

Old Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA)
4 June 2015

The Board of directors (BoD) of OANA came together on Thursday 4 June 2015 at the Common Room of the Regency Apartments just after 4 PM. Directors in attendance were Perry Lorenz, Bill Schnell, Ted Siff, Paul Isham, Ray Canfield, Charles Peveto and Blake Tollett. Directors John Horton, Albert Stowell and Diana Zuniga had sent their regrets.

On motion from Charles with Perry seconding, the May 2015 OANA BoD minutes as revised were unanimously adopted and Bill will post them on our website.

Under Current News and Action Items:

The OANA BoD will continue to monitor the Travis County Civil Courthouse (TCCC) proposal. From last month's meeting there really isn't anything new to report.

Concerning the Bowie Street Underpass, Ted reports that the City and the railroad operator are invested in the project and it will be going forward. The Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) district tied to the new developments in that area is projected to generate 21 million dollars in revenue and the funds are directly tied to the underpass and Seaholm Drive. Most of the monies have been spent on the roadway but there are funds to do the pedestrian/bicycle tunnel under the train track. It is Ted's understanding that the engineering work on the tunnel is almost complete so there will be visible progress soon. Anecdotally, Ray reports that while the underpass may appear redundant, there is a need for a designated pedestrian/bicycle corridor in that Seaholm Drive can get congested.

Bill reports that our redefined Goals will be up on the website soon.

We then had an extended discussion of the recent Memorial Day flooding in our neighborhood and how our neighbors along Shoal Creek were impacted. In response to this recurrent disaster the City is going to set up a task force composed of 22 members from the community, the members ideally having the ability to understand these types of events. This commission will form in mid September and report back to the City Council no later than April 2016. Ted will forward to the BoD the resolution authorizing the task force. In addition to this task force, the Shoal Creek Conservancy (SCC) under its partnership agreement with the City will also be looking at ways to mitigate the creek's impact on its neighbors. There are some "low hanging fruit" fixes that can be looked at immediately such as removing trees and from the creek's streambed, continually addressing the shoals that occur in the creek's many turns, and taking a hard look at breaching or eliminating the barrier peninsula that stretches across the creek's mouth as it enters Lady Bird Lake. You obviously want to get the water through the drainage area as quickly and efficiently as possible and into the lake. That is one prong of a potential remediation. Getting the water out of the lake and down the river is an entirely different story.

Lady Bird Lake (formerly Town Lake) was formed by the construction of Longhorn Dam by the City in 1960. The resulting impoundment was designed primarily to service the Holly Street Power Plant but it also resulted in a constant level body of water through town, in theory more

easily lived with than a river system controlled only by upstream dams under the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA). In times of flooding, there are nine floodgates on Longhorn Dam that can be used to keep the lake waters within their banks. Unfortunately, it appears that this envisioned control is not working. The Holly Street Power Plant has been decommissioned for several years, and Austin Energy, a quasi private entity, appears to be behind in ongoing maintenance of the flood gates specifically and the structure in general. It is known that at least one of the floodgates cannot be opened. There also appears to be a lack of coordination between Austin Energy's operation of the dam during emergency flooding situations and other City's emergency response departments. As this was a general discussion no formal action by the OANA BoD was taken, but it does give rise to questions that need answers. [NOTE: If you are reading these minutes, please consider patronizing the businesses affected by the Lamar Street flooding. They will appreciate the custom.]

Our discussion then turned to a new concept bar, the Steampunk, that has taken over the old Maggie Mae site on W. 6th Street. It is somewhat of a mystery so far but there will be on site food trailers to go with the libations. Over at the Cirrus Logic building, longtime Austin restaurateur Reed Clemmons will be opening another location of The Grove, a casual upscale dining venue. In discussing the Cirrus Logic building, Bill and Ted filled us in on the beautiful community meeting space that has been constructed under the new parking garage. Through the use of partitions, the room can be configured to accommodate gatherings up to 500 folks and it is possible to reserve the space for community beneficial events.

The last Current News item was an update on where the City process is concerning the proposed reworking of the "24 hour concrete pour" ordinance. Paul tells us that the Planning and Neighborhoods Committee of the City Council will be meeting on Tuesday 9 June at 2 PM to:

Review and consider recommendations related to permitting requirements for non-peak hour concrete installation within portions of the Central Business District (CBD) and Public (P) zoning districts.

The recommendations being considered come from the Downtown Commission, specifically:

The Downtown Commission makes these recommendations to the City Council:

- Require a noise and light mitigation plan with each after-hours concrete installation permit application.
- Set a decibel maximum of 75 dBA for construction activity between 10:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m. measured from the construction boundary line.
- Set a decibel maximum of 65 dBA for construction activity, under special circumstances, from 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. measured from the limits of the construction boundary line.
- Shield after-hour lighting associated with the concrete installation from adjacent residential uses not to exceed 0.4 foot-candles at the property line.
- dBC levels need to be addressed after further study by the COA within six months.
- Projects for which an application for building permit has been submitted to the city as of the date the new ordinance is adopted shall be grandfathered for the first three months, then subject to the new ordinance.
- The city shall provide an equitable and effective enforcement mechanism where repeat

- violations affect the ability to obtain additional nighttime permits.
- This proposal shall be effective for one year during which time the COA shall evaluate and make recommendations for modification (if any) prior to the end of the year.
 - Residents within 300 feet shall be provided with a 24 hour telephone contact, with advanced notification.
 - This ordinance should apply to both CBD- and P-zoned property.
 - The City Council should address all construction-related noise, not just the pouring of concrete, and develop recommended ordinance changes.

OANA will continue to monitor the situation.

Under Committee reports, Ted reported that Albert reported our financials remain the same.

Under Planning, Zoning and Historic Preservation, Ted gave us an update on the trees at the proposed W. 9th Street and Nueces condominium project. As reported last month, there is a private Restrictive Covenant (RC) calling for financial mitigation if non-heritage trees on the site are removed for construction, and the mitigation must be located within 10 blocks of the property. Hoping to continue the enhancement of Rio Grande Street as a bicycle boulevard along with taking advantage of the buried utility lines along the street, Albert and Ted have talked with the folks at Pease Elementary and the ACC W. 12th Street campus about their taking on the in perpetuity care and maintenance of the to be donated trees (we are thinking burr oaks, an oak species not susceptible to oak wilt) and their acceptance looks to be forthcoming.

Ted additionally reports that when the building permit was issued at the 5th & West project, a proposal for a residential tower with a 10,000 square foot footprint and then rising 38 stories or approximately 400 feet into the air, due to negotiated entitlement increases, the project has presented a check for \$317,000 to the Public Works Department to add to the enhancement work planned for the lower parts of Shoal Creek.

Perry reported that the effort continues to try to save, at least in some recognizable form, the railroad trestle bridge over the lower end of Shoal Creek. There will need to be some challenging engineering done and some creative financing explored, but it can, and hopefully will, be accomplished.

We briefly discussed the upcoming yearly renewal of the Outdoor Music Venue (OMV) permit issued to the Allan House at 1104 San Antonio Street. The descriptive wording of their application to the City tracks the conditional language we requested of them previously.

Michael had sent word that membership recruitment was ongoing.

Under Shoal Creek Conservancy (SCC) news, there was a cleanup last Saturday that saw some 200 volunteers pitch in and tidying up the creek side from W. 29th Street south. Charles reported that the majority of folks turning out were first timers. Thank you citizens of Austin. Ted went on to say that under the agreement between the SCC and the City, one on one meetings amongst the various City departments had begun

Under news from Wooldridge Park, Charles relates that the City's Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) has hired some land planners to further explore potential deficiencies at the facility. On a down note, it was reported that the food vendor has moved his trailer off the park. There is potentially support from either the County government or the Austin Parks Foundation to help ensure the next vendor is able to make the location a success.

Having run out of time if not necessarily discussion subjects, we adjourned until July. Due to scheduling conflicts amongst the members, the OANA BoD will reconvene on Tuesday 7 July.

[NOTE: Subsequent to the meeting Charles confirmed that we have a reserved space for this meeting at the Austin History Center]

Blake Tollett-Secretary
OANA