

Old Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA)
7 June 2016

The Board of Directors (BoD) of OANA came together at our normal time and place with Directors Michael Portman, Perry Horton, Austin Stowell, Charles Peveto, Ted Siff, Blake Tollett, Paul Isham and Diana Zuniga in attendance. Directors Perry Lorenz, Ray Canfield and Bill Schnell sent their regrets. Advisory Council member Catherine Van Hersh from the Nokonah and our good friend Clara Martinez Haynes also joined us.

On motion by Charles with Diana seconding, the May 2016 Minutes were unanimously adopted and when Bill returns from his Florida trip to see the Mouse he will post them on our website. It was suggested and approved that Clara along with the members of the OANA Advisory Council (Catherine at this point) be added to the email chain (currently active and former members of the OANA BoD) for the original distribution of the Minutes.

Moving on to **Action Items**, we discussed what is going on at **906-908 Nueces** tree mitigation wise. Back in 2007, the then owners of the property, Michael J. McGinnis and Richard G. Hardin signed a Restrictive Covenant (RC) with OANA as a condition of their rezoning of the property to DMU. One of the provisions of the RC was that if larger trees were removed from the property for a new project then an equivalent of new trees would be replanted within 10 blocks of the project. For the project at this location currently underway, trees of the specific size were removed and the question now is where the equivalents will be located. The lost trees were valued at \$6,100. In discussion with the City, Ted has learned that for a private individual to place a tree in the right of way requires first a license agreement and then an agreement of care and maintenance, and if necessary, things in the right of way can be removed if warranted. In an attempt to circumvent these cumbersome requirements and to perhaps lose the trees to right-of-way improvements, Ted spoke with Keith Mars of the City's Forestry Department and we have been given the OK to try and place the replacement trees on private property within the specified 10-block radius. Obviously, the private property owner would have to agree to maintain the trees until they are established, but on the flip side these will be nice trees (Ted estimates approximately \$500 per tree planted) provided at no initial cost to the property owner. Ted and Michael will begin canvassing potential recipients. NOTE: This RC is a private mitigation agreement between OANA and the owners of the property, and the City is also requiring on-site mitigation for the protected trees taken down.

Following up on last month's discussion concerning the outdoor music permit application by **Irene's, a venue at 506 West Avenue**, we are assuming the permit was issued as they are in business. Several BoD members have been to the restaurant and reported good things.

We also revisited the discussion regarding closure policies concerning the Ann and Roy Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail (the Trail). This came up as a result of a three-night closure granted SXSW so they could do fireworks safely last March in celebration of their 30th anniversary. Prior to these SXSW closures the only sanctioned closures of the Trail are on New Year's Eve and the 4th of July, also for fireworks. Our Perry Horton met with the Trail foundation folks and other interested parties to craft a policy response to requests to take over the Trail for these special events, the options running from formulating a screening and application process to review

proposals submitted to the Trail Foundation to not allowing any further events to close the Trail. After discussion and on motion, OANA will follow the lead of the Trail Foundation, their policy being only firework closures on New Year's Eve and the 4th of July.

Under **Current News**, the rezoning from GO to DMU-60 being requested at **701 Rio Grande and 602 W. 7th Streets (C14-2016-0034)** passed on Consent from the Planning Commission and will go for Public Hearing at City Council on June 16th. The 3rd Reading of the rezoning ordinance at **1204 San Antonio Street (C14-2015-0133)** taking the property to DMU-60 is also on the June 16th agenda.

We next discussed the potential **City of Austin (CoA) Transportation Bond**. Last month the OANA BoD voted "to advocate for (lend our name at a minimum) and provisionally support putting a transportation bond proposal before the citizens this coming November". Our resident bond expert (Ted) explained to us that bond packages come in cycles with the large multi-bond proposals coming on average every 6 years. The last "full ballot" bond was in 2012. This single purpose bond proposal would be off cycle similar to the 2010 transportation bond, that bond's funding for projects being exhausted at the end of this year. The Mayor and CM Kitchen have declared 2016 the Year of Mobility and City Staff has put forward 4 bond scenarios ranging in cost from \$250 million to \$720 million. The trails/pedestrian/bicycle community is pushing for the larger bond package and hoping to realize \$60 to \$100 million for their constituency. The City Council will make a decision this month (June) on whether to go forward and how much to request as the Council usually takes July off and the bond language will need to be finalized by August 9th to make it on the November ballot. The waters should be clearer by our July OANA BoD meeting and we will revisit this topic. NOTE-There are already prepared road project proposals for sections of Lamar Boulevard, Burnett Road and MLK Boulevard, and these roads are State Highways that crisscross the City. If the CoA takes on their upgrade from the State, the monies thus spent on area State Highways offset and count towards monies that the CoA would need to match improvement funds to be allocated to IH-35 improvements. If understood correctly, if the City makes these improvements to our roads, that would accelerate projected improvements to IH-35, at least those improvements that can be readily accomplished.

There is no specific news concerning the **Travis County Civil Courthouse** proposal, but we are supportive of the County's request to take over the old Federal Courthouse complex.

Purple Pipe and Duncan Park-we again returned to a topic discussed last month. The route from Wooldridge Square to Duncan Park appears to have gone down W. 10th Street rather than W. 9th. The \$94K mitigation fee paid by the Water Department to the Parks & Recreation Department (PARD) did not go to the CIP (Community Initiative Program) account for Duncan Park in order to fund the master improvement plan as we had hoped but rather turned out to be an accounting adjustment between City departments. This apparently was an oversight, and the next time PARD gets credits from the Water Department, an aggregate amount of \$94K will go to Duncan Park. There is also an outside chance that Parkland Dedication funds from developments within one mile of the park could be assigned for this planning process. The Water Department folks responsible for bringing this non-potable water resource into the city center want to come talk with us; Ted suggested we have a separate meeting for this, perhaps at the History Center, and invite as many interested parties as we can. Charles will check on room availability.

As best we can tell there is no movement on what exactly the **Gilfillan House** owners are up to other than they again appear to be having public events at the historic structure.

Charles reported the visioning statement process for **Wooldridge Square** continues with Ted Eubanks participating along with the various stakeholders. They are expanding on the idea of Wooldridge Square being a cultural hub for that section of the neighborhood with W. 9th Street being the connector between the Square and Duncan Park and Shoal Creek. The security concerns surrounding the recent phenomena of very aggressive street folks continues.

Under news from the **Shoal Creek Conservancy (SCC)**, Ted reports that improvements to the SCC trail system continues to improve through the use of public and private funding mechanisms. Charles reports that the W. 6th Street bridge rehabilitation plan has been approved. The SCC has contracted for a comprehensive plan from the headwaters up at the Pickle Research Center all the way to the lake, with the intent to include the Walnut Creek watershed.

Squeezing in the last word, Michael tells us that potential **Advisory Council** members have been identified at the 360 and he is working to get representatives on board from both the Spring and the Westgate.

Due to scheduling conflicts, our next meeting will be on Monday 11 July 2016 beginning at 4 PM at the Common Room of the Regency Apartments.

Blake Tollett, Secretary
OANA