

Original Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA)
07 February 2012

The Board of Directors (BoD) of OANA came together around 4 PM at our **new regularly scheduled monthly meeting day, the first Tuesday of the month**. Members in attendance were Ted Siff, Richard Hardin, Bill Schnell, Albert Stowell, Ray Canfield, Paul Isham and Blake Tollett.

As there were no guests present we moved on to review and approval of the 3 January 2012 minutes of our regularly scheduled monthly meeting and the minutes of the 26 January 2012 Annual Meeting. On motion by Albert with Ray seconding, both minutes were unanimously approved and Bill will post them on our website.

Albert then told us that our current bank balance is approximately \$3,400.

We next thanked Ray for the very fine food he brought from his Shoal Creek Saloon to the Annual meeting, and we thanked John in absentia for the beverages.

We turned next to **Social Order** issues within the neighborhood. In particular, we discussed the alleged sound trespass from the entertainment venues in the West 6th Street area and how that interfaces with residential use nearby. A letter from Susan Sullivan, a former Director of OANA and a long time resident of the Posada del Rey Condominiums, to the City complaining about her cross street neighbor, the Rattle Inn, prompted this discussion. [NOTE: current OANA Board member Richard Hardin is a co-owner of the real estate this specific entertainment venue sits on] During general discussion, Albert talked to us about how the City's sound ordinance policy, and especially the enforcement of same, is evolving into a workable, although not perfect instrument to address these types of complaints. Albert and other affected neighbors have been working with Don Pitts of the City to come to an equitable policy, and this commitment has shown results, an example being that the complaints lodged against the Allan House, a sometimes troublesome neighbor, have been greatly reduced. Albert also reports that the Council is aware of this interface concern between entertainment venues and residential use, and public money is going to be allocated to find a solution. Paul led the discussion to what if any continuing policy OANA had in regard to this conflict. We moved on without coming to any true resolution.

Proposed **Judge's Hill (JH) neighborhood association's Local Historic District (LHD)**-Ted reports that the discussion between OANA and JH concerning the area comprising the proposed LHD, specifically that the identified LHD boundary encroaches into OANA's territory from West 15th Street down to West 12th Street along West Avenue, has actually deteriorated since we discussed the issue at our last regular monthly meeting in January. Ted contacted the leadership of Judge's Hill on this matter and was pointedly rebuffed. This dismissive attitude towards the concerns of one neighborhood association to another was unexpected. Ted is going to put our objections to the proposed LHD in a writing that will put Judge's Hill and the City on formal notice. The OANA Board will continue to monitor the situation.

Bill talked with us briefly about our **Social Media & Marketing** campaign. The Annual meeting was a success and we continue to gain followers (albeit slowly) on Facebook and Twitter. Board

members were again encouraged to get with the program. We then discussed plans for a Spring Social event. Ray graciously volunteered his establishment and we wondered if we might focus the event not only on OANA but also on Shoal Creek. Ray stated that he is committed to making the stretch of Shoal Creek proximate to his business safe and clean, and maybe this commitment could be highlighted with the Social. It may be too late to tie into the Citywide “It’s My Park Day” on March 3rd, but regardless of date or place, we decided the focus of this spring event would be the creek.

Segueing into **Parks & Open Spaces**, Ted and Bill related that Cirrus Logic’s commitment to Shoal Creek’s maintenance and well being and to stimulate activity all up and down the creek continues. They have pledged to 1) protect and revitalize nine heritage oaks in Duncan Park at an estimated cost of 10 to 12 thousand dollars, 2) establish lighting over and under the West 6th Street bridge over the creek at an estimated cost of 15 thousand dollars, 3) establish pedestrian lighting along the creek from West 6th Street up to West 12th Street at an estimated cost of 100 thousand dollars, and 4) schedule periodic employee clean up days for the creek, four of which have been already put on their to do calendar. Very impressive. Thank you neighbor.

Two notes-Charlie McCabe has left Austin and the Austin Parks Foundation and moved back to Boston; their gain our loss. Also, due to ongoing and future construction projects, pedestrian access to Shoal Creek from West 5th Street down to the lake will be severely limited.

Planning & Zoning- Albert reported that there is nothing on the near horizon. Rick reported the progress on the Bremond project at 805 Nueces. Right now they are working on their water & wastewater infrastructure in conjunction with the City’s infrastructure work ongoing on Nueces Street. Hopefully this coordination will result in the street being torn up only once. The Bremond structure should start coming out of the ground in 6 months or so. The developers anticipate a mix of one and two bedroom apartments with a sprinkling of three bedroom units. We then generally discussed what is going on in the development at West 7th Street and Rio Grande; the current owners of the property know the conditions placed on their increased entitlements. Albert further reported that the folks at West 4th Street and Bowie Street are exploring moving their heritage tree from the center of the property to its edge.

Of note, there are City websites that will preview emerging projects in the downtown area as well as give you a preview of what is happening at the former Seaholm Power Plant, the Green Water Treatment Plant site, Wooldridge Park, etc. After the meeting, Rick supplied the following:

Downtown Austin Plan:

ftp://ftp.ci.austin.tx.us/DowntownAustinPlan/dap_approved_12-8-2011.pdf
<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/downtown/dntnneighplan.htm>

Downtown Condos:

http://downtownaustin.com/downloads/DTAustin_CondoStudy_20080402.pdf
<http://www.downtownaustineliving.com/downtown.html>
<http://urbanspacerealtors.com/>

Emerging Projects:

http://assets.austintexas.gov/downtown/emerging_historic.htm

Wooldridge Square:

http://downtownaustin.com/downloads/Wooldridge_Report.pdf

Urban Rail:

<http://www.austinstrategicmobility.com/urban-rail/>

Thank you Rick.

The **Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association** (DANA) is having their downtown living tour again this year on 22 April. We will have a link off our website as residing in the Northwest District is focused on.

Ted then gave us an overview of the Foundation's Community Project planned residential structure at Trinity and East 11th Street. There will be 135 efficiency units geared towards low moderate income folks, preferably those who work in the downtown area. To make this economically feasible federal income tax credits are involved.

We then talked generally of the upcoming Austin Bond election where we need to lobby for additional monies for Shoal Creek and street and bike facilities that benefit the neighborhood.

We then talked generally of the ongoing Charter Revision Committee and wished Ted patience and good luck.

With our next regularly scheduled monthly meeting set for Tuesday 6 March 2012, we adjourned.

Blake Tollett, Secretary OANA