

Old Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA)
12 January 2016

The Board of directors (BoD) of OANA came together at 4 PM on the second Tuesday of January (our regularly scheduled monthly meeting day and time) at the Common Room of the Regency Apartments. BoD members in attendance were Ted Siff, Charles Peveto, Paul Isham, Perry Lorenz, Michael Portman and Blake Tollett. BoD members Diana Zuniga, John Horton, Bill Schnell, Ray Canfield and Albert Stowell had sent their regrets. Our guests today were Perry Horton and Mark Nathan.

We first reviewed the minutes from our December 8th meeting, and they were adopted unanimously as submitted.

To accommodate Mr. Nathan's time schedule we then took up consideration of OANA signing on to the initiative being brought forward by the Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) that would bring regulations of the TNCs directly to the voters under a citizen's initiated petition as opposed to going through the City Council process. Mr. Nathan has been hired to lead the public relations of this political action styled Ride Sharing Works. What is at issue is whether the current interim ordinance regulating the activities of the TNCs operating in Austin put in place under the previous City Council is sufficient, or whether the changes put forward by the current City Council should be overlaid on the interim ordinance. Specifically, the TNCs are resistant to the proposed further safety regulations, in particular the requirement being contemplated that would require the TNCs' contract employees to undergo background checks incorporating fingerprinting in addition to name searches, and business reporting requirements. During an extended discussion, all agreed that TNCs provide a valuable service to the City, but there was concern voiced also as to how the TNCs established their businesses in the City and how this reaction to being further regulated by the City Council would be seen politically. On motion from Perry with Paul seconding, the BoD voted 5 to 1 to add OANA's name in support of the citizen's initiative. Blake voted against the motion.

Returning to the agenda, we finalized plans for our Annual General Membership meeting two weeks forward on the 26th. The time and location is confirmed at the Shoal Creek Saloon from 5:30 until 7:30 PM and BoD members are encouraged to bring at least one prospective member each. We begin with a happy hour or so (member's first drink is on OANA) with us settling down to business around 6:30. Attendees will have been handed out the year in perspective summary along with other OANA promotional literature and Ted will speak to us about our organization, always with an eye to increasing membership. We will then have elections, with Ted, Charles, Ray and Michael all standing for reelection. Albert and John will not be standing for reelection so there will be two open seat elections this cycle.

We next discussed the increased parking rates and expansion of metered parking hours on Wednesday in our parking enterprise area (from Lady Bird Lake to West 10th Street, Guadalupe Street to Lamar Boulevard). In discussions between OANA and Steve Grassfield, the City's Transportation Department head in charge of Parking Enterprise Funds, we learn that the parking meter rate has been increased from \$1 per hour to \$1.20 per hour and that the Wednesday meter compliance times have been extended from 6 PM to midnight. These increases in fees are based

on statistics showing that current demand for the parking spaces has exceeded the benchmark of 75% occupancy, in some instances approaching 90%. The intent is to cause more turnover in the use of the spaces. Of note is that unlike some areas of our City, a portion of this meter revenue is not allocated for public amenities in our neighborhood. On motion from Michael with Perry seconding, the OANA BoD voted unanimously to support the increases. There is also sentiment on the board to explore a way for the neighborhood to recoup some of these monies with an eye to bringing public benefits to the neighborhood such as public trash receptacles or perhaps planting trees along the City's right-of-way.

We next discussed the Texas Association of Counties (TAC) rezoning request for their properties at 1204 San Antonio Street and 1205 Nueces Street. Their original request was to rezone the properties from General Office (GO) to Central Business District (CBD). They have amended the request to rezone from GO to Downtown Mixed Use (DMU), a zoning district that allows for a maximum development height of 120 feet with a floor-to-area (FAR) of 8 to 1 [NOTE-FAR refers to the relation of developmental square footage to area of the property being developed. For example, a 10,000 square foot lot with an 8 to 1 FAR is allowed a development maximum of 80,000 square feet]. The passed by City Council but not yet codified Downtown Austin Plan (DAP), Northwest District, calls out these properties to be rezoned as DMU with developmental height restricted to 60 feet with a developmental FAR of either 1 to 1 or 2 to 1, depending on interpretation of the plan. The representative of TAC, Alice Glasco, has met with members of the OANA BoD, and while the meetings have been amenable, there remain differences. The hearing on this rezoning request is scheduled to go before the Planning Commission the evening of Tuesday, 26 January with a City council hearing preliminarily set for 11 February. Because the City Staff report on the rezoning request has not been issued as well as our Annual General Membership meeting being previously scheduled for that evening, Ted was empowered by the BoD with asking for a postponement of the Planning Commission hearing if warranted.

As our discussions were running long, Charles quickly gave us an update on goings on at Wooldridge Square Park. Charles has again asked the design team of DWG partners to look at the Great Streets concept and how that may tie in with permitted events that expand programming into the streets and area around the square. There are also some ADA requirements for the park going forward that also must be addressed. He spoke to us of an enhanced tree survey for the square that would identify both trees that have been damaged due to the previous periods of drought as well as trees that are approaching their natural life end. The stewards of the park need to be forward thinking and begin the process of replacement.

Having come to the end of our allotted time, the next scheduled BoD meeting will be on 9 February at the Common Room of the Regency Apartments.

Blake Tollett-Secretary
OANA