

Old Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA)
11 July 2016

The Board of Directors (BoD) of OANA came together at 4:30 PM on Monday the 11th of July at our regular meeting place. BoD members in attendance were Ted Siff, Bill Schnell, Michael Portman, Diana Zuniga, Blake Tollett, Austin Stowell and Charles Peveto. Directors Perry Lorenz and Paul Isham had sent their regrets.

On motion from Diana with Michael seconding, the Minutes from our June meeting, as written, were adopted and Bill will post them.

Under **Action Items**, Ted and Michael discussed the ongoing project of finding homes for the mitigation trees resulting from the construction project at 906-908 Nueces Street (NOTE-see last month's Minutes for background). They believe they have placed 2 of the trees, and based on a cost of approximately \$500 a tree (preferably a burr oak or other disease resistant oak) installed, they need private property homes for 8 to 10 more. All that is asked of the adopters is that they agree to water and maintain the trees for 2 years. There is some urgency to this in that locations for the trees need to be found in order for the City to sign off on the completed project. All are encouraged to work on this opportunity to add to our tree canopy.

Under **Current News**, Ted and Blake reported that the rezoning change to DMU-CO at 701 Rio Grande and 602 W. 7th Streets went by consent on all three readings at City Council on June 16th. As proposed, in a couple of years we will begin to see the addition of 95 residential units on this site. At the same meeting, the rezoning of 1204 San Antonio Street to DMU-CO was also finalized on third reading. The CO referenced in both cases is a Conditional Overlay limiting development height to 60 feet and prohibiting bail bond services, cocktail lounges, pawn shops, liquor stores, outdoor entertainment and amplified music uses. The zoning district entitlements granted in both of these cases reflect what is called out in the Downtown Austin Plan/Northwest District. These were good outcomes for the neighborhood.

We next discussed goings on surrounding the expansion of the Travis County Civil Courthouse. It is our understanding that the County has requested from the General Services Administration (GSA) that they be given the now vacant Federal Courthouse on W. 7th Street. A glitch in the ask is that the GSA has guidelines on these gratuitous transfers prioritizing end users, at the top of the list is a priority that surplus property be utilized to mediate homelessness in communities, and the Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO) has also asked for the building. After discussion, the BoD authorized Diana and Ted to meet with the Director of ECHO, Ann (Gilly) Howard to determine if OANA can assist them to meet their organizational goals. It was noted that our BoD member Perry Lorenz serves on the ECHO Board of Directors.

Charles related that he hosted a meeting last week between interested stakeholders and the City concerning the Purple Pipe Project; what exactly is reclaimed water and where it is going to be used in the City were discussed. The quality of this water is just under what is considered potable, and two identified uses are for irrigation and eventually, supplying water to the cooling towers around downtown that service adjacent buildings' cooling systems. Waters that enter our sewage system and are cleaned to this extent normally are discharged into the Colorado River

downstream from the Longhorn Dam. This reuse within the City adds to our overall drinking water capacity and helps bring Austin closer to being a neutral user of the river's water. One small hurdle that needs to be addressed is a concern of using this water for irrigation in areas within the designated flood plains that feed the Colorado River. That this water is currently being returned to the river should allay this concern.

Under Committee Reports and Action Items, Michael tells us our membership roll and bank balance remains steady, although we could always do with more of each. Charles continues to recruit at his home the Westgate for an Advisory Council member and asked that Michael and Ted come by to one of their association meetings in the fall to meet and greet.

Ted reports that the Allan House has asked to renew their outdoor music venue permit under the guidelines they worked out with OANA.

Charles related that the folks that own the Gilfillan House have hired historic architect Teri O'Conner to renovate the main house and a Dallas architectural firm to design a secondary structure on the property.

Bill will be putting together an e-newsletter for September along with an end of year edition focused on membership and the Annual Meeting in January.

Charles reported the Wooldridge Square master plan continues to progress with a winnowing of construction/programming options that should lead to a happy consensus. One element that still needs addressing is an interpretive history narrative, but friend Ted Eubanks is addressing that.

Our last item of discussion was the November City of Austin Transportation Bond election. By an 8 to 3 vote the City Council proposed a \$720 million package that covers regional needs such as SHs 360, 183 and 290 (\$100 million), major arterials within the City (\$500 million), and sidewalks, trails and bicycle lanes (\$100 million). Ted has been asked by the Mayor to help in getting voters' approval for the measure.

Having once again exhausted our time, we adjourned. The next OANA BoD meeting will be on August 9th beginning at 4 PM at the Common Room of the Regency Apartments.

Blake Tollett, Secretary
OANA