

Old Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA)
05 April 2016

The OANA Board of Directors (BoD) came together at the Common Room of the Regency Apartments at 4 PM on the first Tuesday of the month. BoD members in attendance were Ted Siff, Michael Portman, Charles Peveto, Paul Isham, Ray Canfield, Bill Schnell, Perry Lorenz and Blake Tollett. Diana Zuniga, Austin Stowell and Perry Horton had all sent their regrets.

There were no guests.

With minor revisions, the March 2016 Minutes, on motion from Michael with Charles seconding, were unanimously approved and Bill will post them online.

Under **Old Business, Current News and Action Items**, Michael led off our discussions with a membership and treasury update. Our bank balance is around \$4,900 and the Board was encouraged to bring in new members. He and Clara have pretty much finished the guidelines for the proposed OANA Advisory Council and with BoD approval, they will begin reaching out to the HOAs at the Spring, the Nokonah and the 360. Below is their draft:

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OANA Multi-family Advisory Council

Composition of Council:

OANA Multi-family Council members will be identified and approved by both the OANA Board and the corresponding HOA Board(s) of the multi-family residential (ownership) condominium(s) within the OANA boundaries of W 15th Street, N Lamar Avenue, Lady Bird Lake and Lavaca Street. Each HOA may select one resident to serve as its OANA Multi-family Council member.

Focus of Council:

As invited guests to the monthly OANA Board meetings, members of the *OANA Multifamily Council*

- Maintain their respective HOAs informed about OANA activities and advocacy projects.
- Provide input to the OANA Board of Directors on questions/issues of concern regarding construction projects, street/pathway/lake maintenance or noise that have surfaced during their respective HOA meetings.
- Advocate to their respective HOAs about key initiatives and events supported by OANA.
- Respond to questions from other condo residents about OANA's focus and support membership opportunities.

Responsibilities:

Members of the *OANA Multifamily Council*

- Attend at least 6 monthly OANA Board meetings.
- Communicate their respective condo's questions/issues at monthly OANA Board meeting(s).
- Review monthly OANA Board meeting minutes found on line at:
<http://www.originalaustin.org/news.htm>

- Communicate OANA Board meeting minutes to their respective HOAs or building General Manager.
- Coordinate the distribution/communication of OANA events in alignment with their condo's 'communication protocol' or General Manager.
- Engage residents within their condo in conversations about the role/value of OANA membership

Term of Membership:

The *OANA Multifamily Council* aligns with the directives of the OANA Board and the terms, focus, responsibilities may change accordingly. Members of the *OANA Multifamily Council* serve a twelve-month calendar term beginning in January. Members will be nominated by their respective HOA Board and approved by the OANA Board at the annual Membership Meeting in January (or during an OANA Board meeting). An *OANA Multifamily Council* member may be re-elected to serve additional terms.

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We then discussed the upcoming May 7th election concerning City of Austin operating regulations over transportation network companies (TNCs). The OANA official position of support of the concept of TNCs remains unchanged.

Blake spoke to the rezoning requests by the Texas Association of Counties (TAC) for their properties at 1205 Nueces and 1204 San Antonio Streets. OANA is on record as supporting the City Staff's recommendation of DMU-60 for the properties. It is unfortunate that the Planning Commission's recommendation for the 1204 San Antonio property, DMU-90, differed from the City Staff's recommendation. Our Council representative, Mayor Pro Tem Tovo, will be recusing herself, as her husband owns property around the corner, so Blake and Ted will be going by to speak with the individual Council Members to explain our position. The hearings will be on April 14th.

Paul gave us an update on the status of the Seaholm TIF (Tax Increment Financing). [NOTE: TIFs derive their funding from a set diversion from the sales taxes collected within their boundaries. These boundaries are defined as well as the use of the funds. The City Council itself serves as the TIF's BoD] Right now the Seaholm TIF is focused on the Bowie Street Underpass, a City project that is waiting on a formalized agreement between the City and Union Pacific that would lay out a construction plan timetable. OANA is seeking to bump the current boundaries out to encompass portions of Shoal Creek in order to address trail improvements along the creek between W. 2nd Street and West Avenue and the rehabilitation of the no longer used wooden rail road trestle over the creek in that area. Paul has discovered that the engineering firm of Jackson-Quintanilla in 2001 did an assessment of the trestle, and although the structure is no longer able to handle rail, the question is whether it can be repaired and repurposed to safely be used by bicyclists and pedestrians. The Shoal Creek Conservancy (SCC) is stepping up to fund an update by the engineers. As for expanding the TIF boundaries, Paul and Ted have been in discussions with the City's finance department, and there doesn't seem to be push back from the City on this proposed expansion. Ultimately this will have to go before the City Council.

Ray has circulated electronically to the OANA BoD the preliminary work product coming out of the Flood Mitigation Task Force (FMTF). As expected, there are alarming deficiencies in areas such as infrastructure that will take major financial commitments to address. From the executive summary:

“The basic goals of flood mitigation and preparedness strategies are to identify and quantify known and predicated flood risk; to make the general public, elected officials, and emergency responders aware of the risks and how to respond; and to develop and implement mitigation strategies that reduce the potential of creating new or future problems (regulation) and reduce the potential risk related to existing flood problems.”

For real world input, Ray told us he shared with his section the protocol he and his employees go through to prepare for flooding along his business’s section of Shoal Creek as well as proposing some proactive maintenance measures that would at least lessen the impact of the inevitable flooding along the creek. Ted reported that the City in conjunction with SCC is focusing on the stretch of the creek between W 15th and W 5th Streets to improve flow. There are some more easily addressable issues in all of the City’s watersheds, but again, long-term solutions will require true commitment.

As for the Travis County Civil Courthouse placement conundrum, there appears to be no solid progress although it is known that a new stakeholder committee has been formed to evaluate potential sites.

The SCC has electronically circulated their monthly newsletter and a couple of the highlights are the “Give 5% to Mother Earth Day” and the upcoming 2nd Annual Shoal Creek Awards on May 17th. OANA also is issuing an electronic Spring Newsletter and Bill has permission to borrow articles as needed.

Charles reports that Ted Eubanks’ suggestion to pause the master planning for Wooldridge Square in order to explore the idea of a cultural district in the neighborhood around the square seems to be finding traction. Charles will be presenting the idea to the History Center BoD.

Having come to the end of our meeting agenda, we adjourned. Our next OANA BoD meeting will be on Tuesday 10 May at 4 PM.

Blake Tollett-Secretary
OANA