

Old Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA)
7 July 2015

The OANA Board of directors (BoD) came together at a special called monthly meeting on Tuesday 7 July 2015 at the Austin History Center. Members in attendance were Charles Peveto, Ted Siff, Albert Stowell, John Horton, Bill Schnell and Blake Tollett. Sending their regrets were Diana Zuniga, Michael Portman, Ray Canfield, Perry Lorenz and Paul Isham. We had no guests.

The first order of business was the adoption of June's minutes, and on motion from Charles with Bill seconding, they were unanimously adopted. Bill will post them on our website.

We next turned to a discussion of membership outreach to our neighbors. Joining us from Charleston, South Carolina VIA cell phone was Clara Martinez Haynes, a resident of the 360 and a business associate of BoD member Michael. Clara has graciously agreed to help us increase our numbers. To begin, prior to the meeting she had provided the Board a merged spreadsheet listing all the contact information of current, lapsed and potential members we have gathered through various means and asked that we go over the list and do updates where appropriate. She also shared with us a revised membership application form Michael has generated that incorporates some of the new verbiage from our revised Goals. It was determined during the conversation with Clara that the Membership/Marketing committee will be temporarily expanded to include Albert, Bill, Michael and Ted to work with Clara to evaluate the benefits of a master contact list with the objective to approach membership in a more comprehensive and robust manner.

We then discussed the new neighborhood association umbrella group Friends of Austin Neighborhoods (FAN) and their desire that OANA join the organization. Ted told us he sees FAN as an alternative to the Austin Neighborhoods Council (ANC), and although the goals and objectives of OANA and the ANC are not always compatible and in-synch, nevertheless our membership in the ANC is something he supports. Blake spoke to his opposition to OANA joining FAN as some of its foundational goals are in direct opposition to work he has been involved with in his home neighborhood association, West Austin Neighborhood Group (WANG), where he has served on the Board of Directors for over 15 years. They are on record as enthusiastic supporters of eliminating all restrictions on Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) in residential neighborhoods citywide such as minimum lot size, impervious cover and off street parking requirements, relaxations of the Land Development Code generally opposed, at least partially, by most residential neighborhood associations. It was decided to revisit the subject later in the year.

As for the new Travis County Civil Courthouse, there is not much new to report. The Commissioners Court seems set on a downtown location for the courthouse and our concerns over this location have been noted.

We then turned to the Flood Mitigation Task Force (FMTF) authorized by the City Council to look into ways to try and contain Shoal Creek. They will get together in early September with a report due in April of next year. Ted will email out a copy of the EMTF enabling resolution to members of Shoal Creek Conservancy (SCC) and OANA with the hope that some interested

folks put their names forward. The SCC will also be conducting a parallel examination of the creek's drainage area. The various Shoal Creek organizations up and down the watershed will be having open public meetings to help define problems contributing to downstream flooding, check out best practices in other cities, and then come up with doable tangibles. With the memory of the most recent flood still fresh in folk's minds, now is the time to identify some solutions and get some work done.

Albert reports no change in our finances.

Under News, the Grove Restaurant, a Reed Clemons product, is the new venture in the Cirrus Logic building. The Steampunk bar should open by the end of July at least partially.

Under Zoning, the Texas Association of Counties is contemplating a major expansion of its building at 1204 San Antonio Street. The ACC Rio Grande campus restoration appears to be on track.

Under Parks, Charles reports that the food vendor at Wooldridge has moved along and the proposed pilot program through the Austin Parks Foundation (APF) to help subsidize a food vendor at the park has been abandoned. They are going to keep trying to make this work. Along with the APF, they are sponsoring another movie at Wooldridge on August 9th.

We adjourned a little early so as to reconvene at the Rattle Inn for cocktails with SCC supporters. Our thanks to Charles for arranging the use of the Austin History Center for our meeting. Next month we will be at the Regency Apartments on Tuesday, August 11th.

Blake Tollett, Secretary
OANA