

Original Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA)
4 December 2012

The Board of Directors (BoD) of OANA came together for its monthly meeting at the regularly scheduled date, time and place (the first Tuesday of the month from 4 to 5:30 PM at the Common Room of the Regency Apartments). Directors in attendance were Perry Lorenz, Paul Isham, John Horton, Ray Canfield, Blake Tollett and Ted Siff. Michael Portman from the Nokonah Lofts condominiums sat in with us as a guest.

Having failed to adopt the revised minutes from our November meeting, we unanimously did so and they will be posted on our website.

John next talked with us about **Government Relations**:

Following up on an item from last month, John talked with Annick Beaudet of the City's Transportation Department about the newly delineated bike lanes on Nueces Street between West 3rd and West 7th Streets and a delineated "sharrow" continuing along Nueces Street from West 7th to West 13th Streets in light of the City's prior designation of Rio Grande Street as the official bike boulevard. Annick explained that the current bicycle mobility plans call for recognizing how Nueces Street is actually used and that bicycle traffic on Nueces Street is complimentary to the Rio Grande Street project.

Updating Wooldridge Park rehabilitation project, John tells us that this coming Saturday the 8th will be a mulching day for the Friends of Wooldridge Park group. The City is planting some new trees tomorrow, the 5th, and these new and the existing trees will benefit from some mulch. The park will remain closed for the near future in order for the landscape to become established. The Friends group, interested neighbors and OANA continue to look at means to protect the park from overuse going forward and to make it accessible and inviting to all the citizens of the City and the State (the Park is owned by the State and leased to the City), all the time. We again discussed the idea of requiring licensing and regulation of commercial vendors and other program uses that stage out of or nearby to the park.

Under **Membership/Marketing/Camaraderie**, we first congratulated and applauded Bill for his outstanding work on our electronic newsletter Winter Edition. In his absence and building on this enthusiasm, we committed him (with the Board's help) to publishing an electronic newsletter at least quarterly if not more frequently. We continue to seek further outlets for dissemination especially through downtown dwellers' residential organizations. Ted suggested that we begin sending our e-newsletter to members of the City Council and their staffs.

Our **Annual Meeting** was set for Tuesday 8 January 2013. We will have an abbreviated monthly Board meeting from 5 to 6 PM, take 30 minutes to set up for the Annual Meeting, and then have the Annual from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. Ray will bring assorted delicacies from his restaurant, the Shoal Creek Saloon, and John has again volunteered to provide liquid refreshments. Perry volunteered to underwrite the affair and we volunteered Ted and Bill, respectively, to compose some yard signage and to send out an email blast. Blake volunteered to mine through the past year's minutes and provide some monthly bullet points to combine with reports from the various

Committee Chairs for the Annual Report. Paul is going to look through our By Laws to determine which Director seats are up for election and for what terms and whether we can expand the Board membership.

NOTE: Subsequent to this meeting Paul and Ted figured out that by electronic vote approval the Board could be increased from 9 to 11 members and we did that. The following are the current Board members and their terms of office:

Serving through January 2013 and standing for reelection:

- #1: Bill Schnell
- #2: Blake Tollett
- #3: Paul Isham
- #4: Perry Lorenz
- #5: Rick Hardin

Serving through January 2014:

- #6: Albert Stowell
- #7: John Horton
- #8: Ted Siff
- #9: Ray Canfield

#10: Open (one year term ending in January 2014)

#11: Open (one year term ending in January 2014)

We then turned to **Planning & Zoning:**

The **Austin Community College (ACC)** rezoning request is scheduled to go before the Historic Landmark Commission (HLC) on 17 December, the Planning Commission (PC) on 8 January 2013, and the City Council on 24 January, although hearing dates are subject to change. The rezoning request seeks a zoning district of Downtown Mixed Use (DMU) on 9 parcels of land:

1204, 1206, 1215 ½ and 1218 West Avenue
1212, 1209, 1215 and 1216 Rio Grande Street
605 West 13th Street

Last June OANA sent a letter in support of the rezoning package conditioned on the following:

The Downtown Austin Plan (DAP) restricts developmental height maximum on the properties to 60 feet and we support that limitation on the traditional DMU zoning district developmental height maximum of 120 feet except on the 1216 Rio Grande Street property. That property should be allowed to have a maximum developmental height of 120 feet.

We asked that the following potential uses of the rezoned properties be prohibited:

Automotive Repair Services, Automotive Sales, Automotive Washing, Bail Bond Services, Counseling Services, Drop-Off Recycling Services, Extermination Services, Funeral Services,

Financial Services, Guidance Services, Local Utility Services, Outdoor Entertainment, Pawn Shop Services, Residential Treatment, Telecommunication Tower, Drive-In Restaurant, Service Station or any use requiring an outdoor music permit.

We supported ACC's request to modify the Northwest District (DAP) Street Front Setback Requirements on 1204, 1206 and 1218 West Avenue from a 25 feet setback to a 5 feet setback, or 25 feet from curb, and we asked the City to rezone the House Park property from the SF-3 zoning district to the Public or P zoning district to eliminate compatibility requirements.

Ted reported that he and Blake met with Sarah Weddington, a neighbor to the north of the ACC Rio Grande campus, and Rodger Pinckney, legal representative of another neighbor in that area, to discuss OANA's conditional support of the ACC rezoning request. After a vigorous and revelatory exchange of information by all, Ted agreed to bring and did bring to the Board two proposals. After motion and vote, OANA is going to ask that liquor sales be listed as a prohibited use and that ACC consider a Conditional Overlay (CO) over all of the to be rezoned properties that would restrict their use to education only. Ted will report back to the Board on ACC's response.

We briefly touched on the **West 8th Street reconstruction project**. The OANA BoD committed last month to sending a letter to the City asking that the project as let go forward without substantial modification. It was noted that the retaining wall at the corner of Rio Grande Street and West 8th on the south side will be pushed back and that the south side sidewalk along the street will be continuous between West Avenue and Congress Avenue.

The **Cirrus Logic rezoning request** covering 800 West 6th Street and 602, 604, 606, 702 and 704 West Avenue was then discussed. Cirrus is asking that the current Conditional Overlay (CO) limiting vehicle trips to less than 2,000 per day be eliminated from the existing office building's zoning district of DMU-CO-CURE and that the northern vacant properties' zoning districts of LO and GO be changed to DMU. Unfortunately, at this point, the lines of communication on this rezoning request between Cirrus Logic and OANA are limited and sporadic. It was noted that Cirrus Logic's commitment to roll back the zoning on the Aziz property at 707 West Avenue from CS to DMU-60, a commitment made to the PC and City Council through a mutually agreed upon deed restriction on the 707 West Avenue property, is not covered in the rezoning request. And it was noted that the 706 West Avenue Home Owners Association is now opposed to the rezoning request. It is unknown to OANA the intended use of the northern undeveloped properties sought to be rezoned DMU but that a massive parking structure along West Avenue is not consistent with OANA's goals: <http://www.originalaustin.org/goals.htm>

We finally turned to **Parks & Open Spaces**. Our guest Michael reports that the Nokonah folks along with Ray, Paul, Ted and Bill and his Cirrus Logic crew did outstanding mulch spreading work over the past weekend at Duncan Park. Bartlett trees had been hired by Cirrus Logic to rehabilitate and refresh 11 trees in the park and bought the mulch. The Austin Parks Foundation coordinated the project and got the necessary permits from the City.

The Nokonah folks have taken a neighborly interest in Duncan Park and Michael and Ted have been working with the Austin Parks & Recreation Department (PARC) and the Austin Parks

Foundation (APF) to do a larger mulching project in conjunction with Its My Park Day. In 2013 this City wide volunteer event falls on 2 March, coincidentally Texas Independence Day. Ray tells us that his crew will be doing a project on the creek behind his business and Ted relates that there could be a lot more Shoal Creek centric volunteer projects operating under the Its My Park Day's umbrella.

On this positive note we adjourned.

Blake Tollett, Secretary
OANA