

Original Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA)
Board of Directors' Meeting 11 January 2011

Ted brought us to order shortly after 4 PM.

Board members in attendance: Ted Siff, Rick Hardin, Perry Lorenz, Albert Stowell, Mark Holzbach, John Horton and Blake Tollett. Christie Nalle sent her regrets at the last minute. We had a returning **guest** in Jocelyn Dabeau who was with us last month at the Spring condominium meeting. Welcome back.

We reviewed the minutes from the last Board meeting on 12-14-10, and upon motion from Rick and second by Mark, they were unanimously adopted.

Perry gave us an update on the **Emerald City Press (ECP) lawsuit**. In December the defendants' (amongst which our President is named in his OANA capacity) lawyers wrote to the Plaintiff and requested the lawsuit be withdrawn. Simplified, the basis of the lawsuit is tortious interference with a lawful off site parking contract. Defendants allege that there was no legal contract and that the factual allegations in ECP's petition have no apparent factual basis. As of this meeting the Plaintiff had not responded to the request. The question of ethical standards that govern attorneys was then raised and discussed.

We next moved on to the **Consent Agenda**:

Camaraderie Committee Report, Christie Nalle, Chair

OANA hosted a holiday Happy Hour in the Community Room at Spring Condominium on December 14, 2010. Invited guests included OANA and DANA members, plus residents of Spring. Approximately 40-50 people attended the Happy Hour and presentation on proposed upgrades to the Shoal Creek Trail. After the presentation, representatives from Spring Condominium gave tours of the 25th floor model condo. OANA thanks Diana Zuniga of Investors Alliance and Audra Smith, Events Coordinator at Spring, for all their assistance with the Happy Hour.

Financial Report, Albert Stowell, Treasurer

The five hundred dollar security deposit to the Spring condo is being returned and once it is credited then our bank balance will again be a \$1,380.53. OANA membership remains unchanged at 114 members. 2011 dues need to be set and billed.

Historic Preservation Committee, Albert Stowell, Chair

Austin Community College is finishing up their master plan for the Rio Grande Campus. Attached are the preliminary drawings that will be a part of a fall bond election to pay for the demolition of the north building and the construction of the new buildings. From an historic preservation perspective I am concerned about the massive changes to the character of the new buildings and the possible loss of green spaces along Rio Grande in front of the main building.

The proposed parking lot in the front of the building could also require the removal of the Moon Towers since the parking would require the removal of the guy wires.

Planning & Zoning Committee, Albert Stowell, Chair

Bike Boulevard: The first stage in the building of the bike boulevard has been completed over the Christmas break. The student drop zones were constructed in front of Pease school. This will keep bike traffic out of the way of the cars and keep the bikers safe from car doors and competing vehicle traffic. The first of the roundabouts will be started in March or April. The design work for the Shoal Creek Bridge should be completed by May.

Allan House: At the appeal hearing in front of City Council, Dan Ross the owner of the Allan House agreed to mitigate the sound by installing additional sound reduction material and to moderate both the bass and treble noise to a maximum of 70 decibels. Hopefully this will solve the problem.

The Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association (DANA) has sent the following information in letter form to the Mayor and Council regarding Outdoor Music Venues (OMVs):

“Lobbying organizations tend to group all of downtown into one big entertainment district. Although DANA is a strong supporter of live music and our culturally significant entertainment districts, it is important to note that there are only two established downtown entertainment districts (East 6th St. and the Warehouse District) with clear boundaries.

The city has long established goals of making downtown Austin a thriving residential community. As the number residents downtown have grown, issues associated with amplified sound have continued to increase. This issue has reached a critical point eroding the quality life of downtown residents, eroding residential tax base, and limiting future hires development adjacent to Outdoor Music Venues. In Rainey Street there are 850 hi-rise homes valued at over \$250 million dollars of residential property tax base. On west 6th street there are X homes valued at over Y million dollars of residential property tax base.

It is with this in mind that we propose the following changes to the outdoor music venue ordinance and other related ordinances:

1. Cocktail Lounge conditional use permit required throughout CBD.
2. Non-entertainment downtown districts (including CBD zoned properties):
 - a. Apartment Dwellers and Condo Owners should have same rights as Single Family Residents.
 - b. HOAs and Neighbor Associations downtown should have the right to appeal OMVs just as HOAs and NAs outside of downtown due today.
 - c. Outdoor Music should be measure at the source not at the property line
 - d. Speakers outside should be pointed towards the center of the space
 - e. Nowhere on the patio should it exceed 75 decibels.
 - f. Sound should be measured not on averages but peak values.
 - g. Cutoff times and peak decibel levels should be made public by a sticker visibly located on an outside surface of the establishment.

OMVs fundamentally alter a neighborhood, and without a district plan issuing an OMV permit today is essentially an act of neighborhood planning by administration.”

The conceptual plans for the **Travis County campus** expansion can be found at:
http://198.214.208.6/facilities/central_campus_study/scenarios.asp

Government Relations Committee, John Horton, Chair

I attended the **Downtown Austin Alliance Mobility and Transportation Committee** meeting today and the City of Austin Transportation Dept. made a follow up presentation of the Extension of Parking Meter hours to the committee. This proposal, which is making its way through the city commissions, will probably be implemented by this spring. The geographic area that will have the extended parking meter hours will be I35 to Lamar and Cesar Chavez to 10th Street and the extended hours for the metered pay parking will be until Midnight. There appears to be adequate support for this initiative. I wanted to make the board aware of this issue and I will be glad to discuss it further at the meeting.

Parks & Open Space Committee, Mark Holzbach, Chair

December 14th event at Spring was a great success. Ted Siff made a well-received presentation about the Shoal Creek Greenway. As a follow-up to this presentation, Mark H. posted the 1998 Shoal Creek Greenway Action Plan on our city website. The next step will be to identify an individual who is willing to be the Chair of a Shoal Creek Greenway committee (subcommittee of the OANA Parks & Open Space Committee).

Downtown Parks Committee met at the DAA offices on 12/13/10 and I attended as well as Ted Siff. The topic was priorities for 2011, and Wooldridge Square, Republic Square, Town Lake Trail, and Shoal Creek Greenway are considered important. The 2010 Priorities and accomplishments page is attached below. The Downtown Austin Plan is going to get approved very soon. According to the draft plan, there are the following priorities (summary only):

PR-1. PUBLIC PARKS: Downtown parks should be improved and maintained as signature spaces that serve residents, employees and visitors.

PR-1.1: Provide adequate funding for the maintenance and operation of all City-controlled Downtown parks.

PR-1.2: Program and design parks to serve the diverse needs of Downtown residents, families, workers and visitors.

PR-1.3: Improve Downtown's urban greenways and adjoining public parks, as natural refuges and pathways.

PR-1.4: Improve the historic squares of the original City Plan.

PR-1.5: Improve the PARD-owned Old Bakery and Emporium and surrounding parkland on Congress Avenue.

PR-1.6: Pursue public/private funding sources and management structures for improving and maintaining Downtown parks.

PR-1.7: Special entities, such as non-profit conservancies, should be encouraged to assist with park improvements, operations, management and maintenance.

PR-1.8: Allocate additional sources of public funding to Downtown parks.

PR-2. OPEN SPACE: New development should be encouraged to create engaging open spaces (e.g., plazas, gardens, courtyards, etc.) that expand and enrich the public network of streets and parks.

PR-2.1: Provide incentives and design criteria that promote high-quality open space within private developments.

PR-3. STREETSCAPES: All Downtown streets should be great public places, supporting pedestrian circulation and activities, and bringing nature and greenery into the urban core.

PR-3.1: Maintain, extend and restore Downtown's grid system of streets and alleys.

PR-3.2: Require all new development to build Great Streets sidewalks or contribute to the Great Streets Development Program fund.

PR-3.3: Streamline the license agreement process for Great Streets improvements.

PR-3.4: Ensure that planned transit facilities, including urban rail, incorporate Great Streets improvements.

PR-3.5: Improve East 6th Street as a mixed-use, pedestrian-priority, entertainment street that appeals to a greater diversity of people.

PR-3.6: Improve Congress Avenue in keeping with its role as the Main Street of Texas.

PR-3.7: Improve Sabine Street, from 3rd to 7th Street as a bicycle-friendly, pedestrian promenade, paralleling Waller Creek.

PR-3.8: Establish a public restroom program in Downtown.

Within OANA's boundaries:

WOOLDRIDGE SQUARE • Preserve historic and landscape character • Improve accessibility, usability and safety. • Promote redevelopment and active uses of surrounding area.

REPUBLIC SQUARE • Ensure that current design to “reset” the park is fully funded and executed • Create new focal point around sustainable food concession(s) and dining. • Promote redevelopment and active uses around square.

HOUSE PARK/AUSTIN RECREATION CENTER (ARC) • Improve streetscapes and connection to Shoal Creek trail • Better organize vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian circulation. • Create more green space and shade.

SHOAL CREEK GREENWAY • Improve trail width and continuity • Introduce regular professional maintenance and security programs • Begin evaluating need for flood control, erosion control and water quality improvements. • Implement regulations that require private development to contribute to the creek environment.

LADY BIRD LAKE GREENWAY • Introduce additional activities to attract greater diversity of users. • Program and improve underutilized parkland along trail. • Manage understory vegetation along lake to improve views and access to water. • Continue to make trail improvements to accommodate growing bike and pedestrian use. • Implement trail signage system.

DUNCAN PARK • Improve tree health and vegetation throughout, reinforcing the natural creekside environment • Create new amenities to increase daily use value by nearby residents and employees • Contain BMX park activity so doesn't interfere with sidewalk use.

Wooldridge Square should be carefully designed to preserve its historic • character as a civic space, while improving drainage, accessibility and the ability to support programmed events as

well as informal gatherings. The existing topography, tree canopy and bandstand structure should be maintained as key features of the park. In the near-term, efforts should be made to establish a stronger pattern of daily use with activities that serve the significant employee population in the area. Mobile food carts, semi-permanent kiosks, curbside food vans, and moveable chairs and tables are recommended in the northwest corner of the square where there is relatively flat terrain.

Ten Guiding Principles for Downtown Austin's Parks

Meaning and Significance: 1. Build on the positive existing patterns of use within and around the open space, and celebrate the distinct history, culture, and identity of the place.

Attractions and Destinations: 2. Create multiple activities and features that can attract a diversity of people, and establish a constituency of stewards.

Flexibility and Adaptability: 3. Allow the space to respond to daily, weekly, and seasonal fluctuations over time.

Positive Edges/"Frame": 4. Promote a form and pattern of development at the edges of the public space that provide positive activity and spatial definition.

Connections: 5. Design streets and pathways as an extension of the public space itself.

Design Excellence: 6. Procure the highest levels of design professionalism capable of creating successful, world-class public spaces.

Public Art and Artful Design: 7. Introduce public art that raises community consciousness and reinforces an authentic sense of place.

Green Design: 8. Promote the highest levels of sustainable design and green construction.

Strong Management: 9. Establish appropriate governance that can facilitate successful programming, maintenance, and security.

Sustainable Financing: 10. Secure adequate levels of funding to assure ongoing high quality maintenance and operations.

Membership and Marketing Committee, Mark Holzbach, Chair

Al Stowell and I have met a couple times to enable OANA to accept online payments for membership. I hope in the next few days, we will have PayPal working and connected to the OANA bank account so that funds can go directly into it. Al and I would like to propose that we increase the 2011 dues to \$25 per member. PayPal will allow us to place a simple button on our website(s) and within emails to accept dues payments and/or donations. I think this will be a great convenience to both our members and to our treasurer (Al).

I would like to ask for help in getting the word out about Jan 25th meeting. Al and I agreed to forego a mass postcard mailing this year, and do the outreach electronically. I think a modest effort to create a few hundred paper flyers may be a good supplement. I hope that perhaps Perry Lorenz can help me to get these flyers placed into resident's mailboxes at Spring and Nokonah.

The **Consent Agenda** was unanimously adopted and we then discussed items that were embedded in that agenda item.

John elaborated on the proposed changes in metered parking within our boundaries. The proposed new zone would be from West 10th south to Caesar Chavez and between Lamar and

IH35 with the extended enforcement hours being from 8AM to midnight daily excepting Sunday. Currently metered parking is free from 6PM to 8AM (and weekends) and it is felt that those free hours do not encourage parking space turnover. The theory here is that more turnover of spaces leads to more available parking. Ted suggested that we support the proposal with the proviso that a Residential Parking Program (RPP) be put in place. A general discussion as to who would qualify for the RPP program raised more concerns than were allied so the matter was tabled for later action.

We then moved on to the **Action Items**:

The Annual General Membership meeting will be held on Tuesday 25 January 2011 at the Regency Apartments Common Room at which 5 Board seats are up for election. To vote for the open Board positions at the meeting you must be either a resident or property owner within our boundaries and be current on your dues. For the year 2011, and because we need the money, the Board unanimously raised the dues amount from \$10 to \$25. All current and prospective members will be encouraged to renew prior to the meeting, but if you renew at the meeting you will still be allowed to vote. In addition to already outlined get out the vote/renew your membership efforts Christie will send out an email blast. We then discussed two proposed bylaw changes, one to expand the membership base to those who rent or work in the area and the second to eliminate voting at the Annual General Membership meeting VIA proxy rather than having to personally attend. The voting by proxy question was tabled, but the Board will bring the following change in the Bylaws forward to the General Membership:

There will be a nonvoting in Board of Director elections class of membership available to those who either office or work within our neighborhood association boundaries with a membership fee of \$25.

Cirrus Logic Albert reports he is having lunch soon with the owners. Nothing is really new except that the yellow house appears to be a candidate for deconstruction rather than moving. A bright spot is that the land where it currently sits will be left green space and will be a potential public access point onto Shoal Creek.

Pease Elementary There appears to be no common sense being applied to the process of selecting schools for possible closure, at least where Pease Elementary is concerned. Albert is working with the “friends” group for the school and they are aware of the advocacy process.

Shoal Creek Greenbelt Committee Ted reports that the committee will begin meeting soon.

C14-2010-0207; 510 West 8th Street

Owner: Darnell Robinson Family LLC, Michael Ginsberg, (972) 788-1600

Applicant: A.G. Consulting, Alice Glasco, (512) 231-8110

Proposed Zoning Change From MF-4 (Moderate-High Density Residential) to DMU (Downtown Mixed Use) The City Case Manager is Stephen Rye at (512) 974-7604 or VIA email at stephen.rye@ci.austin.tx.us.

This is a preliminary notice of filing of application for rezoning and OANA will be notified of when the matter will go before the appropriate land commission and will be asked to comment.

There being no further business, we adjourned.

Blake Tollett, Secretary
Original Austin Neighborhood Group