

Old Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA)  
9 December 2014

The Board of Directors (BoD) of OANA came together around 4pm on 9 December 2014 at the Shoal Creek Saloon's side room. Thank you BoD member Ray Canfield for allowing us to use your restaurant for our Holiday Meeting. Members in attendance were Charles Peveto, Paul Isham, Bill Schnell, Ray Canfield, John Horton, Ted Siff, Richard Hardin, Michael Portman and Blake Tollett. We had one guest, Cora Jane Shinaberry.

Our first order of business was hors d'oeuvres (bacon wrapped grilled shrimp) and libations (many chose an especially tasty draft ale although Ted went for the Irish coffee). After settling in the November minutes were approved as revised by acclimation and Bill will post them.

We were so taken by the ambiance of the establishment that upon Ray's offering, we unanimously decided to have our 2015 Annual Meeting in the restaurant on the 26th of January. We will plan on getting together around 5:30pm for a quick mixer, then our meeting from 5:45 to 6:15 to discuss where we have been the last year and to elect board members for positions coming vacant, then back to socializing until 7pm. Ted, Ray and Perry volunteered to be on the hosting committee. Bill will send a "Save The Date" email to association members.

BoD slots up this year are 1 through 5, positions currently held by Ted Siff, Bill Schnell, Richard Hardin, Paul Isham and Blake Tollett. We then discussed whether the board should be expanded from its current 11 members. We decided that perhaps 11 members is a good number but would revisit this if necessary. We then discussed topics for the Annual meeting. Are there areas outlined in our statement of organizational goals that we need to focus on? For a starting point of discussion, Blake will comb the previous year's minutes for highlights and distribute a working copy to the Board.

Austin Energy has informed us they will be doing tree-trimming operations in our neighborhood and Albert has volunteered to be our liaison. A question was raised as to why the money allocated for this could not be better utilized in placing the transmission lines underground, but that may be thinking too far outside the box.

Ted tells us he has received notice that the annual Cupid Underwear Fun Run will be in the neighborhood on February 7th, an entertaining event for spectators as well as participants. The race begins and ends at the Rattle Inn.

We have received notice the 301 West Avenue (AKA Block 24) development proposal has filed for administrative approval of their site plan. This is envisioned as a large structure with 450 condominiums, 100,000 s.f. of office space and some ground floor retail.

Ted reports that at the City Council's upcoming meeting this Thursday the 11th the following items of interest to us as they relate to the Shoal Creek trail system are coming up:

Item 21 concerning the contracting for the GAP project between West Avenue and West 5th Street;

Item 23 (with related Items 65 and 66) funding the Bowie Street underpass; and Item 154 amending the restrictive covenant on the Shoal Creek Walk project allowing it to receive a building permit.

Our discussion then turned to the City Council elections. Our newly elected District 9 Council Member, the Honorable Kathie Tovo, owns property in our neighborhood and is a member of OANA. Steve Adler, in the Mayoral runoff election, has a campaign office at West 9th Street and Nueces and is also a member of OANA. The OANA BoD needs to get with all the council members to help them understand that downtown is an economically powerful engine. A lot of folks work, office and live in downtown and there are very substantial real and personal property taxes generated from our area. There are well vetted and proven reasons that previous City Councils have focused on downtown, and this focus does not necessarily short change other sections of the City.

Having come to the end of our allotted time, we adjourned until Tuesday the 13th of January. The meeting will be at our normal location of the Common Room at the Regency Apartments.

Blake Tollett-Secretary  
OANA