

Original Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA)
5 March 2013

The OANA Board of Directors (BoD) came together at their regular date, time and place, the first Tuesday of the month beginning at 4 PM at the Common Room of the Regency Apartments. BoD members in attendance were Ted Siff, Albert Stowell, John Horton, Tom Borders, Karen Armstrong, Rick Hardin and Blake Tollett. Bill Schnell, Ray Canfield, Paul Isham and Perry Lorenz had all sent their regrets. There were no guests.

We actually began the meeting without a quorum and so began with items of general discussion.

Albert reports that we have \$7,430 in total funds on account. Of that, \$2,500 is segregated out representing the check Cirrus Logic gave us for the benefit of the Shoal Creek project leaving an unencumbered balance of \$4,930.

We then discussed the need to work on getting renewals from members whose dues have lapsed. Our paid membership has gone from over 100 to around 50.

At this point a quorum was reached and on motion the February minutes as amended were adopted and they are ready for posting on our website.

We then turned to a review of the Draft OANA Operational Goals of 2013:

Operational Goals by Committee:

Membership Committee-Karen Armstrong

- Increase paid membership from ___ to ___ (150)

Marketing Committee-Bill Schnell

- Publish OANA NEWS quarterly in February, May, August and November
- Publish at least two special issues of OANA NEWS, i.e., In April (AISD bond election) & In October (ACC bond election)
- Increase the primary distribution of OANA NEWS from about 300 to 500 email addresses
- Increase the secondary distribution (i.e., HOA manager) of OANA NEWS from ___ (0) to ___ (1000?) email addresses;

Governmental Relations & Social Order-John Horton & Blake Tollett

- Increase visibility to relevant governmental decision makers (COA, Travis County, ACC, AISD)
- Monitor City noise ordinance enforcement
- Monitor City loitering & trespass ordinance enforcement
- Use City and/or DAA graffiti abatement programs
- Develop strong relationship with APD (research possibility of instituting formal Neighborhood Watch)

- Participate in Travis County Master Planning (take position on County Civil Court bonds?)
- Participate in ACC Master Planning (support ACC – RGC bonds?)

Parks, Open Space and Trails-Ted Siff & _____

- Support Shoal Creek Conservancy Feasibility Study-Phase II (launch SCC?)
- Co-lead with partners (DAA, APF, Friends) in the re-opening and revitalization of Wooldridge Park
- Support partners (DAA, APF & DANA) in creating a public/nonprofit partnership to develop and operate Republic Square

Transportation & Mobility-Ray Canfield

- Identify more funded “complete streets” within neighborhood and advocate to get these projects started
- Support Austin Bikeshare Program
- Support Car2Go and Zip Car

Planning & Zoning-Albert Stowell & Paul Isham

- Participate in zoning and other neighborhood related land use applications
- Work with Cirrus and its neighbors in advancing Cirrus’ campus plan objectives
- Work with ACC-RGC and its neighbors in advance ACC-RGC campus plan objectives

Creativity- ? (Mitchell McGovern?)

- Promote arts, culture, food, performance and the creative economy in OANA
- Establish relationships with creative economy neighbors (Humanities Texas, SXSW, Ballet Austin)

Under the proposed new committee heading of Creativity, Ted talked about the rise of the “creative class” in Austin, especially in the downtown area and how they potentially could become more established in our Northwest District. He pointed to Google and Facebook, both of which have recently moved into downtown. Ted is going to approach Mitchell McGovern and see if he is interested in leading this committee. Mitchell is the current president of our sister organization, the Downtown Austin NA (DANA), lives in one of the residential towers within our boundaries and is a member of OANA.

Albert asked that the Historic Preservation committee be preserved.

Ted then asked for standing Committee Reports:

From Bill, in abstentia, his Marketing & Membership Committee Report:

The February/Winter edition of "Original Austin Neighborhood News" was sent on 15 February. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the effort. The newsletter was distributed to 212 individuals who are part of the 'normal' mailing list. That list now reflects the addition of several property managers within the OANA neighborhood who have said that they intend to forward

the newsletter to their residents on a regular basis. These property managers represent Austin City Lofts, Gables West, Spring and Nokona. We will continue to reach out to additional residential properties in the area in an effort to continue our expansion to more residents. I look forward to adding Board member Karen Armstrong to this committee to help out with membership expansion as well as our overall marketing efforts.

We then reviewed John's electronically submitted Government Relations report:

Concerning Wooldridge Park (WP), the Downtown Austin Alliance had a Wooldridge Safety Meeting on 2-14-2013. Highlights and specific actions from that meeting are outlined below:

- APD to enforce all laws and ordinances (ongoing)
- APD to implement directed patrols to the park for 30 days after it reopens
- PARD/Kim McNeeley to identify rules that may be applied to historic squares, to outline signage and lighting planned for WP reopening, to identify rules already in place, to explore the possibility of having a "no vending zone" around the park
- Travis County Sheriff's Office to expand patrol perimeter around the courthouse including the perimeter of WP
- Community Court to include WP as a target area for their outreach managers
- DAA to continue to work with Mobile Loaves and Fishes to mitigate public feeding issues and to work with PARD to consider the suggestion of a decorative fence around the park

John tells us further that the Parks & Recreation Department (PARD) is looking to have the park open to the public fairly soon as the grass is in good shape. We continued our general discussion of Wooldridge Park and again voiced our concern that the park in the recent past has been used beyond its capacity and that all of these rehabilitation efforts are going to be for naught if this overuse is recommenced. The park is ill-suited for some of the private program uses instituted there, and the City and County need to face this situation head on and not continue to kick it down the road or just turn a blind eye to it.

John then spoke to us about the reconstitution of the Travis County Civil Courthouse Advisory Panel. The County's consultant had recommended to the original panel that the proposed project, to be located just to the south of Republic Square on a downtown block that the County owns, be a Public, Private Partnership (3P), and that recommendation has been initially accepted by the Commissioners' Court. Because it has been determined that the funding of this project is to go before the voters for approval, the Commissioner's Court is going to again set up a citizen's advisory panel and they have asked OANA if we would like a seat at the table. After discussion, the OANA BoD decided to decline the invitation. We as an organization have discussed previously our reservations about this proposal, not that there are not legitimate unmet civil courthouse capacity issues but rather is this the correct location to accomplish the intended goals. When this matter goes forward for voter approval in the form of bonds, OANA will make a recommendation, and our membership on the reconstituted citizen's advisory panel might make that recommendation awkward. In addition, depending on where and if an expansion of the County's presence is located in the downtown area, there may be some property ownership conflicts among individual members of the OANA BoD.

Our discussion then turned to the recent demolition of the PTA building at 408-412 W. 11th Street. This was a very disappointing turn of events for the BoD. Based on previous discussions with the County and the development team, we had anticipated that the arguably historic 1920's era PTA building would be retained and repurposed into the new structure. In addition, although OANA recognizes that the County is hierarchically superior to the City in these situations, we expected a more orderly and enlightened demolition process. As far as can be determined there was no abatement of asbestos or other hazardous materials on the site prior to or during this Saturday morning demolition and the site itself was poorly secured and buffered from the surrounding properties. On motion and vote of 6-0-1, Rick abstaining, Albert and Blake were tasked with writing a draft an open letter to the County Commissioners outlining our concerns on these life safety issues and explaining that OANA's support of the increase of entitlements on the property was partially based on the retention of the PTA building.

Blake then spoke to the group about the proposed Land Development Code (LDC) ordinance C20-2011-032, an ordinance amending Chapter 25-2-491 of the city code relating to permitted, conditional and prohibited uses in the Downtown Mixed Use (DMU) zoning district designation to make electronic prototype assembly and electronic testing conditional uses in the DMU base zoning district. This proposal goes back to the rezoning of 707 West Avenue by Cirrus Logic in 2011. In that rezoning case, OANA supported the applicant's request to go from the General Office (GO) zoning district to the very intense Commercial Services (CS) zoning district with the understanding that if and when prototype assembly and electronic testing became uses available under the DMU zoning district, the property's zoning would be rolled down to DMU in conformance with the Downtown Austin Plan (DAP). It was understood by some of the OANA BoD members, and was definitely discussed and recommended by the Planning Commission, that these uses under DMU would be conditional uses subject to a public hearing before the appropriate land commission. Between the Planning Commission hearing on 01-22-2013 where City Staff supported the inclusion of the uses under the DMU zoning district on a conditional basis and the public hearing before the City Council, the City Staff's recommendation changed from conditional to permitted, and the ordinance was brought to the City Council as a permitted use. Because a permitted use is a less restrictive use than a conditional use and the ordinance was posted as a conditional use, the matter needed to be reposted, the public renotified, and the matter reheard, and is now scheduled to return to the City Council on 03-28-2013. On motion and after vigorous discussion, the BoD voted 6-2 (Ted and Rick voting no) to recommend to the City Council that the ordinance allowing prototype assembly and electronic testing to occur under the DMU zoning district be a conditional, not administratively permitted, use.

At this point, I had to leave. The minutes will be continued. Our next scheduled meeting will be 2 April 2013.

Blake Tollett-Secretary