

Old Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA)
8 January 2019

The Board of Directors (BoD) of OANA came together on the second Tuesday of the month at the Shoal Creek Saloon. BoD members in attendance were Paul Byars, Ted Siff, Austin Stowell, Charles Peveto, Bill Schnell, Blake Tollett and Katie Jackson. Michael Portman, Diana Zuniga and Perry Lorenz had sent their regrets. Advisory Council members in attendance were Chris Riley and Kathy Marcus. We had no visitors.

Our first order of business was the review of the December 2018 Minutes, and on motion from Paul with Katie seconding, they were unanimously adopted as submitted.

We then discussed our upcoming General Membership Meeting to be held on Wednesday 30 January at the Shoal Creek Saloon from 5:30 until 7 PM. The only updates from last month's discussion are that Ted has confirmed that all BoD members up for reelection have signaled their desire to continue on the board and Blake has expanded the Annual Highlights to include a snippet from the December minutes. A good time should be had by all.

Under Current and New Business:

Katie reported that she and Ray have resolved our lapsed franchise tax question through the payment of fees and penalties. As an incorporated 501(c)(4) non-profit organization we are not tax exempt but rather classified as a charitable organization. Going forward we will file as necessary to retain our status.

Kathy then spoke to us about Margaret Moser Plaza pocket park just west of the intersection of W. 3rd and Nueces Streets. It seems that the park is not only somewhat neglected but apparently the guitar statuary, an art in public places exhibit owned by the City, has been removed along with a tree. Kathy has been in contact with CM Tovo's office and Ted will reach out to the building's owners for an explanation.

Austin reports no new updates on the property at 507 W. 10th Street.

Charles reported that the Texas Historical Commission (THC) accepted our grant proposal put forward by the City to help fund our proposed historic building survey. That was a good first step and we now wait for a determination on the request. We should know something in time for the annual General Membership Meeting. The grant request is for \$12,000 and we will need to come up with a match to fund the survey. With the grant in hand this should be doable.

Under Committee Reports & Action Items:

Financially our balance sheet remains solid. On a very positive note Ted reported that the developers of the 5th&West committed to signing up all 154 residential units of the project as one time dual members of both the Shoal Creek Conservancy (SCC) and OANA. Apparently the SCC has collected the dual membership funds and will be forwarding our share.

Katie reports that our website developer Grayson has begun work. The goal is to launch the revised site before the annual meeting. On the technical side, we will retain our current .url/domain name but have a new host.

Under Parks, Charles reported that the process to install signage at Wooldridge Square Park to commemorate the speech give by Booker T. Washington continues. A mockup of the proposed signage and memorializing verbiage will be unveiled in February for public comment. Ted reported that the Shoal Creek Trail concept plan has been accepted by the city and now the public hearing and adoption process has begun.

We then discussed ideas to either hold OANA meetings at and/or tour some of the historic structures in the neighborhood. We also revisited the idea of a walking tour of the neighborhood's historic structures as a revenue-generating concept.

Charles reported that there has been another case of arson in the neighborhood, this time at the Bryson complex in the 700 block of West Avenue.

Setting our next regular BoD meeting for Tuesday 12 February, we adjourned.

Blake Tollett, Secretary
OANA