

Original Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA)  
6 September 2012

The Board of Directors (BoD) came together shortly after 4 PM. Members in attendance were Ted Siff, John Horton, Ray Canfield, Perry Lorenz, Paul Isham, Bill Schnell, Albert Stowell and Blake Tollett. Our guest was Jimena Cruz, an intern for the proposed Shoal Creek Conservancy.

We first acknowledged that the very well written minutes of our 7 August 2012 meeting had been approved VIA email and posted on our website. Thank you John Horton.

John then gave us a brief **Government Relations/Social Order** report, beginning with the following email concerning the rehabilitation project at Wooldridge Square:

+++++

**From:** McGill Michael  
**Date:** September 1, 2012 6:14:26 PM CDT  
**Subject:** Update on Wooldridge Square - 09/01/2012

As of Friday Aug 31 all permits procured, environmental controls in place, electrical underground conduit placed and electric service pad under construction, irrigation work has begun with trenching essentially complete (with air spade assistance in critical root zones of trees), irrigation expected to be complete and fully operational by Sept 10<sup>th</sup>. Austin Tree Experts is under contract to perform aeration and mulching of all trees, their work will commence when irrigation is operational. Bids have been received for sod purchase and installation, this work to follow tree mulching and after PARD staff has done final site grade touch-up. Tree planting: considered to be done late October or early November. PARD is prepared to purchase all trees at 30-gallon size, with planting done as a community project with friends group. The purchase and installation of site furnishings (benches and trash receptacles) is still being considered, more to come on that.

+++++

We then discussed whether the Mobile Loaves & Fishes group had found an alternate site for their outreach program. Their presence at Duncan Park seems to be sporadic. Ted tells us he spoke with Travis County Commissioner Sarah Eckhardt about the possibility for a city/county partnership doing a more structured outreach feeding program for those in need using a private vendor, and there was interest on the Commissioner's part.

Ted asked John to look at the 11 proposed City of Austin charter amendments that will on the November 6th election ballot and to report back to the Board at our October meeting. At that meeting, if the BoD is of a mind, we could vote on whether to support some or all of the proposed amendments. Paul, with his experience as a past City of Austin Attorney, volunteered to assist in this task.

Albert then reported we have approximately \$3,008 in the bank.

We then turned to Bill's **Membership/Marketing/Camaraderie** report, specifically the inaugural electronic newsletter. It will be sent out to our email list tomorrow, the 7th, and Board members are encouraged to forward it to email "trees" or groups they have access to. Perry will work on distribution to resident associations within our boundaries and Albert will send it along to our sister organization, the Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association (DANA). We all agreed that Bill's efforts on this were superior and our thanks go to him and the folks at Cirrus Logic for their assistance.

Ted then spoke to us about the proposed formation of the Shoal Creek Conservancy, an umbrella organization to finally bring all the various stakeholders, public and private, together. An inaugural meeting to discuss feasibility will be held on 26 September at the Schlosser Group's office. This nascent organization is very fortunate to have attracted two highly qualified volunteer interns in Jimena Cruz and Joanna Wolaver. Interested OANA members and the general public are encouraged to follow the progress of this effort.

Going on to **Planning & Zoning**, we first discussed the Cirrus Logic request to rezone their two lots just to the north of their currently under construction parking garage from the General Office (GO) zoning district to Downtown Mixed Use (DMU) with a height restriction of 88 feet. Mark Holzbach, former OANA BoD member, reported to us that the Home Owner's Association (HOA) of the condominiums at 706 West Avenue had discussed the proposed rezoning and were OK with it, especially as the new structure will be stepped back from north to south. We then discussed Cirrus Logic's prior rezoning of the property at 707 West Avenue to the CS zoning district which obligated them to work reasonably towards getting the electronic testing uses that are permitted under CS zoning also allowed under DMU zoning where they are currently prohibited. Once these uses are allowed under the DMU zoning district, Cirrus Logic would be obliged to role the zoning of 707 West Avenue down to DMU, the zoning district envisioned under the Downtown Austin Plan (DAP). It was recognized that this commitment by Cirrus Logic was perhaps needing to be called to their attention, as these were two different parcels of land, the BoD felt that OANA should send a letter of support conditioned only on our standard list of prohibited uses. On motion this was passed by a vote of 7 to 1 with Blake dissenting.

We then reviewed the request at 408 & 416 West 11th Street seeking a zoning district of Central Business District (CBD) from their current zoning districts of DMU and CS, respectively. The current property owner has indicated that the properties' potential purchaser, Travis County, is conditioning the sale on this rezoning request. After discussion, and considering the precedential effect of such an intense zoning district in contradiction to the DAP, we unanimously voted to support only a DMU zoning district with a height limitation of 90 feet, or whatever height restriction the DAP calls for on these properties, whichever is more restrictive. We would also ask for our standard use prohibitions. It was noted that portions of the properties were further restricted by the overarching Capitol View Corridor (CVC) ordinance.

We got a status report on the ongoing projects in the neighborhood, but basically, there is nothing new to report other than incremental and steady progress.

Our last discussion concerned the upcoming bond election. Ted briefly went over the requests and the BoD was fairly conversant in the matter. There will be 7 separate line items, the total

package will be in the \$385 million range, and if the total package is approved, there shouldn't be a tax increase (nor will there be a tax decrease). The BoD formally voted unanimously to endorse the bond proposals. We then discussed the new taxing district that will basically finance the proposed teaching hospital, and as opinions were more mixed, the Board encouraged everyone to vote their consciences. It was noted that Senator Watson, a major proponent of the proposed hospital, is very eloquent and persuasive when he talks on the subject.

Our next meeting was set for the first Tuesday of October, the 2nd, 4 PM, the Common Room of the Regency Apartments, and we adjourned.

Blake Tollett, Secretary OANA