think would be helpful. The new email will announce the Annual Meeting and encourage memberships. Perry and Albert have volunteered to see the flyer posted in the various downtown residential units/towers. Of interests to the potential attendees will be that we are having some light snacks (quite possibly of a Cajun nature) and drinks (furnished by John).

The Annual Meeting having been hashed out, Ted asked for Committee reports.

Albert reports no major activity Treasury wise.

John reported nothing particularly new with the Wooldridge Park quandary (NOTE: See last month's minutes). The City's Code Enforcement Division has been working with the neighbors effectively and efficiently. We then had a discussion as to whether the Board could support a resolution requiring that entities wanting to vend or distribute goods or services on public property need to be registered and then licensed for a particular site. The specific site license, while not calling for a full blown public hearing, would allow close by neighbors to weigh in. Again, this is a difficult issue. There needs to be a balance between the humanitarian services extended to our less fortunate neighbors and public and private property rights. We discussed NIMBYism, the entire neighborhood's need to share civic responsibility, and the idea of if not at Wooldridge Park then where. The Board unanimously voted to allow John to further explore the idea of the above discussed proposed ordinance.

Our discussion then segued into Blake's attendance at the recent City workshop concerning Permanently Supported Housing (PSH) requirements in the City. There is going to be a need for the Board to come up to speed on this subject as all neighborhoods are going to be asked to participate in this program. To begin, there are three basic housing sets; free housing, affordable housing and permanently supported housing. All of these types of ventures require either public or private subsidies to be financially viable. Albert talked about the proposed corporate project of 250-275 units of transitional housing (as contrasted with affordable housing) at Trinity and West 11th Street for those seeking to come back into the general population, and we discussed whether these large insular projects are beneficial to a city.

Blake shared the following links from the City's workshop:

Good Neighbor Guidelines discussion:

<http://austintexas.icanmakeitbetter.com/all/discussions/4e8386ecbafc9b000100012d/page/1>

Geographic Dispersion discussion:

<http://austintexas.icanmakeitbetter.com/all/discussions/4ed658b22f4180000100001b/page/1>

If you have any trouble with the above links, you can go through the Speak Up Austin home page at <http://austintexas.icanmakeitbetter.com/> and find the Affordable Housing threads on the right hand column of the page.

You can also hear NHCD's Marti Bier on KUT this morning discussing the Good Neighbor Guidelines: <http://kut.org/2011/12/good-neighbor-guidelines/>

Ted then reported that he, the Austin Park's Foundation and Cirrus Logic have been meeting to discuss Shoal Creek concerns. They have been working on an agenda of goals amongst which are proposed lighting of the area around the 6th and 10th Streets bridges over the creek.

We then went on to discuss the Judge's Hill Local Historic District (LHD) currently being proposed to the City. We have a concern in the matter in that the proposed district extends out of Judge's Hill's defined boundaries and significantly into ours, specifically along West Avenue down to West 12th Street including the ACC campus. We discussed how LHDs impose developmental restrictions on the properties within their boundaries whether the properties are

contributing to the targeted historic fabric or not. Under the current City's guidelines, and taking into account the weight given to City owned properties, and LHD can sometimes be established by the consent of less than 50% of the affected property owners (on a square foot basis). That being said, and considering that this reduction of established entitlements is not always consensual, OANA has shied away from creating a neighborhood association sponsored LHD in our neighborhood. It was also noted that the Judge's Hill folks have not really communicated with any of the folks outside their boundaries concerning this proposed encroachment, and that is concerning. The Board authorized Ted to call on Judge's Hill NA for an explanation and then to visit with the ACC folks-he is on their Citizens Advisory Board. The Board gave him the go ahead and we also voted to change our website's verbiage so as to not be an endorser of the Judge's Hill LHD.

Having run out of time, the next regularly scheduled monthly meeting was set for the first Tuesday in February, the 7th, at the Regency Apartment Common Room beginning at 4 PM.

Blake Tollett, Secretary