

Old Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA)
8 September 2015

The OANA Board of Directors (BoD) came together just after 4 PM at our regularly scheduled date, time and place. BoD members in attendance were Paul Isham, Ted Siff, Michael Portman, Charles Peveto, Diana Zuniga, John Horton, Bill Schnell and Blake Tollett.

Former OANA BoD member Richard Hardin was our guest.

Our first order of business was the adoption of the August 2015 BoD minutes, and they were so adopted.

Under Current News, we began with a discussion of the Shoal Creek Walk project proposed on the west side of Shoal Creek between W. 5th Street and W. 6th Street. Schlosser Development is planning an office tower with our friends Cirrus Logic slated to take 4 floors, approximately 80,000 square feet of the building. This will tie into the Cirrus Logic headquarters more directly and will place another 80 to 100 employees in the immediate area. In order to construct the structure's underground parking garage, the developer needs to place some concrete stabilization features temporarily within the Shoal Creek pedestrian walk way, so in way of compensation, they have committed to do \$125,000 in creek bank stabilization work between W. 5th and W. 6th Streets. This matter will go before the City's Parks & Recreation Board this fall.

Ted reported that the Shoal Creek Gap, the gap in the Shoal Creek Trail just south of the W. 5th Street bridge along the west side of the creek, will be completed in 2016 at a cost of \$4 million.

John reported that the Downtown Austin Alliance (DAA) will not be taking a position on the proposed Travis County Courthouse Complex proposed for the parking lot just to the south of Republic Square.

Paul reported that the Bowie Street Underpass project, while apparently still ongoing, shows no visible sign of progress.

Ted reported that as of our meeting, not all of the City Council members have appointed their representatives to the Flood Mitigation Task force. It was noted that CM Gallo, District 10, had appointed OANA BoD member Ray Canfield, owner of The Shoal Creek Saloon, to the task force.

Under Committee Reports and Action Items, Ted reported that Albert tells him that our bank balance and membership rolls remain unchanged.

We then discussed the Gilfillan House rezoning request, a request to change their zoning district from GO-H (General Office-Historic) to DMU-H (Downtown Mixed Use-Historic). The stated purpose for the rezoning request is so that an indoor entertainment event use could occur inside the structure. Richard, as an affected nearby property owner, spoke to us about the ongoing discussions with the new owners of the property concerning the limiting of potential uses allowed, either permissively or conditionally, under the DMU zoning district. In the past when

property owners within our boundaries have asked to upzone into DMU, OANA has asked them to limit certain uses we have perceived as potentially undesirable for the neighborhood. The neighborhood association has requested both Conditional Overlays (COs) that are City enforced and subject to adjustment later on, and Restrictive Covenants (RCs) that are privately enforced outside the City purview, can't be amended through the City's zoning process, and are arguably more of a long lasting nature. The applicants have given OANA a draft RC proposal that Richard has modified, and on motion from John with Paul seconding, Ted is tasked with submitting these suggestions back to the applicant for comment. [NOTE-Blake abstained in the discussion and vote as the Mayor appointed him in July to the Historic Landmark Commission where this matter is scheduled to be heard on 28 September.]

The owners of the vacant lot at 1306 West Avenue are asking the Board of Adjustment for a variance from the compatibility requirements of the Land Development Code in order to build an apartment complex. They are asking for a relaxation in the height restrictions from a maximum of two stories and 30 feet to three stories and 60 feet. Although the properties to the north, east and south of 1306 West are zoned commercial or other compatible zoning districts, the nearby Austin Community College tracts are still zoned single family thus the compatibility issue. It was noted a similar variance was granted in 2008 but had been allowed to lapse due to inaction. The OANA BoD took no action on the matter.

Under Marketing and Membership, Michael tells us that Clara Martinez Haynes has arranged a Happy Social Hour event at the 360 this coming Thursday, the 10th, and that OANA will have a membership table onsite along with a bike share organization.

Under Social Order, John related that there was nothing particularly new that he knew of. Paul tells us that he understands that the City Council has directed the City Staff to look again at the regulations governing outdoor musical events. Paul cautioned that OANA needs to stay on top of this in that you have to imagine that the pressure is to relax the decibel level standards rather than to further restrict noise trespass.

Under Parks, Trails and Open Spaces, Charles reports this Thursday's movie in Wooldridge Park is a documentary about "Crazy Carl" Hickerson as well as a 1960 short on Austin. An interesting programming concept. Sponsors include the Austin Parks Foundation, Austin City Limits and the Alamo Drafthouse.

We then turned to a discussion of whether OANA should join the Friends of Austin Neighborhoods (FAN) group. Blake again spoke to the BoD about his very strong reservations concerning this proposed membership and stated that, with deep regret, if OANA voted at this time to join FAN he would resign from the Board. On motion from John with Charles seconding, the matter was postponed until our October meeting to allow members to learn about FAN and to allow a full BoD to make this decision.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 13 October, beginning at 4 PM. It has been suggested that we perhaps can meet at the Mitte House and Ted and Charles will ask about availability.

Blake Tollett-Secretary