

Old Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA)
11-07-17

The Board of directors (BoD) of OANA came together at 4 PM on Tuesday 7 November 2017 at the Shoal Creek Saloon. BoD members in attendance were Diana Zuniga, Charles Peveto, Michael Portman, Bill Schnell, Ted Siff, Katie Jackson and Blake Tollett. Advisory Council member Kathy Marcus (the Spring) also attended along with our guests Dorothy Doolittle, Paul Byers and Chris Riley.

Our first order of business was the adoption of the October 2017 minutes, and on motion from Diana and with Charles seconding, they were unanimously adopted as amended.

We then welcomed our guest Chris Riley as a new member of our Advisory Council. Chris's relationship to the neighborhood goes back several decades and he currently resides on San Antonio Street. He also has been a major contributor to the historic section of our website.

Under **Pending Programs/Projects Committee**, Charles first reported on the proposed historic survey of the neighborhood. Although area wise not too large, for survey purposes the neighborhood will probably be broken into sections with an overarching historic context section. Charles has preliminarily spoken with the Hardy-Heck-Moore group and will bring back to the BoD a proposal of what an historic survey would entail along with some estimated costs. There will possibly be some areas of the proposal that would lend themselves to volunteer efforts, but this is still early days. Charles then gave us an update on the Texas Historical Commission (THC) informational marker on the Wood Street district along Shoal Creek north of W. 6th Street. Along Wood Street were located early twentieth century homes occupied by working class Mexican and African Americans. In conjunction with the Shoal Creek Conservancy (SCC) the marker will be unveiled on 19 January 2018. Charles will keep the BoD updated.

We then discussed the proposed Art In Public Places (AIPP) project that will be spun off from the reconstruction work along W. 8th Street, the reconstruction of the street from Congress to West Avenues. As with all City projects there is a mandatory carve out for AIPP projects, in this instance \$92,000. The artist group has been chosen but their concept is still up in the air. The current specifications call for a project that covers the entire eight block stretch, although there may still be a way to focus the monies on one area rather than dilute the impact of the project through mandating the art touch every block. On motion from Diana with Charles seconding, Ted, Chris and Charles will see if the money can be re-specified for a single art piece to be placed at the traffic circle at W. 8th and Rio Grande Streets.

There are pedestrian safety/traffic concerns being voiced around the intersections of W. 3rd and Bowie and Nueces Streets. Apparently what has been designed is not working out in real time and there are ongoing discussions with Austin Energy, the Austin Police Department and the City's Transportation Department. On motion from Katie with Bill seconding, Katie and Cathy are authorized to draft a letter outlining concerns. Diana suggested that we share our letter with the close by Home Owners Associations (HOAs) and ask them to also weigh in.

Under **Parks**, Charles reported that Republic Square is back to being fully open along with the opening of the new Central Library. At Duncan Park, it appears that the City's Watershed Protection Depart (WPD) has an internal policy prohibiting the use of reclaimed water in flood plains that will affect the use of reclaimed (purple pipe) water for irrigation in Duncan and Pease Parks. Charles will send an email to the WPD asking for a meeting with the goal of a reexamination of this policy. At Wooldridge Square Park, the fall version of Its My Park Day was a big success. Programs such as giant chess seem to be welcomed and attended.

Ted spoke briefly about the Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) monies being reallocated from the convention center into historic parks. This year \$92 million was generated by the tax, and by State law up to 15% of those monies can be allocated by a City to the preservation/rehabilitation of historic structures that can demonstrate that they are tourist destinations. The City Council calved off \$6.95 million for this year. There is also a City bond election coming up in the fall of 2018 with opportunities for parks and multi-modal projects being in the mix.

Under **Old Business and Status Reports**, the Gilfillan Place rezoning request to go from General Office-Historic (GO-H) to Downtown Mixed Use-Historic (DMU-H) is currently before the Historic Landmark Commission (HLC). At the October HLC meeting the matter was postponed so the applicants could again go before the HLC Certificate of Appropriateness Committee to clarify their intentions regarding the home's rock retaining walls. OANA is currently a signatory to a Restrictive Covenant aimed at the proposed uses under a zoning district of DMU but has not weighed in on proposals affecting the historic landscape. Our Charles along with past OANA BoD Richard Hardin and proximate neighbor to the property Blair Fox all spoke against impacting the historic landscape; having the rock retaining walls remain in place and placing sidewalks in the City's ROW if necessary. After discussion, on motion from Charles with Katie seconding, OANA will go on record as supporting the keeping of the rock retaining walls where they are currently located, advocating for the continued protection of the heritage oak on the property's northeast corner, and that the renovations/new construction at the property include the requirement for complete streets sidewalks.

We then discussed the Grayson Rosato website proposal, email below:

From: Grayson Rosato [<mailto:graysonrosato@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2017 10:08 PM
To: Diana Zuniga <>
Cc: Ted Siff <>; Katie Jackson <>
Subject: Pitch for OANA Website

I really enjoyed our meeting this past week! Here is my proposal.

A new website built and hosted on the Squarespace platform.

3 months of my personal Squarespace support and education to get someone on board to edit the site.

Start to finish \$1000

What I would need:

- all images for each section of neighborhood (high res, either professional or iPhone)
- logo (high res)
- document with all copy for each page and organization for overall website divided into tabs
- a list of potential sites needed in the future that I can build now i.e. event page, social page...

Timeline

Once all content has been received I will have a site for preview and edits within 14 days.

Let me know if you have any questions. I hope to work with your organization soon!

Grayson Rosato
512-917-8959
graysonrosato@gmail.com

After discussion and upon motion from Michael with Charles seconding, the BoD will contract with Grayson on the terms outlined in his email.

Under **Committee Reports**, Bill has obligated himself to put out an electronic holiday newsletter before year's end. Michael reports our membership numbers are slowly trending up. Our Annual Meeting is coming up in January with the forth Tuesday, the 30th, being proposed for the date.

Under **New Business**, the old CvanR space at 612 W. 6th Street is going to be the new home of a Hilton Canopy Hotel.

Having once again filled up an hour and a half, we adjourned. We will come back together on Tuesday 5 December beginning at 4 PM at the Shoal Creek Saloon.

Blake Tollett, Secretary
OANA