

Old Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA)
6 March 2018

The OANA Board of Directors (BoD) came together for our regularly scheduled monthly meeting on 6 March 2018 at the Austin History Center. BoD members in attendance were Bill Schnell, Perry Lorenz, Charles Peveto, Michael Portman, Paul Byars, Blake Tollett, Ted Siff, Katie Jackson and Diana Zuniga. Advisory Council members in attendance were Roger Cauvin and Dorothy Doolittle. There were no guests.

We began, on motion by Charles with Paul seconding, by unanimously adopting the 6 February 2018 meeting minutes as submitted.

We then turned to **Committee Reports and Action Items:**

Under **Parks**, Charles reported that weeds, especially in the mulched areas around the trees, are overtaking Wooldridge Square Park. The City's Urban Forestry Department has recommended that mulch lines be further extended out from the trees and that area is not easily mown. The Parks & Recreation Department (PARC) and Urban Forestry have done some weed control but this is basically hand-pulling work and there are only so many City resources. Ted suggested bringing the Downtown Austin Alliance (DAA) into the picture as the Square is within their boundaries. There is a draft operational maintenance plan for the Square and Charles will forward a copy to the rest of the BoD. Another area of concern of the Friends of Wooldridge Square group is the balance of funds remaining allocated for the Square's master plan. They have been given a verbal figure of \$100,000 but they would like a written confirmation. Charles suggested that OANA write a letter asking for the fund balance, a timeline for completion of the master plan, and a formalized operational maintenance plan based on the draft. After discussion, Charles will compose for Ted's signature a letter from OANA to the City asking PARC to formalize the draft operational maintenance plan and then to implement it. On motion from Charles with Michael seconding, this was approved.

Ted announced that the annual Shoal Creek Conservancy awards were to be given on Tuesday, May 8th, 2018, at the Cirrus Logic Community Room at 700 West Avenue. The event will be held from 5 until 7:30 in the evening and all are welcome.

We then discussed the proposed bond election scheduled for this fall as it relates to downtown parks. They preliminarily are calling for one million to be allocated to the extant squares. At this point Republic Square seems to be well provided for so in theory the money will be allocated to Brush and Wooldridge Squares. Advocates for the squares should take note.

Under **Financial Reports and Membership**, Michael again reports all is steady.

Under **Planning, Zoning and Historic Preservation**, Blake reported that the Gilfillan rezoning request seems to have disappeared, as it no longer shows on the Historic Landmark Commission's agenda.

Under **Marketing**, Bill told us that between his work and home life he is under time constraints. Katie, who is working on our website with Grayson and is versed in social media, will work with Bill on some guidelines that will enhance our internet presence.

Turning to **Old Business**, the citizens' task force recommendations will probably go to the City Council in June. The ballot bond proposals in November will be listed separately. Historically the City's electorate has shown confidence in City leadership and passed their recommendations.

In an update to the "Downtown Puzzle" (see last month's minutes), Ted reported that City Staff is recommending to Council that the Waller Creek TIF (Tax Increment Funding) program be extended to continue improvements along Waller Creek. This is relevant to OANA since it has been suggested that there be a Shoal Creek TIF program set up to address infrastructure areas such as the rehabilitation of the wooden railroad trellis over the creek and other identified trail improvements.

Both Blake and Ted have been in communication with the City over the CodeNext version 3 maps. The maps continue to show anomalies within the neighborhood when compared to the maps generated under the Downtown Austin Plan/Northwest District (DAP/NMD). There is also concern about the apparent elimination of Conditional Overlays (CO) under the citywide rezoning scheme. Over the last several years OANA has pressed applicants wanting to upzone from office zoning districts to mixed use zoning districts to limit their height entitlements to their current underlying development entitlements. For example, a property under the zoning district of General Office (GO) has a developmental height entitlement of 60 feet. If the owner wishes to change the zoning district to Downtown Mixed Use (DMU), a zoning district allowing up to 120 feet of development, OANA, in accord with the DAP/NMD, has been very successful in getting the owner to voluntarily agree to a CO limiting developmental height to 60 feet, an entitlement the property currently enjoys. Other COs that OANA has been successful in impressing on properties that have been upzoned to DMU from office zoning districts concern permissible and conditional uses allowed under the new zoning district, stand alone bars and pawn shops being examples. OANA will continue to monitor this.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 3 April at the Shoal Creek Saloon. We adjourned today's meeting early to accept an invitation from Michael Miller, Director of the Austin History Center, to tour the facility. Thank you Charles for setting this up for us.

Blake Tollett, Secretary
OANA