

Old Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA)
14 January 2014

The Board of Directors (BoD) of OANA came together at 4 PM on their regular meeting day of the second Tuesday of the month at the Common Room of the Regency Apartments. Members in attendance were Bill Schnell, Ted Siff, Paul Isham, John Horton, Blake Tollett, Perry Lorenz and Karen Armstrong. Richard Hardin, Tom Borders, Ray Canfield and Albert Stowell had sent their regrets.

With a quorum present we began by reviewing Paul's minutes from December, and with minor corrections, the minutes by acclimation were approved.

We then moved to Action Items as outlined in the meeting agenda:

- Finalize Annual Meeting plans-We are inviting everyone on our mailing list through an email blast. The meeting will be on January 28th from 5:30 to 7 PM here in the Regency Apartment Common Room. Liquid refreshments will be by John and Ray's restaurant the Shoal Creek Saloon will once again provide tasty edibles. Board seats up for reelection are Albert, John, Ted and Ray. Tom has decided not to run, so with that opening we have two vacant seats. Interested folks are encouraged to step forward.
- Ted brought the other Action Item forward, specifically whether there is interest in OANA to become a member of the Shoal Creek Conservancy (SCC) Advisory Board. From an email detailing the formation of the Board:

SCC Advisory Board: Composition, Responsibilities & Expectations Draft

Composition

The SCC Advisory Board will be made of up organizations that have accepted SCC's invitation to publicly support and endorse SCC's mission to restore, protect and enhance the ecological, social and cultural vibrancy of Shoal Creek for the people of Austin by engaging the public and partnering with the community. The endorsing organization will appoint a representative to be its key contact with SCC. Organizations eligible to be on the SCC Advisory Board include all HOA's, Neighborhood Associations and nonprofits whose mission overlaps with SCC's within the Shoal Creek watershed.

Responsibilities & Expectations

- **To appoint or elect an SCC Advisory Board Representative.**
- **To attend the annual SCC Advisory Board "Input and Feedback" meeting.**
- **To put SCC's web link on its website and allow SCC to do the same and generally support each other's social media efforts.**
- **To distribute SCC's volunteer outreach announcements and any other SCC announces through its internal communications mechanism (i.e., email group, list serve, etc.).**

- **Be open to considering support of SCC's efforts to get specific funding for Shoal Creek improvements in city's annual budget, bond elections and/or through private fundraising.**

SCC will include a list of Advisory Board members and their affiliated organizations on its website and will pursue partnerships with these organizations to advance joint projects and activities that benefit the Shoal Creek watershed and greenway.

After discussion, and with the understanding that the OANA representative to the SCC Advisory Board would not necessarily be a member of the OANA BoD, it was agreed to participate with our representative to be named at a later date.

Ted then gave us a financial update from Albert with funds on hand being \$3,949. The Board members were reminded to renew their memberships.

Under **Government Relations** John reports that Wooldridge Park is looking very good and folks are encouraged that it will remain that way. The changes to Guadalupe and Lavaca Streets to accommodate the Rapid Transit Buses seem to be wrapping up. Additionally, Ted reports meeting with John Gaede, the Travis County liaison for their new building on the corner of W. 11th Street and San Antonio Street. The building has been designed by Larry Speck with PAGE architects and will have four floors above ground and all garage parking below ground level. The building's garbage, recycling and loading docks will all be on the north alley, and the County is assuring the neighbors that the soon to be built PTA building contiguous to the east will have an easement through the County property for these functions also.

Under **Marketing** Bill reports that the December email newsletter will be followed shortly with another email blast reminding folks of the Annual Meeting and that in order to vote for Directors at that meeting your membership dues need to be paid up.

Under **Membership**, Karen reports making progress with the database of potential OANA members. A file containing all the physical addresses within our borders was obtained from TCAD earlier this year. A second file from the property tax records containing the property owners' names & mailing addresses for each location was also obtained although in another format. The two files have been linked, and after manual cleanup and crosschecking is completed it will be dropped into an Excel spreadsheet. The current and past list of members with email addresses will require manual input. The next step is to obtain email and phone data for each name in the database. The final step will be to feed new member data directly from the website into the database. It's possible to obtain update files from Travis County Tax Assessor every few years to keep the list current. Karen will continue this effort in 2014 as an OANA member. The database will also be shared with SCC to help with their future membership and awareness campaigns. Karen will also continue working on getting Shoal Creek designated as the official State Creek of Texas. Anyone with political contacts that might be able to assist with this task is encouraged to contact her.

Under **Planning & Zoning**, we discussed the proposed projects Albert reports as coming to our neighborhood:

402 West 11th Street: The PTA folks' waiver request dealing with where they are going to put their trash has been resolved to the City's satisfaction (see above under Government Relations).

800 West 6th Street: Cirrus Logic is moving forward with the construction of the additional parking space on the north side of the current parking structure.

718 West 5th Street: This is currently the Texas Press Association building just across the street to the south of Austin City Lofts. The project is described in the City notice as a proposal for a multi-family high rise and associated improvements.

805 Nueces: What is being proposed is a 22 stories apartment building. They envision five levels of parking with 16 floors of residential use and a first floor lobby and work-live space. Aspen Heights' Ryan Fetgatter is the shown owner of the property. This is formerly the Richard Hardin & Mike McGinnis Bremond project we first looked at in December 2010. The entitlements on the property allow for a zoning district of DMU-90 but the applicants are seeking an increase in height and FAR under the downtown Density Bonus program. This site is one of the very few in our neighborhood that is eligible for this administratively approved program.

[We here discussed the CURE program that has been discontinued in favor of the Density Bonus program.]

812 1/2 West 2nd Street: The City of Austin is seeking a zoning change from the DMU-CO zoning district to the P, Public zoning district to allow for more flexibility in the development of the Seaholm parking garage that will also serve the library and the general public.

605 West 4th Street: Administrative approval of a site development permit for an electronic testing use has been administratively approved. The applicant is Cirrus Logic. The applicant had originally wanted to place this testing facility in the Aziz building at 707 West Avenue. It was noted that even after 707 West Avenue's zoning was changed from DMU to CS, a very controversial process, even after the uses allowed under the DMU zoning district were expanded to allow electronic testing, and that the zoning on the property is now being rolled back to DMU-60 under the conditions of a Restrictive Covenant between Cirrus Logic and OANA, in the end the City was unable to supply sufficient electric power to 707 West Avenue to allow for the proposed use.

We then turned to **Parks, Open Space and Trails** with Ted telling us there may be in the works a master plan for Duncan Park coming up. Hopefully this PARD initiative will align with the Shoal Creek Conservancy vision. Under SCC news, he reports that they have applied for an IRS 501(c)(3) status as a non-profit but the request has yet to be granted. Although the process has not been completed, these kinds of delays are fairly normal and should not impede the Conservancy's fund raising or operating efforts.

With our next meeting be set for Tuesday 11 February we adjourned.

Blake Tollett-Secretary
OANA