

Old Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA)
4 November 2014

The OANA Board of Directors (BoD) came together on Tuesday 4 November 2014 at the Regency Apartments' Common Room. Members in attendance were Albert Stowell, Paul Isham, Ray Canfield, Charles Peveto, Ted Siff, Perry Lorenz and Blake Tollett. Michael Portman, Bill Schnell and Richard Hardin sent their regrets. There were no guests.

On motion from Paul with Ray seconding, the minutes from our 14 October 2014 meeting were approved and Bill will post them online when able.

Under Current News and Action Items:

908 Nueces-This is going to be a new residential use with ground floor parking, partially below street level, and three floors of residences above. There will be 32 units, all on the smallish size. NOTE-Under current development standards new residential structures in the CBD or DMU zoning districts do not necessarily have to have onsite parking.

604 West 6th Street-This is the old CvanR Automotive Repair site. Our understanding is that the developers have proposed a two-story restaurant.

The parking lots to the east of the Whole Foods complex apparently are no longer to be used for parking. It seems the lots are in the 100-year flood plain although this could appear to be somewhat selective enforcement as there are many surface lots in that area in the 100-year flood plain and they are still being parked. Ted assigned himself to investigate further.

7 Rio-The leasing of the apartments continues.

5th & West-The demolition permit has been issued.

Aspen Property at West 8th and Nueces-Construction is anticipated to begin by the end of this year.

West 3rd Street & West Avenue-The Block 24 Project continues with construction probably 9 months off. There is envisioned to be a large public plaza as part of the project.

Ordinance relating to hours of operation regulations concerning concrete pours downtown-The conflict here is the desire, and the sometimes engineering necessity, of continuous multi-hour concrete pours on large projects versus the downtown residents' desire for peaceful enjoyment of their evenings and a good night sleep. The current ordinance gives the Director of the Planning & Development Review Department (P&DRD) great latitude. Council Member (CM) Morrison brought a compromise amendment to the City Council hearing that passed 6-0 on first reading that tightened up the current ordinance but the matter goes back to Council on 20 November 2014. The Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association (DANA) has asked OANA to support their resolution to Council to set aside CM Morrison's amendment and basically shut down all concrete pours after 7 PM. OANA will not involve itself further in this at this time.

NOTE: Below is the relevant text from an email Ted sent to the OANA BoD on 13 November 2014:

“At our Nov 4th meeting we decided to stay out of the current discussion until it settled down. We noted that even CM Morrison’s substitute motion to limit the eligible area to CBD, restrict hours, etc. was in disfavor by some of the stronger residential advocates. And, it was unclear whether supporting it would be viewed by either side as helpful.

Then, at DANA’s request, I asked the Board whether it wanted to support DANA’s position. Albert responded suggesting the appointment of a staffed working group of stakeholders. A total of 7 OANA board members responded supporting this idea, with no OANA board members objecting to it. I then sent Council and Council staff a message supporting the appointment of a stakeholder working group. I’ve shared this message with DANA leadership who thanked me for OANA’s participation.”

Under finances, Albert reports we paid \$200 through Michael for our new interactive map. Speaking of the interactive map, Charles told us there is a wiki-link to the University that could be useful in identifying structures in our neighborhood that have historic merit.

Under Government Relations/Social Order Charles reports that a Mobile Loaves & Fishes truck is again coming to Wooldridge Park. This apparently is not a policy change for the organization but rather the decision of the individual driver of the truck. Drivers are not told officially to go to the park to distribute food, but it is speculated that through social media Wooldridge is being announced as a distribution point. Charles will continue to monitor the situation.

Under Marketing, no report.

Under Membership it was suggested that our new neighborhood map be incorporated in membership forms so folks will know their place in the scheme of things.

Under Planning & Zoning there were no new reports.

Under Parks, Open Spaces and Trails, Charles spoke to us more about Wooldridge. On the 29th of last month the traveling movie screen from the Alamo Drafthouse was utilized to the enjoyment of a fairly good crowd. Unfortunately the onsite food vendor did not work out so the Austin Parks Foundation is looking for a replacement. Some proposed upgrades for the Park include a concrete pad for semi-permanent Port-A-John, new electric upgrades, and some curb improvements in the northwest corner of the park to help facilitate the placement of a new food vendor trailer. The Parkland Dedication Funds (PDFs) being generated by the soon to begin construction neighbor of the park Aspen Heights should become available soon.

We then had a brief discussion of Pease Elementary School, the oldest continually operated public educational facility in Texas. The school is rated 5 Star and Exemplary and is an open enrollment school for now. Albert and Ted along with a very active parents group are to be again congratulated for their work in support of the school.

Ted reports good news from the Shoal Creek Conservancy (SCC) in that it appears there will be spun off the Riverside Resources project at West 5th Street and West Avenue some \$300,000 to be used for Shoal Creek improvements. The qualifier is that a building permit must first be issued, but that process appears to be going smoothly.

It was noted that if you have an interest in the City's proposed improvement plan for Duncan Park you can Google the working proposal or go to the City website directly.

Time having passed, we adjourned. Our next meeting will on Tuesday 9 December 2014 at the Shoal Creek Saloon. Thank you Ray.

Blake Tollett, Secretary
OANA