

Old Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA)  
10 July 2018

The Board of Directors (BoD) of OANA came together just after 4PM at the Investor's Alliance conference room at 300 Bowie Street, Suite 100A. BoD member Diana Zuniga had graciously allowed us to use the space in anticipation of the BoD's after meeting tour of The Independent residential tower located just down W. 3rd Street. BoD members in attendance were Bill Schnell, Ted Siff, Paul Byars, Charles Peveto and Blake Tollett. Advisory Council (AC) members in attendance were Kathy Marcus, Dorothy Doolittle and Roger Cauvin. There were no guests.

Our first order of business was the approval and adoption of last month's minutes. Because the present five BoD members did not constitute a quorum of the BoD, on motion from Charles with Bill seconding and with the provision those other BoD members could weigh in online, we conditionally approved the minutes.

We began our general discussions with a success story from AC member Kathy related to construction workers use of public ROW just to the south and east of the Spring tower for day parking. Not only were the illegally parked vehicles causing safety concerns but they were also tearing up the vegetation and the purple pipe irrigation system. She had called upon Mayor Pro Tem (MPT) Tovo for help in resolving the issue and received the below response:

**Citizen Assistance Form**

CAF # 12739 – Email Response  
June 15, 2018

Citizen: Kathy Marcus  
Email: [katmarcus@gmail.com](mailto:katmarcus@gmail.com)

Dear Ms. Marcus,

Thank you for your recent email concerning the lot West of Trader Joe's, in the triangle right-of-way area, West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and Walter Seaholm Drive. Mayor Pro Tem Tovo has asked me to address your concerns.

The City's Public Works Department (PWD), Austin Police Department Downtown District (APD), Austin Transportation Department (ATD), and the Economic Development Department (EDD) have collectively looked into your concerns.

As of today, the Austin Police Department (APD) has initiated a Directed Patrol for this area. The Directed Patrol is used by APD as a method to reduce or stop crime by focusing on a specific area, in this case the running of the stop sign at the said address. APD will be vigilant to address the concerns that are occurring in this area, call load permitting. For further information regarding the Directed Patrol, please contact Senior Police Officer, Luis Gonzalez, at 512-974-4476 or at [Luis.Gonzalez@austintexas.gov](mailto:Luis.Gonzalez@austintexas.gov). Please do not hesitate to call 9-1-1 if you observe any type of criminal or suspicious activity.

Secondly, the Austin Transportation Department (ATD) has coordinated with the Economic Development Department (EDD), on a strategy to eliminate the parking behaviors that you mention in your correspondence. ATD will dispatch officers to the location daily to cite vehicles illegally parking in the area. Once developed, a flyer in Spanish and English will be handed out as citations are written, to warn the motorists that towing is imminent. Once the area is clear, EDD will have a contractor install fencing to prevent parking from reoccurring in the area.

Lastly, the Public Works Department will address the stress on the trees in the lot by de-compacting the soil around the trees. This work will be performed after the vehicles are removed from the property and access is blocked. Repair and maintenance of the irrigation system will also be addressed at this time.

Again, thank you for bringing your concerns to our attention. Should you have any further questions concerning the trees or irrigation system, please contact Rob Grotty, Program Manager, at 512-974-9198 or by email at [rob.grotty@austintexas.gov](mailto:rob.grotty@austintexas.gov). Questions related to parking concerns can be referred to Jason Redfern, Parking Operations Division Manager, at (512) 974-7020 or by email at [jason.redfern@austintexas.gov](mailto:jason.redfern@austintexas.gov).

Sincerely,

Richard Mendoza, Director  
Public Works Department  
Sent from my iPhone

We then discussed the area around the current pedestrian wooden bridge and adjacent abandoned railroad trestle over Shoal Creek in the W. 3rd Street area as well as the Margret Moser memorial pocket park. The City is currently flipping the pedestrian bridge boards over so the smooth unused side is up, but as it is a work in progress the transition is unexpected to casual users and is causing injuries. This wooden surface should probably have been concrete originally to accommodate this kind of use. As for the memorial park, although any sustained cleanup appears unlikely until the construction in the area is finished, Ted relates that the developer of the old Austin Music Hall at W. 3rd Street and Nueces has engaged the landscape architects DWG to do the finish work on the site. Charles queried whether there would be opportunities for public input on the proposed design since this is envisioned as a public space and includes public ROW. Ted will contact DWG and ask for an update.

The District 9 upcoming City Council race now has three contestants, Danielle Skidmore, Linda O'Neal and MPT Kathie Tovo. The Mayoral race has two major candidates, Laura Morrison and Mayor Steve Adler.

The City Council has asked City Staff to begin working on the ballot language addressing the proposed bonds. Fairly firm dollar amounts (\$925 million) of the ask have been settled on and due to legal requirements the bonds will be presented to the electorate in seven propositions. Ted has been appointed by the Mayor to head the bond campaign and he shared with us some breakdown numbers and explanations from City Staff:

**November 6, 2018 City of Austin General Obligation Bond Propositions  
As passed by the Austin City Council on June 28, 2018\***

**\*While changes are unexpected, these items are subject to change by Council in August when it official sets the bond ballot**

- **Affordable Housing- \$250 Million:**
  - **Rental Housing Development Assistance Projects (\$94 Million)**
    - Rental Housing Development Assistance (RHDA) program increases or maintains the supply of affordable rental housing by addressing the rental housing needs identified by the City of Austin's Continuum of Housing Services, including Permanent Supportive Housing and other affordable housing facilities.
  - **Acquisition & Development (A&D) Homeownership Program (\$28 Million)**
    - The purpose of the A&D Homeownership Program is to address the need for affordably priced ownership housing within the city. Housing developed through this program are to be owned and occupied by low- to moderate-income households.
  - **Land Acquisition (\$100 Million)**
    - This new forward-thinking initiative will enable AHFC to acquire and hold land, including acquisition of publicly owned land, for future use with the potential to achieve multiple community benefits, including affordable housing development. The land can be developed by AHFC or be offered to non-profit or for-profit affordable housing developers.
  - **Home Repair Program (\$28 Million)**
    - Funds will be needed to carry out minor home repairs and rehabilitation throughout the community. Through the GO Repair! Program, the City contracts with seven nonprofit organizations that provide critical life safety repairs to low- and moderate-income homeowners' homes
  
- **Parks and Recreation- \$149 Million:**
  - **Aquatics (\$40 Million)**
    - Funding for a new Colony Park Pool and renovations to existing City pools
  - **Building Renovations (\$21.5 Million)**
    - Funding for renovations/rehabilitation of existing PARD facilities and assets, including ADA and safety improvements
  - **Infrastructure (\$17.5 Million)**
    - Funding for improvements to playscapes, trails, parking lots and roadways, athletic fields and facility improvements, and improvements to the City's cemeteries
  - **Parkland Improvements (\$25 Million)**
    - Funding for development of existing City parks, including greenbelts, neighborhood parks, district parks, metro parks such as Roy G. Guerrero Park and John Trevino Jr. Park, and the Downtown Squares
  - **Parkland Acquisition (\$45 Million)**
    - Funding for the acquisition of land, including publicly-owned land, for new parkland, such as a destination park in the Oak Hill area and Lions Municipal Golf Course, infill parks and greenbelts

- **Transportation Infrastructure- \$160 Million:**
  - **Bridges and Structures (\$50 Million)**
    - Funding to replace the Red Bud Trail/Emmet Shelton Bridge over Lady Bird Lake and other priority bridges
  - **Street Reconstruction (\$66.5 Million)**
    - Funding for the rehabilitation of existing City streets, bus lane improvements, and cost participation in utility projects
  - **Sidewalk Rehabilitation (\$20 Million)**
    - Funding for the rehabilitation of existing City sidewalks
  - **Signals and Technology (\$4.5 Million)**
    - Safety and mobility improvements, upgrades to signals, controllers, firmware, expansion of communications systems, new signal installations
  - **Vision Zero/Transportation Safety (\$15 Million)**
    - Funding for major intersection safety projects, pedestrian safety improvements, speed management projects
  - **Neighborhood Partnering Program (\$1 Million)**
    - The Neighborhood Partnering Program (NPP) allows citizens to partner with the City to propose small to medium scale projects on City-owned property to improve the places in which they live, work and play
  - **Urban Trails (\$3 Million)**
    - Funding for the expansion of the urban trail network
  
- **Flood Mitigation- \$184 Million:**
  - **Drainage/Stormwater Projects (\$112 Million)**
    - Funding for flood risk reduction and drainage improvement projects and for buyouts in flood prone areas
  - **Open Space Acquisition (\$72 Million)**
    - Funding for the acquisition of water quality protection lands
  
- **Libraries and Cultural Centers- \$128 Million:**
  - **Branch Library Renovations (\$34.5 Million)**
    - Funding for rehabilitation and renovations to branch libraries as well as funding for this first phase of the conversion of Faulk Central Library for archival use by the Austin History Center
  - **Cultural Center Improvements (\$56.5 Million)**
    - Funding for improvements to the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican-American Cultural Center (MACC), Asian-American Resource Center (AARC), George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center, Mexic-Arte Museum
  - **Creative Spaces (\$12 Million)**
    - Funding for the acquisition or support of acquisition of property for creative spaces
  - **Dougherty Arts Replacement Facility (\$25 Million)**
    - Funding for the complete replacement of the Dougherty Arts Facility
  
- **Health and Human Services- \$16 Million:**
  - **New Dove Springs Health Center**
    - Funding for a new Dove Springs Health Center

- **Public Safety- \$38 Million:**
  - **Fire Station Renovations (\$13 Million)**
    - Funding for renovations at existing fire stations around the City
  - **EMS Station Renovations (\$25 Million)**
    - Funding for renovations at existing EMS stations around the City

**Katy Zamesnik**

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The Art In Public Places (AIPP) project, as an offshoot of the recent W. 8th Street renovations, is again back on track. The artists originally given the commission declined to continue so the City has chosen Ion Art to bring forth a proposal, a proposal specifically focused on the roundabout at the intersection of W. 8th and Rio Grande Avenue.

AC member Dorothy talked with us about the upcoming Community Policing Civic Academy on 19 July at St. David's Episcopal Church. This is an ongoing program that fosters "(i)nteractive and collaborative partnerships between the police and community predicated upon mutual respect, mutual civility, and display (of) genuine care for one another". For more information contact Dorothy at [db.doolittle@yahoo.com](mailto:db.doolittle@yahoo.com).

Charles reported that he had composed a rough draft of the letter the OANA BoD had authorized him to send to PARD concerning the completion of the Wooldridge Square master plan and also the implementation of the plan and its operational maintenance going forward.

After discussion it was decided to forego an August meeting of the OANA BoD and reconvene on Tuesday 11 September at the Shoal Creek Saloon. Having reached our ending time of 5PM, we adjourned to go down the street to tour The Independent.

Blake Tollett, Secretary OANA