

Old Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA)  
18 September 2013

The Board of Directors (BoD) of OANA came together at 4 PM at the Common Room of the Regency Apartment. Directors in attendance were Ted Siff, Paul Isham, Richard Hardin, Blake Tollett, Karen Armstrong and Tom Borders. Directors Stowell, Lorenz, Horton, Canfield and Schnell had sent their regrets. We had no visitors.

After a short delay for a quorum to become present, the previous month's minutes, upon motion by Rick and second by Paul, were adopted by consensus.

We first discussed Current News items of interest to the neighborhood:

In a follow up to an Action Item from last month, the City's Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) received a budget increase of \$3.6 million due in large part to the political action by the advocacy group Great Austin Parks (GAP). The Pease Park and Shoal Creek Conservancies in particular endorsed this effort and all who worked on this initiative are to be commended. In its exuberance, The City Council additionally encouraged an additional \$1.15 million be added to next year's budget.

Another parks related celebration specifically for the neighborhood is the reopening of Wooldridge Park. Board members who attended or observed the festivities reported moderate crowds in attendance. The on site concessionaire seemed to be doing a brisk business and is reported to be popular with the next-door courthouse employees and visitors. It is worth noting:

- The Downtown Austin Alliance (DAA) has engaged a consultant to set up a programming schedule for the park for such activities as Tai Chi, yoga and musical concerts.
- The funds used for the Wooldridge Park rehabilitation came from parkland dedication funds generated by downtown residential development.
- Although the Mobile Loaves and Fishes group encourages its volunteers to go where there is the most need, they have stated they will specifically ask the volunteers to not set up next to the park.

Ted reports that the Shoal Creek Conservancy (SCC), through donations and pledges, has gathered \$125,000 through mid-September (this is up from \$90,000 in mid-August). All the OANA board members have given or pledged something for a total of \$12,000. On behalf of the Conservancy Ted especially thanked Paul for his legal expertise in establishing the incorporation of the Conservancy and securing its IRS status as a 501(c)(3) corporation. Once the conservancy is underway early next month and a director is on board there will be a concerted outreach to all of the neighborhood advocacy groups along the Shoal Creek watershed. The coalition of interest formed when the development along Bull Creek and 45th Street was recently proposed is particularly interested in this effort.

Although with us only is spirit today, Bill was congratulated on publishing and sending out our latest electronic newsletter. We will also be sending out another e-news blast announcing the

National Public Lands Day on 28 September. Cirrus Logic, Dynamic Reprographics and the Pease Park Conservancy all have volunteer projects scheduled for that day.

Under Membership, Karen reports that through the Travis County Central Appraisal District (TCAD) she has found a data source to get the names of property owners within our neighborhood association boundaries. The idea here is that we would send an association recruitment letter to these folks. We discussed data gathering in general and how raw data can be shuffled and merged so that something coherent and useful can result. Richard agreed to share his expertise on this with Karen and they will report back next month. We all agreed to focus on getting the membership numbers up as we close out the year.

Under Planning and Zoning:

1303 San Antonio Street-The developers of this property have proposed taking down the older structure on the property. It was noted that to zone a property historic thus preserving it over an owner's objection would require a super majority vote of the City Council, a very difficult task. [NOTE: To my knowledge this has only occurred once (C14H-99-0001) in the neighborhood, in 1999 at 1206 San Antonio Street, the now Allen House, in an effort led by Chris Riley, then not a City Council member but one of the founders of DANA, the Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association.]

1402 West Avenue-The rezoning request from the LO-H district to DMU-CO-H continues along.

It was noted that the following projects, are recently underway in the neighborhood:

- The repurposing of the Seaholm Power Plant and the Ladybird Lake Intake
- The Central Library
- The Green Water Treatment Plant project
- The Bowie Street underpass of the railroad tracks

Austin's downtown is changing profoundly.

Under Bonds it was again noted that a \$65 million Affordable Housing package goes before voters in November locally and that the State is asking for authority to issue Water and Transportation bonds under the State's Constitution.

Our next meeting is set for 8 October, the second Tuesday of the month. Two Action Items preliminarily on the agenda are to move the OANA BoD meeting permanently to the second rather than the first Tuesday of the month and to revisit our meeting time.

We then adjourned.

Blake Tollett, Secretary  
OANA