

Original Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA)
10 October 2017

The Board of Directors (BoD) of OANA came together for our regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Tuesday 10 October 2017 at the Shoal Creek Saloon. BoD members in attendance were Ted Siff, Charles Peveto, Perry Lorenz, Michael Portman, Katie Jackson, Diana Zuniga, Austin Stowell and Blake Tollett. Advisory Council member Kathy Marcus from the Spring residences was also in attendance along with Dorothy Doolittle from the 360 residences, a potential new Advisory Council member.

Our first order of business was to review the corrected September 2017 minutes, and as corrected, upon motion from Diana with Charles seconding, the minutes were unanimously adopted and Bill will post them on our website. Ted informed us that unfortunately our August 2017 minutes have been lost.

Under **Old Business**-updates and status reports:

- Ted told us that after discussions with potential sponsors and a general review of time constraints on logistics, it was decided that trying to coordinate an OANA event to coincide with the opening of the new Central Library was just not going to work. Brandi Clark Burton will continue to work with Ted and Katie with the idea of doing something in the new year.
- Going off agenda somewhat, we then discussed our website and social media presence. Chris Riley, our previous webmaster who poured many volunteer hours into our current website, has been talking with Charles and is willing to help us upgrade the site. Chris especially worked on the *Tour The Neighborhood* section, an historical tour section putting up current (at the time) photos of properties along with historical City maps. During the site upgrade, Charles would like to see the historical section expanded and has volunteered to bring new content forward. An independent developer, Grayson Rosata, has developed a holistic proposal for us and Ted, Diana and Katie will arrange a meeting with him to discuss. In addition to upgrading the website Grayson will present some ideas for our social media pages. We discussed again adding corporate and business sponsors to our website, with the proviso that sponsorships would not entail voting privileges. [NOTE: Our current by-laws state that to be a voting member of the organization you must either reside within or be the legally recognized owner of real property within the boundaries of the organization.] We do cast a somewhat envious eye on how our sister neighborhood association, DANA, has set up their website. After further discussion the ad hoc web/social media design committee has permission from the BoD to continue their investigations and will report back in due course.
- Kathy told us she has been working with the City (after calls to 311) to clean up and maintain the Margaret Moser Plaza just to the west of the intersection of West 3rd and Nueces Streets, but she is looking for something more permanent and ongoing. She has reached out to the developers of the 3rd & Shoal project, the Cielo Group, going up in the space previously occupied by the Austin Music Hall, and they have shown interest in the project. It was suggested to Kathy that in her discussions with the developers that they might look into joining the Downtown Austin Association (DAA) and then tapping into

the DAA neighborhood maintenance program to benefit the Plaza. An ongoing concern is that the Plaza is situated within the City's ROW, so Kathy is going to come up with a brief action plan and she and Ted will meet with our Council Member, Mayor Pro Tem Tovo, and see what guidance and resources are available. [NOTE: The Plaza is right where the railroad trestle and the new pedestrian bridge cross Shoal Creek itself. Charles continues to work on having the trestle deemed historic and there are further efforts to secure funding for the trestle's rehabilitation.]

- The small apartment house at 1105 Nueces Street has been rezoned historic.

Under New Business-discussion and possible action:

- The fourth phase of the Green Water Treatment facility has a new equity owner.
- The property underneath the Extended Stay Hotel at W. 6th and Guadalupe Streets is under contract but has not closed. The preliminary proposal is for an 800-foot structure. The word yikes comes to mind.
- The University of Texas Systems is taking down and rebuilding an office tower at W. 6th and Colorado Streets. The historic old Austin post office building shares the site.
- Facebook is leasing 1/3 of the 32-story building at W. 3rd Street and Shoal Creek. It was noted that Google has offices at W. 2nd and Nueces Streets.
- At 612 W. 6th Street, the former site of CvanR Automotive, a boutique hotel branded Canopy by Hilton is proposed.

Under **Committee Reports**:

Michael reported that our **Finance and Membership** numbers remain stable.

We had no report under **Newsletter & Marketing**.

Under Parks:

- At **Wooldridge Square Park** Charles reported they had a big volunteer day in preparation for Its My Park Day (IMPD) in early November. Urban Forestry has tentatively agreed to pay for a level 3 maintenance program assessments of the trees on site. The root system of the trees will be x-rayed and the results will guide recommendations going forward.
- At **Duncan Park**, Charles continues to press the City to incorporate a purple pipe irrigation system into the master plan. This reclaimed water system is close by if not already at the park. Both Wooldridge Square and Duncan Parks have master plans, either completed or nearly so, but the funding to implement the plans is uncertain. The Parks & Recreation Department (PARD) has not so far requested that the funding to finish the plans and then implement them be included in the 2018 City of Austin bond request. Ted asked for and received permission to write a letter to PARD and the Bond Election Advisory Taskforce making the ask. Ted tells us the Shoal Creek Conservancy (SCC) will be doing the same.
- At **Shoal Creek**, Ted reported that the SCC has engaged McCann Adams Studio to design a trail from the lake to the Pickle West Campus. It will be a combination of creek

trail, bike lane and pedestrian pathway. This plan will also tie into and encompass the Walnut Creek Trail and Lance Armstrong Bikeway. There is also a water management study underway for the creek under the auspices of the CoA Watershed Protection Department. In addition, the Conservancy has received a federal Environmental Protection Agency grant to look at water quality in the system.

Having once again bumped up against our set ending time, further discussion of neighborhood business was deferred to our next meeting on 7 November 2017. We will again meet at the Shoal Creek Saloon beginning at 4 PM.

Blake Tollett, Secretary

OANA