

Old Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA)
13 December 2016

The OANA Board of Directors (BoD) came together at 4 PM on the second Tuesday of December, the 13th, at the Shoal Creek Saloon for our regular board meeting followed by a social hour. Members in attendance were our leader Ted Siff, Charles Peveto, Ray Canfield, Bill Schnell, Perry Horton, Diana Zuniga, Michael Portman, Perry Lorenz, Austin Stowell and Blake Tollett. Paul Isham was excused as he is moving to Albuquerque, New Mexico and was needed at home to help with packing. Kathy Marcus, the Advisory Board member from the Spring along with our friends Clara Martinez Haynes and Ex-BoD Member Richard Hardin were also in attendance.

The first order of business was the adoption of our revised Minutes from November, and upon motion from Diana with Charles seconding they were unanimously approved. Bill will post.

We then discussed upcoming **Important Dates**:

- On Wednesday December 14th from 6 to 7:30 PM there will be a public meeting at the Nokonah in regards to the proposed improvements to the Shoal Creek Trail between W. 15th Street and W. 5th Street. At a minimum the cost of this preliminary design work is being covered by the \$325,000 spun off the 5th & West development due to the project receiving increased entitlements.
- Our regular monthly meeting is still scheduled for the Regency Common Room on Tuesday January 10th from 4 to 5:30 PM.
- Our Annual Meeting will be on Tuesday January 24th at the Shoal Creek Saloon from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. Bill will check the Minutes from the last Annual Meeting to determine what positions are up for election this cycle, but we will have to fill Paul's. [NOTE: Bill reports that in addition to Paul's place, the positions held by Blake, Bill, Diana and Perry L. are up for election.]

Under **Committee Reports and Action Items**:

Michael reported our membership level has doubled over the last year and our bank account remains healthy. We then discussed asking Katie Jackson to join our Advisory Board representing the Seaholm folks. Upon motion from Austin (who knows her) and with Charles seconding we voted to ask her aboard.

There was discussion about the merits and risks of recording the OANA advisory nominations within the respective HOA minutes. In addition, there was discussion to keep the Advisory process simple (example: A simple email from HOA with proposed nominee's name.) Clara and Michael have a formal list of duties and responsibilities for Advisory Board members they put together and will send it not only to Katie but also reshare it with the BoD. At this point the Advisory Board members are coming from residential project HOAs, and as they represent their respective HOAs, this formalization is beneficial.

Under **Planning, Zoning and Historic Preservation**:

- The rezoning from General Office (GO) to GO-Historic (H) at 504 W. 7th, the Bremond Carriage House, continues moving forward. Again, it is unknown why the owners are pursuing GO-H rather than Downtown Mixed Use (DMU)-H as the GO-H zoning district is more restrictive than DMU-H and DMU is the recommended zoning district for the property under the Downtown Austin Plan (DAP)/Northwest District.
- At 1005 West Avenue, the rezoning application was amended to restate the original requested change from Multifamily Moderate High Density (MF-4) to GO to be MF-4 to DMU. Austin and Ted had contacted the property owner's representative since our last meeting. Of note is that the property is now co-owned by Camille Styles, a life style influencer of note. Welcome, neighbor.
- At 710 W. 7th Street, the structure formally housing the Aziz Salon will be taken down and the property will become surface parking for Cirrus Logic.
- At 1400 Lavaca, the former site of the Texas Restaurant Association, the property is being redeveloped into the headquarters of the SXSW folks. The approximately 12-story building is being designed by Pei Cobb Freed & Partners and should be an exceptional addition to the neighborhood.
- The folks at the Gilfillan House are still apparently in the visioning stage although the Certificate of Appropriateness Committee of the Historic Landmark Commission (HLC) has seen some preliminary plans. The plans have not been brought to the full HLC, a necessary step in securing City approval. At one time the owners envisioned rezoning the property from GO-H to DMU-H, but that has been indefinitely postponed. Austin will recheck with the owners to determine where they are. Concerns brought to the OANA BoD focus on sidewalks envisioned for the property, the health and well being of heritage trees on the property, and noise trespass, specifically outdoors amplified sound.

Under **Marketing**, Bill is shooting for an eNewsletter going out by 20 December. He will be needing input and will run the finished product by the BoD before transmitting. Clara reported that the Northshore apartments are open; very luxe facility. Michael said his next residential target to have an OANA monthly meeting/recruitment opportunity will be the W with this coming February being a possibility. On an every other month schedule, right now April is open. Charles told us that after the session the Westgate would be a possibility, maybe in June. Perry H tentatively offered his family project fronting onto Wooldridge Square as a possible meeting site.

Under **Parks**:

- At Wooldridge Square there has been a general consensus on the .dwg plan (with some minor tweaks still being discussed) and this proposal is beginning its rounds of the various Boards and Commissions. Because this is truly a preliminary plan there is a question as to why the City didn't wait until the plan was finalized before the vetting process began.
- At Duncan Park, the Parks & Recreation Department (PARD) is again working with the .dwg folks on a master plan. There has been one major stakeholder meeting in early November that unfortunately was not well attended by neighborhood residents, but it is early days still and there will be further opportunities for public input. Of note is a request by Watershed Protection that 420 cubic yards of dirt be removed from the overall site in remediation of the BMX use. This request was taken to PARD several years back,

and although it wasn't acted upon at that time, there has always been the question as to where the foundational data the request is predicated on came from. The folks that set up the BMX ramps have stated that at most they brought in less than 10 cubic yards of dirt. Another concern of Watershed Protection is the use of the "purple pipe" water to irrigate the park. As we have discussed in previous meetings, this reclaimed water is just below potable, but Duncan Park is within the flood plain due to its proximity to Shoal Creek, and care is called for because Shoal Creek drains into Ladybird Lake. Regardless, our overall objective is to have a better park.

- The reclamation of and improvements to Shoal Creek continue, and Ted encouraged us to visit the Conservancy website for updates.

As some tasty food had been brought out and neighbors were beginning to arrive we adjourned a little ahead of schedule. The BoD will reconvene on the second Tuesday of January, the 10th, at the Common Room of the Regency Apartments.

Blake Tollett, Secretary
OANA

Subsequent to the meeting Charles asked that the following achievements be noted:

- The repairs to the historic West 6th Street Bridge have been completed and the Shoal Creek Conservancy (SCC) hosted a congratulatory celebration at The Grove restaurant on 6 December.
- SCC was honored with an Undertold Marker from the Texas Historical Commission for the significant African and Hispanic American history associated with the Wood Street Settlement along Shoal Creek. SCC will be working with the Commission to finalize the narrative for this important marker.

Charles also noted that Ted Eubanks has been commissioned by the Downtown Austin Alliance (DAA) to do an interpretive plan for the three extant downtown historic squares, two of which, Wooldridge and Republic, are within our association boundaries.