

Old Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA)  
13 February 2017

The Board of Directors (BoD) of OANA came together just after 4 PM for our monthly meeting at the Common Room of the Regency Apartments. BoD members in attendance were Perry Lorenz, Bill Schnell, Ted Siff, Diana Zuniga, Michael Portman, Charles Peveto, Perry Horton, Blake Tollett, Katie Jackson and Austin Stowell. Ray Canfield had sent his regrets. Guests included Chris Riley and Roger Cauvin.

The review of the January minutes were our first order of business, and on motion from Charles with Diana seconding, the monthly minutes from January 10th were unanimously approved. On motion from Diana with Michael seconding, the minutes from the Annual Meeting on 24 January were also unanimously approved, but as corrected.

Under **Items for Discussion & Action** Ted asked Katie if she could recommend someone from the Seaholm Residences that could take her place on the OANA Advisory Council. She will get back with a recommendation hopefully by our next meeting in March. We then provisionally accepted Roger as the Advisory Council member from the Plaza Lofts with the understanding that the residence HOA will send Ted an official notice that they have so designated him to represent them.

The discussion then turned to the proposed demolition permit for the structure at 405 W. 14th Street that has been filed with the City and will go before the Historic Landmark Commission (HLC) later this month on the 27th. [NOTE: OANA Secretary Blake Tollett currently sits on the HLC and recused himself from this discussion.] As part of the ongoing dialogue amongst BoD members, we again looked at how our neighborhood association goal of retaining and promoting historic character fits in with the inherent entitlements that come with property ownership. It was decided that Ted, Charles, and our friend Chris would compose a letter to the City and send it around to the BoD for approval.

NOTE: Subsequent to this meeting the OANA BoD voted electronically to send the following to the City:

+++++

13 February 2017  
Austin, TX 78767  
[www.originalaustin.org](http://www.originalaustin.org)

City of Austin  
Historic Landmark Commission  
Austin, TX  
**RE: HDP-2016-0928 - 405 West 14<sup>th</sup> Street**

Dear Landmark Commission Members:

The property at 405 West 14<sup>th</sup> Street is a historic structure, originally constructed around 1910 as a residence for a member of the Tobin family. It reflects the style, scale, and character of Austin's original residential neighborhood. The historic structure is currently used as an income producing property, and rehabilitation/restoration may make it eligible for both State Historic Tax Credits and the Federal Historic Tax Credits.

Saving and re-zoning this property from General Office (GO) to Downtown Mixed Use (DMU) could provide development opportunities toward the back of the lot.

If the property owner is willing to withdraw the pending demolition permit application and apply for a zoning change to DMU, the Old Austin Neighborhood (OANA)\* will support that request as well as work with the property owner to find a solution that provides a competitive market value while preserving the historic character of the property. While we prefer saving the whole house, OANA is open to discussing all possible ways to preserve the historic character of the property including façade easements and other approaches.

**Given OANA's offer of support, we are sharing this letter with the property owner in the hope that he will withdraw his demolition permit on or before your meeting on February 27, 2017.**

Thank you for your consideration. Let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Ted Siff, President

+++++

Moving on to **Committee Reports & Action Items:**

Charles reports that the Wooldridge Square preliminary master plan has gone through all of the relevant Boards & Commissions with mainly favorable responses. There remain some necessary tweaks to how the project deals with the Great Streets criteria as well as how the ADA required lift for the bandstand is accomplished, but these matters will be worked out. Ted Eubank's interpretation study encompassing the three remaining public squares in Austin continues to uncover interesting historical information on Wooldridge Square as well as the Austin History Center building site. The Friends of Wooldridge Square group is working with the University to have a formal documentation package for the Square prepared that incorporate this information. Once the proposed plan becomes finalized, the obvious question then is how will the recommendations be funded. The Friends group has asked for a formal accounting of funds to determine what bond monies remain on hand and are available. Diana asked about future programming at the park, and Ted related that the Downtown Austin Association (DAA) had established an endowment fund for programming at Republic Square park and that this could be a model for Wooldridge Square. There is some movement on the idea of consolidating the management of these three squares (Wooldridge, Republic and Brushy Creek) either as a separate division within the Parks & Recreation Department (PARD) or as body outside PARD.

Ted reported that things are going well at the Shoal Creek Conservancy (SCC) and again referenced the information available on the SCC website.

Michael reports we continue to have money in the bank and a healthy membership.

There is nothing new concerning the proposed project centered on the Gilfillan House.

The Aspen Heights property, the Rise, has been converted from an apartment project to a Marriott branded time-share property. The specifics have not been worked out yet, but the transformation is unique for our neighborhood and will be watched closely.

Bill told us the Aziz property's demolition and subsequent conversion into a surface parking lot is awaiting permits.

Although just outside our neighborhood association boundaries, the 1010 W. 10th project on the west side of Lamar Boulevard is paused while the developers contemplate why they didn't purchase the old gas station site on their immediate east side. The building being proposed for that property would block any view to the east for the 1010 residences.

With our allotted time having run, we adjourned until Tuesday 7 March. This meeting date is being advanced from our normal second Tuesday date due to scheduling conflicts.

Blake Tollett, Secretary  
OANA