

The minutes of the Old Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA) held on January 26, 2009, at 601 W 11th Street follow below. The agenda was revised slightly from the meeting notice; the revised agenda and order of discussion for the meeting was:

1. Call the meeting to order – Ted Siff
2. Welcome, Introductions and networking - All
3. Discussion and setting of final agenda – All
6. Report from Austin Community College on ACC garage construction at West 12th & Shoal Creek – Representative from ACC
7. Discussion and possible action on creating a more formal structure for OAN – for example: officers, committees, schedule of meetings, etc. -- All
8. Discussion and possible action on possible change in Old Austin Neighborhood boundary – Ted Siff, Susan Morrison
4. Report, discussion and possible action on proposed zoning at 800 West Avenue – Bob Ohlendorf (and 800 West task force members)
5. Report, discussion and possible action on Neighborhood Historic District for a portion of OAN – Susan Morrison
9. Other business - All
10. Set future meeting date and Adjourn – Ted Siff

The meeting began at 6:00PM as scheduled; after the call to order, introductions, and meeting agenda modification, Mr. Bill Mullane presented an update on ACC.

- Gymnasium is being converted to classrooms and faculty offices; the exterior of the gymnasium will not change. The remodeled space will result in approximately 30,000 square feet of space.
- The band hall next to the gymnasium will be removed and replaced with landscaping.
- Chris Riley asked that the Band Hall be fully documented and given to the Historical Society.
- Parking garage in underway; concrete is being poured. When completed, anticipated for August, 2009, there will be 7 levels of parking and 543 new spaces. The height of the building will be 63 feet.
- Some of these spaces may be available for non-ACC events when it is not in session. The ACC board has not determined the details.
- Appointments to a Citizen Advisory Committee to the Rio Grande Street campus of ACC are being added; anyone interested should email Ted Siff and/or Tim Mahoney, ACC Board Trustee requesting such a position.
- Ted Siff asked the ACC for help in getting large busses serving ACC moved from 11th to 12th Street.
- The website for garage and gymnasium project updates is: www.austincc.edu/rgc
- **ACTIONS:**
 - Ted Siff to follow up with Bill Mullane to be sure Band Hall is fully documented before being demolished.

Susan Morrison then led a discussion on a more formal OANA organization.

- Susan used as a model the bylaws used by the Old West Austin Neighborhood organization.
- OANA must decide on whether to change its current boundaries and if so what the boundaries of OANA should be. OANA must also decide the requirements for membership.
- **ACTIONS:**
 - Susan Morrison to send a copy of her proposed bylaws to Tom Buckle
 - Susan and Tom are to propose one or two drafts and circulate the drafts before the next meeting of OANA. (Subsequently scheduled for Feb 16th)

Erica Leak, City of Austin Senior Planner and contact person for the Downtown Plan, made a brief presentation on what ROMA is doing. Erica can be reached at the following email: Erica.Leak@ci.austin.tx.us

- ROMA was hired as a consult by the City of Austin to develop a downtown plan (DAP) for the City.

- ROMA has identified major issues in Phase 1 of the development and identified several districts in the downtown area. OANA is primarily in what ROMA calls the Northwest District.
- ROMA is about to start Phase1 which will take 12-18 months to complete and will result in detailed planning and recommendations to the City.

Bob Ohlendorf gave an update on the 800 West Avenue Committee established at the October 1, 2008, OANA meeting. The members of the committee are: Mark Holzbach, Susan Morrison, Bob Ohlendorf, James Powell, Ben Proctor, Stewart Ramser, Chris Riley, and Al Stowell.

- The committee has met twice; the first on December 2 and the second on December 16.
- The committee did not have a consensus. There are basically two positions:

Position A

Oppose any development higher than 60 feet. The preference would be to limit the height of any new construction in the neighborhood to 3 stories, but since the current zoning of GO/LO allows 60 feet, requesting anything lower than 60 feet is hard to defend. Comments supporting this position are:

- The historic nature of the neighborhood must be preserved.
- An inappropriately styled building is bad.
- Building in the 100 year floodplain is a serious objection; variances are required to build in the 25 and 100 year floodplains.

Position B

Support the high-rise development with the goal being to obtain compromises from the developer which might make the high-rise structure more acceptable and also require only residential only. Compromises reached would be included as conditions in the approved zoning.

Requests for compromises from the developer and comments supporting this position are:

- Preserve the Brydson-McTee House currently on the property
- and add a second older house on the property to serve as a façade to the high-rise structure.
- An all residential building adds to the neighborhood, promotes night life and a community atmosphere.
- Office workers leave at night thus not contributing to the community.

Bob further reported that as far as he could determine when talking to the City staff, the site plan for 800 West Avenue as expired; and that the next notice as an item on the Council agenda must be re-noticed to the neighborhood.

Bob also reported that the project at 800 West 6th did not have an approved flood plain variance, and the City staff was waiting for new input. It seems like the applicant is seeking administrative approval for the flood plain variance and if failing there would possibly request the City Council to consider at a future meeting.

ACTIONS:

A motion was made by Steve Nagle and subsequently seconded was to send a letter to the developer stating that OANA was ready to negotiate. Ted Siff and Bob Ohlendorf were requested to send the letter.

Susan Morrison reported briefly on her work to being establishing the neighborhood as a Historic District. She will report in more detail at the next meeting, and/or send her findings by email to the OAN email list.

The next meeting will be held on February 16, 2009, at 601 West 11th beginning at 6:00AM. One of the probably topics would be to adopt a formal structure in OANA.