

Original Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA)
Board of Directors' Meeting 14 September 2010

We were called to order shortly after 4 PM. Directors in attendance were Ted Siff, Albert Stowell, Richard Hardin, Perry Lorenz, Christie Nalle, John Horton and Blake Tollett. Mark Holzbach was out of the country and not able to join us. There were no guests or other association members present so general introductions and an explanation of meeting procedures were not deemed necessary.

We reviewed and unanimously approved the meeting notes from 13 July 2010 (we did not meet in August) taken by Mark Holzbach. The minutes from that meeting are now ready for posting.

On the Consent Agenda, we discussed amongst ourselves the previously submitted Treasurer's Report, Planning & Zoning Report and Historic Preservation Report, all submitted by Albert Stowell, our Treasurer and the Chair of those committees:

Treasurer's Report by Albert Stowell

There were no new transactions and no changes to OANA's current bank balance that is \$1,380.53. OANA membership remains unchanged at 114 members.

Planning & Zoning Committee, Albert Stowell, Chair

Downtown Austin Plan (DAP): No changes over the summer. The proposals have made their way through most of the City commissions and should go to council this fall. The plan remains pretty much unchanged from what was proposed in May.

Bike Boulevard: The City Staff has finalized the design work and will present those plans 6:30 PM Monday Sept 13th at Pease School. The roundabouts are larger than first anticipated but since most of the circle will be attractive stone pavers it is proposed that they create a visually inviting scenario that will allow for landscaping with out much hassle to auto traffic. The City is backtracking on the stop light at 5th street. The result of not having that traffic light could derail or minimize the success of entire project. Not having a safe passage at 5th Street will minimize the overall safety and function of a bike boulevard.

[In discussions during the meeting, the City's decision to not install a traffic light at 5th Street and Rio Grande was roundly disparaged. It makes no sense because you truly take your life in your hands when you try to cross that intersection currently. It would impede the flow of the bike boulevard at that end and it isn't a pedestrian friendly determination either, especially considering the residential uses in the area. We then discussed a proposal by the City to remove some of the stop signs along Nueces Street in our neighborhood. Again, we do not understand why this proposal has come forth and are concerned that there will be unintended consequences. Removal of the stop signs will allow vehicular traffic to increase its speed and will encourage more bicycle traffic that otherwise would be over on Rio Grande, the designated bicycle boulevard. By unanimous consent, Albert was tasked with writing a letter to the City expressing our concerns on both proposals.]

Allan House: The appeal of the March Outdoor music venue permit has been postponed until October 28th 2010. The reason staff postponed the appeal is that the City realized that they should have never issued the permit in the first place because the Allan House doesn't have the correct zoning and that there is no land use on the books that would allow the Allen house to have the outdoor events. Instead of revoking the permit the City staff is in the process of creating new land use regulations that would create a special land use that would allow the Allan House to operate legally as an outdoor music venue. The Planning Commissions subcommittee will hear the staff recommended changes on September 23rd.

[Secretary Note: The Allan House is in a CS (Commercial Services) zoning district. Under the various zoning districts there are permitted uses that require no public hearings to be allowed, and conditional uses that do require public hearings to be allowed. Under the CS zoning district, two of the uses at the Allan House, professional offices and indoor entertainment are permitted uses, but the use of the facility as an outdoor entertainment venue is a conditional use requiring a public hearing. There is currently under review by the City a site plan filed by the Allan House that would provide for a public hearing on their request for an outdoor entertainment use. This site plan, in one form or another, has been in review for over 1 1/2 years, and it is during this review that the facility has been operating under a Temporary Use Permit (TUP). As for the suggestion that a new use category be initiated covering limited outdoor entertainment, Albert and Blake were tasked (with Richard abstaining) with doing some research on the matter and attending the Codes & Ordinances Subcommittee of the Planning Commission that is scheduled for Tuesday 21 September 2010.]

Historic Preservation Committee, Albert Stowell, Chair:

Unfortunately the Historic Preservation community appears to have been hijacked by anti development Mc Mansion groups. Because of this misuse of the legitimate historic preservation process, several local taxing jurisdictions have or are in the process of rejecting tax credits for all historic properties. Hopefully we can recommend reasonable changes to the current process that will clarify what a historic property is and establish a process that will encourage financial incentives for long term preservation, a process that the general public will encourage and support.

Action Items

Ted discussed the upcoming bond package with us (Note: Ted is the Treasurer of the advocacy group backing the bonds passage <www.getaustinmoving.com>). Of note in the 90 million dollar package is 14 million dollars to do the boardwalk on the south side of Lake Ladybird that would complete the hike and bike trail. Up to 40% of the bonds proposed focus on mobility items other than roads such as sidewalks and trail improvements, and the majority of those types of improvements are in the downtown area. One concern brought up is the fact that the package is presented as one vote, up or down. Regardless, on motion from Perry with a second from John, we unanimously agreed to pass the following:

Resolution by Original Austin Neighborhood Association Endorsing the 2010 City of Austin Mobility Bond Package

WHEREAS, an efficient and effective multi-modal transportation system is vital to the City of Austin's economic prosperity and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Austin needs to reduce future traffic congestion, protect the environment, improve safety and provide more transportation options for our growing city; and

WHEREAS, Austin must to invest in other ways for people to get around the city besides on roads; and

WHEREAS, on November 2, 2010, Austin voters will be asked to approve the 2010 City of Austin Mobility Bond Package, which authorizes the City to issue \$90 million in bonds to fund road repair and construction as well as sidewalks, trail and bikeway projects throughout the city; and

WHEREAS, this comprehensive multi-modal package addresses both the great diversity of interests and significant transportation needs of our growing city and is the result of significant public input; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Original Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA) is the protect and enhance the historic and residential character of our neighborhood, and this bond package will help OANA do that by providing improved roads as well as improvements to our pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Original Austin Neighborhood Association encourages the voters of Austin to vote for the 2010 City of Austin Mobility Bond package.

Adopted by the OANA Board on Tuesday, September 14, 2010:

We then considered the board vacancy necessitated by the resignation of Kevin Williamson. Two potential directors were discussed and Ted was tasked with contacting them.

The Cirrus Logic building at 6th Street and West Avenue was discussed. There is a meeting set up for Monday the 20th with their representatives. Unfortunately, it appears that no residential uses will be in the plans, not even a corporate apartment/residence use.

Membership & Marketing/Camaraderie Committee, Christie Nalle, Chair:

No formal report.

Governmental Affairs, John Horton, Chair:

No formal report. John did talk to us about Travis County's ongoing plans for its Central Campus. There is a public planning workshop scheduled for Saturday 2 October 2010 from 9:30 to 11:30 AM in the Capitol Building Annex.

Rick talked to us about the tax breaks associated with properties designated Historic. He spoke of a joint committee of the Historic Landmark Commission and the Heritage Society that is looking to establish new guidelines that tighten historic landmark standards as well as looking into how comparable cities work to preserve their architectural history. He outlined several possible scenarios, but due to the fluidity of these ongoing discussions by City appointed committees, suffice it to say that the days of tax breaks that are substantial and permanent in nature are limited, to endangered. This year the Austin Community College (ACC) taxing district and the Austin Independent School District (AISD) taxing district are both disallowing tax breaks based on historic designation and there is a good chance that Travis County will be following suit.

Under other business, Perry touted the Car2Go program and encouraged all of us to sign up for the program. Austin is one of only two cities in the world where this pilot project is being evaluated, and we need to get behind it. He showed us an app on his smart phone that located the nearest available vehicle to us, and we were properly impressed.

Having no further time in which to discuss matters, we adjourned.

Our next regularly scheduled monthly meeting will be the second Tuesday in October, the 12th, from 4 to 5:30 PM.

Blake Tollett, Secretary, OANA