

Old Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA)
10 March 2015

The OANA Board of Directors (BoD) came together just after 4 pm at our regularly scheduled day, time and place (second Tuesday of the month from 4 to 5:30 pm at the Regency Apartment's Common Room). Directors in attendance were Ted Siff, Bill Schnell, Ray Canfield, John Horton, Charles Peveto, Paul Isham, Michael Portman, Perry Lorenz, Diane Zuniga and Blake Tollett. Albert was unable to make the meeting.

We began the meeting by welcoming our guest Clara Martinez Haynes from the 360 Apartments. We then unanimously approved the February Minutes as revised and circulated and Bill was tasked with their posting on our website.

Under Current News & Action Items for consideration and vote:

OANA Goals update-John, Blake, Bill and Albert met on Friday 6 March and went over the current mission statement and ongoing goals and discussed proposed changes and modifications. After discussion Bill will forward to the full BoD the committee's recommendation for a vote, either electronically before the next meeting, or if some further tweaking is necessary, we will wait to vote on this at our next meeting.

OANA was notified of a sign variance request at the new residential tower at 615 W. 7th, the 7. Specifically to this variance and based on what was included in the initial request to the City, we noted that what was being requested was not too great a variance from the Land Development Code regulations, but we questioned the notification process, especially as it relates to our meeting schedule. The Board of Adjustment (BoA), where variance requests are heard, meets the second Monday of each month. The BoD of OANA meets the second Tuesday of the month. If the neighborhood association is to weigh in on variance requests going forward we need to view the requests as we are notified, normally a week to ten days before the BoA hearing. On motion from Ted, it was resolved that Albert is charged with scanning all notices for variance and forwarding the scanned document(s) to the full OANA BoD prior to our regularly scheduled monthly meeting. [NOTE-It appears this requested sign variance was denied. If the applicant requests a reconsideration from the BoA, they will have ten days to do so. The BoA hearing file published online shows two property owners in opposition (Devon Dikeon & Fernando Troya at 706 Rio Grande and James Powell at 715 & 717 West Avenue) and one letter in favor (William Archer at 717 & 719 West 6th-Travis CAD does not list Mr. Archer as the owner of record at these addresses)].

Charles tells us that the Austin History Center had a previously scheduled meeting that precluded our meeting there this month but that he would check with the Center about availability for next month.

Concerning the proposed Travis County Civil Courthouse, John reports that he and Ted met with Judge Eckhardt and others subsequent to our meeting last month, and it seems that from the County's perspective, the proposed location on the downtown block the County owns just to the south of Republic Square is close to being finalized. The whole package will be brought before

the voters in November as a bond proposal. John also reported that just prior to this afternoon's OANA BoD meeting the Travis County Commissioners on a 3 to 2 vote will go forward with the new District Attorney building on W. 11th Street and San Antonio Street using general obligation bond monies. Our discussion of the proposed civil courthouse again focused not on the necessity of a new building but rather where the courthouse should be located. We are disappointed that if the County retains ownership and use of this full city block in the heart of downtown that has no building constraints under the Capital View Corridor ordinance, that the property will not be returned to the tax rolls. From here, the neighborhood association will have a decision as to how to react to this seemingly final decision as any stance we take will have repercussions for us as an organization. John and Ted will contact the Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association (DANA), the Downtown Austin Association (DAA), the Real Estate Council of Austin (RECA), and the Central Austin Development Corporation to see if there is a common position on this matter that we can align with.

As for the Capital Metro Downtown Gateway Station next to the convention center, there is nothing new to report. There is still a question in our minds as to why the rail line cannot be extended to the Seaholm area, a seemingly natural terminus considering all of the residential and office use going into that area of downtown.

As for the temporary "24-hour concrete pour" ordinance scheduled to expire at the end of this month, both Paul and Diane have been attending the stakeholder meetings (originally two were planned but there have been five so far). Participation by both residents and commercial concerns has been active and beneficial, and this will eventually come back to the City Council through the Downtown Design Commission.

Turning to Shoal Creek Conservancy (SCC) news, on behalf of the Conservancy Ted thanked each of the OANA BoD members for volunteering to name host the upcoming SCC Awards gala (April 21st) and gave each of us two complimentary tickets to the event. Concerning the document guiding the Shoal Creek watershed development over the next 5 years between SCC and the City's Watershed Protection & Development Review, Parks & Recreation, and Public Works Departments, the document is finalized and in the process of being signed. This is somewhat of an unprecedented accomplishment and all parties should be congratulated. In addition, Ted reported that on Earth Day, April 22nd, the Conservancy would receive 5% of sales from some local businesses (thank you Shoal Creek Saloon, amongst others) and that during Amplify Austin 2015, \$2,190 was donated to the cause.

Under status of Ongoing Projects in the neighborhood, everything seems to be progressing along. The BoD did tour the residential projects the Seven and 311 Bowie. Most impressive.

Under Committee Reports, with Albert out of town Ted reported our bank balance to be unchanged at around \$4,552. Other than the previous discussion concerning the proposed civil courthouse, John had nothing further to report. Michael reports he is still working with his neighbors at the Nokonah and Clara (our guest) has volunteered to recruit residents of the 360 Apartments. We discussed again trying to come up with a master email list, both individual and listserv.

Charles reported that Wooldridge Park had a very successful Its My Park Day 2015 with the help of 30 University of Texas Wranglers. The park is looking beautiful. The new food vendor is happy. There was a nice article spotlighting the park in the DANA newsletter.

At this point we adjourned. Our next meeting will be on Monday 13 April at a site to be determined.

Blake Tollett-Secretary
OANA