

OTBA Meeting February 10, 2016 at City Tavern Grill

The meeting was called to order at 8:47 am by President, Joanne Wunderly. There were 31 members & guests in attendance.

Joanne opened the meeting with mention of the missed annual breakfast meeting that was to be held in January and had to be cancelled. At our next regularly scheduled meeting, we will invite the city workers who were responsible to lighting up our downtown again this year. Responses to the holiday lighting program have been nothing but enthusiastic, with more buildings wanting to join in the program. Chip Rohr took the lead on this effort. Chip reported that the townhouse communities (Olde Towne Square at Center and Zebadee Streets and Lee Square at Stonewall Road and Center Street) at either end of Old Town, wanted to be included next year with the light post wraps of greenery and lights. Manassas really sparkled this holiday!

Joanne also mentioned that Historic Manassas has published a guide that has replaced the **Guide to Shops and Services** that OTBA published for years. It was felt that having two guides that basically gave the same information in very similar formats was un-necessary. The dues that OTBA members pay will be used instead to promote our downtown and address issues that were brought up in the survey that OTBA sent to members.

Unlike our regular meetings, this meeting was more of a 'Meet and Greet' your fellow business owners and city officials and there were no official reports from the various organizations that comprise the OTBA membership.

Councilman and Vice-Mayor Jonathan Way spoke from Mayor Hal Parish's "State of the City" report that was given to city council. Mr. Way mentioned that as a city, we are now not just trying to maintain the status quo, but are embarking on proposals that will enhance our city for years to come. A major change is that an agreement has been reached between the school system and the city that will get the politics out of the annual budget allocations and allot the school system a fixed sum of money each year.

Expressions of gratitude were expressed to the city for its efforts in clearing the snow from the downtown area during the major snow fall from 'Jonas'. Manassas out shown neighboring jurisdictions in snow removal efforts. Our area received more than 30" of snow in a very short while.

Police Chief, Doug Keane announced that one might expect to see more foot patrol officers coming into businesses in the future. It is an effort for each entity to get to know one another, "kind of like Mayberry policing".

Happy Birthday greetings were sung to Fire Chief, Brett Bowman.

The 50/50 drawing netted \$30 collected and the winning ticket was won by Doug Hohorta from the Manassas Museum.

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 am.