

Original Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA)  
Annual Meeting 01/26/2012

The neighbors came together just after 6 PM in the Common Room of the Regency Apartments. We first enjoyed some wonderful small food from the Shoal Creek Saloon courtesy of Ray Canfield and beverages courtesy of the John Horton family. Thank you to them, and as always, thank you Nalle family for allowing us to meet at the Regency Apartments.

OANA board members in attendance were Albert Stowell, John Horton, Perry Lorenz, Bill Schnell, Ted Siff and myself. Our guests included Council Member Chris Riley, Steve Nagel, Ray Canfield, Kay Stowell, Paul Isham, Lisa Tipps and some good folks from both the Nakona and the Spring condominiums. Of note is that in addition to our Perry, out of the twenty some odd neighbors in attendance, there were two other Perrys, and they all coincidentally sat next to each other.

Ted brought us to order around 6:15 and our first business item was the election of board members. Up for reelection were Ted, Albert and John, and we also had two open seats to fill. Perry nominated Ray Canfield for one of the open seats and Paul Isham volunteered and self nominated himself for the other open board seat. The members in attendance were well satisfied with the proposed board, except for the fact that it is once again all male, and on motion by Blake the slate was elected by unanimous acclamation.

There being no proposed changes to the bylaws or other official business, Ted passed along for discussion the following Annual Report:

**OANA is sound, financially, with over \$2,500 in the bank.**

**OANA resolved and settled a lawsuit brought against it by Emerald City Press at no expense to OANA due to the assistance of Board member Perry Lorenz.**

**OANA held happy hour/socials for members and neighbors at Spring Condominiums in December 2010 and at the Star Bar in 2011, ably assisted by board members Christie Nalle and Mark Holzbach.**

**OANA participated in the development of the downtown parking fee changes, limiting the increase in fees/times to south of West 11<sup>th</sup> Street.**

**OANA participated in the city's 8<sup>th</sup> Street reconstruction project, supporting sidewalks along both sides of 8<sup>th</sup> Street wherever feasible.**

**OANA led the citizen effort to place the city's "Bike Boulevard" improvement on Rio Grande from Shoal Creek to MLK. The first of these improvements, a roundabout was built in 2011.**

**OANA board members Albert Stowell and Ted Siff represented the neighborhood on the ACC-Rio Grande Campus Citizen Advisory Committee. ACC is planning expansion of the Rio Grande Campus over the next 3-5 years.**

**OANA took a strong and successful stand against any change in the status of Pease Elementary School operating as a fully public elementary school.**

**OANA initiated support for and supported DAA's and DANA's effort to improve all downtown parks with special interest in Wooldridge Park and Republic Square and Duncan Park.**

**OANA created the Shoal Creek Committee to support the implementation of the Shoal Creek Greenway Master Plan, adopted by the city in 1998, and/or improvements consistent with it. The Committee meets sporadically and has had success in securing support from Spring Condominium/Constructive Ventures, Cirrus Logic, GSD&M and Trammel Crow so far.**

**OANA took positions on numerous zoning cases and was able to come to mutual agreement with each applicant. Each of OANA's positions was supported by City Council. Here is a sample of the zoning cases OANA was involved in 2011:**

- **510 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street: M-4 to DMU, OANA added CO requiring residential above 60 feet and a height maximum of 90 feet, with numerous restricted uses.**
- **600 West 13<sup>th</sup> Street: GO to DMU, OANA added CO requiring residential above 60 feet with numerous restricted uses.**
- **701 & 711 West 7th Street: GO/GR to CBD, OANA added a CO limiting trips to 2000 per day and numerous restricted uses.**
- **821 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street: MF-3 to DMU, OANA added CO requiring residential above 60 feet with numerous restricted uses.**
- **807, 809, 811 Nueces: GO to DMU, OANA support the change to DMU with a CO restricting numerous uses.**
- **705-711 West Avenue and 710 West 7<sup>th</sup>: GO to CS, OANA supports a private restrictive convenient and a CO restricting uses and advocated for added three uses to DMU.**

**It has been a busy and productive year.**

Working off the report, Bill and Ted expanded on the Shoal Creek Improvement project that continues to go forward. With new neighbor Cirrus Logic adding their enthusiasm and money it appears that there is going to be some visible progress shortly, especially in the stretch between West 6th Street and West 10th Street (with emphasis on the bridges). Bill tells us that Cirrus Logic is hosting a workday along the creek on Saturday 4 February and that the relevant information will be posted to the Shoal Creek Facebook page.

Albert fleshed out the Bike Boulevard update. He was speaking fast and my hands were full of fried shrimp so I did not record all of the specifics, but I did record that the roundabouts on Rio Grande Street above 15th Street are going in this spring. Steady progress. We briefly touched on efforts to revitalize Wooldridge Park. Bill again encouraged us to use our Social Media options. Ted spoke of the proposed Judge's Hill Local Historic District (LHD), how LHDs can in some instances non-consensually restrict property rights, and how the Judge's Hill NA needs to be reminded that their LHD, at least initially, needs to be limited by their neighborhood association boundaries. Ted spoke to the recent requests for rezonings in the district and how OANA was basically supportive of the roll into the Downtown Mixed Use (DMU) zoning district provided that certain uses were prohibited and that certain building entitlement requests modified to encompass residential use, all by mutual consent. At this point those in attendance were asked if they had any suggestions for OANA work in the new year.

Lisa Tipps, owner of Dynamic Reprographics on the corner of West Avenue and West 12th Street, asked about any upcoming tree projects. We had a general discussion about how OANA's mission statement references the tree canopy and the desire to maintain and preserve it. Ted stated that the Northwest District, our neighborhood, basically functioned as the "lungs" of downtown-an interesting analogy that I had never heard expressed before. It was noted that the Bike Boulevard along Rio Grande Street master plan speaks to the planting of trees, that Rio Grande Street has all of its overhead utilities relocated underground in the street itself, and that the planting of substantial trees along the street would be a project OANA could get behind. We will need buy in from the property owners along the street not only to help defer the cost for the initial acquisition of the trees but also their long-term maintenance especially if the long-term drought predictions are accurate. Lisa volunteered to work on this in coordination OANA and the City. Thank you Lisa and welcome to the neighborhood.

It being 7:15 and with the eyes of the attendees wandering towards the delicious food and satisfying beverages, Ted called for adjournment. Our next meeting will be the first Tuesday in February, the 7th, beginning at 4 PM in the Common Room of the Regency Apartments.

Blake Tollett, Secretary OANA