

Old Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA)
12 May 2015

The Board of Directors (BoD) of OANA came together at our regularly scheduled time and place, the second Tuesday of the month at the Common Room of the Regency Apartments from 4 until 5:30 pm. Directors in attendance were Ted Siff, Ray Canfield, Paul Isham, John Horton, Perry Lorenz, Bill Schnell, Michael Portman and Blake Tollett. Directors Charles Peveto, Albert Stowell and Diane Zuniga sent their regrets.

OANA member Roger Cauvin joined us during the meeting.

We began by reviewing the April 2015 minutes, and upon motion by Perry with Paul seconding, they were unanimously approved.

Under Current News:

Travis County Civil Courthouse (TCCC)-Ted reports that as best he can tell there has been no finalized official action, but to get on the November ballot as a bond proposal they have until mid-August to come up with language. OANA's BoD continues to have reservations about the projects proposed location, and there has been an alternate put forward by the Michael Kennedy Group (realistically this proposal may line out as too expensive and difficult to execute). John reports that it is his understanding that the County is approaching their preferred option as a design/build business proposal to be undertaken by the County rather than a public-private-partnership and this preferred option has several very complex elements. OANA will continue to monitor this.

Bowie Street Underpass-Paul has made inquiries of the City as to the status of the project but has not heard back from them yet. Since our last meeting, Ray, Perry, Michael and Ted have all used Seaholm Drive, and based upon their experiences, the passageway under the railroad track does seem superfluous. On an anecdotal basis, residents of the area don't seem to be missing the tunnel and the railroad doesn't appear to be doing any preparatory work in anticipation of pending construction of the passage. Ted and Paul will make inquiries of the City as to the language and status of the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) program set up to fund the underpass.

OANA Goals Update-Bill circulated some proposed changes in our Goals, and with inclusion of input from Diane, Paul and Ted, the below restatement was unanimously adopted:

“OANA's purpose is to provide its members as well as the neighborhood's property owners, residents and visitors a thoughtful, deliberate and strong voice which advocates, protects and enhances the following neighborhood values:

- Historic preservation;
- Environmental conservation;
- Reforestation and preservation of our urban forest;
- Preservation and enhancement of our green spaces;
- The completion of the neighborhood's sidewalks and other pedestrian facilities;

- And support for new dense residential and commercial development that is respectful of the neighborhood's history and values.

By being the voice for these values the OANA Board of Directors is optimistic that the Old Austin Neighborhood will continue to be a special place for Austinites to live, work and play. And, that it will also provide a unique look back as Austin's original residential neighborhood."

Ted offered a suggestion that the individual goals be illustrated on the website with photographs from the neighborhood similar in fashion to what is currently up.

Update on FAN-The Friends of Austin Neighborhoods organization is still working on their bylaws, but a public face has been placed on the organization at <ATX.org>.

Update on the City's "24 hour concrete pour" ordinance-Prior to the meeting Paul forwarded the following email:

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From: Auzenne, Viktor <Viktor.Auzenne@austintexas.gov>
Cc: Guernsey, Greg <Greg.Guernsey@austintexas.gov>; Johnson, Christopher [PDRD] [PDRD] <Christopher.Johnson@austintexas.gov>; Walker, Bryan <Bryan.Walker@austintexas.gov>
Sent: Mon, May 11, 2015 9:42 am
Subject: After-Hours Concrete Installation Permit Stakeholder Update #5

Good Morning:

I am writing to provide you an update on the proposed code amendments related to after-hours concrete installation permits in the downtown area. Following input from the stakeholder group, the Downtown Commission approved recommendations to the City Council for changes to the current code language at their meeting on March 18, 2015. Since then, staff has been working to create proposed code language for the City Council's review. Two public hearings have been set on this issue:

- City Council Planning & Neighborhoods Committee
May 18, 2015 at 4:00pm at Austin City Hall (301 W 2nd St)

Additional meeting information & documents:

<http://austin.siretechnologies.com/sirepub/mtgviewer.aspx?meetid=817&doctype=agenda>

- City Council
June 4, 2015 at 10:00am at Austin City Hall (301 W 2nd St)

Additional meeting information & documents: <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/city-council/council-meetings>

Backup and proposed language will be posted to the meeting websites as they become available. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,
Viktor Auzenne

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This remains a work in progress, but the language that came out of the Downtown Commission seems to be favored by Staff. Those recommendations looked specifically at concrete pours in the Central Business District (CBD) and the Public zoning district and were to last one year. During that year, there is to be continued dialogue on construction noise of all types that are occurring downtown. It should be noted that prior to this dust up, continuous concrete pours in the CBD or the Public zoning district were not allowed, but were permissible, albeit that permission was normally granted for the asking. In the Downtown Mixed Use (DMU) zoning district, the zoning district that predominates the northern half of our neighborhood, continuous pours are not allowed.

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

Albert reported that our bank account remains stable.

The new residential tower, the Independent, is underway. There will be a public plaza included in the project as well as some improvements to the public trail system. There are also serious discussions between the developers and the City to attempt to save the wooden railroad trestle on the south end of the property that crosses over Shoal Creek. This rehabilitation will be expensive, but there is a worthwhile upside. Ted reminded us that OANA member Chris Riley many years back worked hard to keep the trestle from being taken down so there is that incentive for OANA to renew the call for its preservation.

The W. 10th and Nueces Streets condominium project continues. A prior agreement between the property's previous owners and OANA addresses the trees on site that this developer plans to take down. There is a Restrictive Covenant on the deed that mitigates the removal of the trees with a payment of \$6,000. Ted and Albert are pushing for the City to use the funds to place Burr Oaks along the next street over, Rio Grande Boulevard, the designated bicycle boulevard and a street where the City has previously buried the utility lines.

The residential project at W. 5th and Nueces Streets has seen the initial demolition but there appears to be a stall in activity. The rumor is there are underground "surprises" on the property. The Hotel ZaZa project has apparently hit a speed bump concerning a no longer used but still there utility line.

Under **Membership and Marketing**, Michael reports he has through the expenditure of time and treasure come up with a preliminary list of neighborhood addresses and edresses. He passed around a hard copy of it to each BoD member and is encouraging us to do edits.

With Charles being absent we had no **Wooldridge Park** update. A listing of upcoming Movies In The Park at Wooldridge can be found at <austinparks.org>.

Under **Shoal Creek Conservancy (SCC)** news, Ted reports that due to the “Give 5 For Mother Earth” event on Earth Day, SCC received several thousand dollars. Also, through the Amplify Austin day of philanthropy, SCC cleared just over \$2,000. Things are going well.

With our meeting time having run, we adjourned. Due to summer scheduling conflicts our next OANA BoD meeting will be held on Thursday 4 June 2015 at a site to be determined (although we are hoping to meet at the Austin History Center).

Blake Tollett-Secretary
OANA