

OTBA Meeting May 10, 2017 at City Tavern Grill

The meeting was called to order at 8:29am by Vice President, Darlene Renaldu. There were 32 members present. Virginia Delegate to the House of Representatives, Jackson Miller, attended the meeting, as did Manassas City Councilman, Ian Lovejoy

Secretary, Jan Alten, announced to the members that Curt Wunderly, husband of OTBA President, Joanne, had died at Fairfax Hospital the previous Saturday and announced the arrangements known at that time. Pierce Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Jim Boltz led the members in a quiet moment of reflection.

There were no minutes of our March meeting.

Treasurers' Report - Nury Mena Reported that our current balance in Fulton Bank is \$ 8,571.81. To make it easier to pay your dues, Nury is collecting dues at the meetings.

Brief Announcements - The recent decision by BB&T Bank to close their parking lot to anyone other than their customers generated much discussion. Patrick Small, Economic Director for Manassas, has been in discussion with BB&T and their view is that trash generated in the parking lot over the weekends has prompted this decision.

Please be aware: BB&T has a contract for towing of non customer cars to include after banking hours and on the weekend when the bank is not open.

Many suggestions were made as to best handle the loss of parking. No firm decision was made on any of these suggestions. The Parking Garage is an obvious solution and anyone can park for free after 10 am and at night, and on weekends.

Historic Manassas (HMI) - Brittany Bowman from HMI said that the Celebration of the Arts Weekend of events was successful despite the persistent rain. The weekend events coincided with the Spring Gallery Walk and the Cinco de Mayo celebration.

The Annual Railroad Festival will be on June 3 with costumed characters riding the train to Clifton and back. Tickets may be purchased at HMI.

Brittany also mentioned that *The Virginia Living Magazine* listed a number of Manassas businesses that were voted "Best Of Northern Virginia" winners in their annual reader poll. from Manassas.

The Farmers' Market is open on Thursday at the Harris Pavilion. The Saturday Farmers' Market is located on Prince William Street in the commuter lot across from Baldwin Elementary School. The Saturday market has more than doubled in size and offerings. There is plenty of street parking for this market.

Manassas Museum - Doug Horhorta reported a new exhibit, Tailor Made Clothing, Vintage Fashions from the Museum's Collection.

Movie night on the Museum Lawn will offered again this year. This is a free event. There will be food and beverages for purchase for cash only and those sales will benefit

the Baldwin Elementary School PTO. Movie starts at 8:15 pm and the lawn opens at 6:30 pm. Bring a blanket and enjoy this event.

In the event of rain, Movie night is cancelled.

Center for the Arts at the Candy Factory - Beverly Hess announced that as usual, the CFA is bustling with activities for all ages.

“You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown” , a rooftop Production, will run through May 20th on Friday and Saturday at 8 pm in the Kellar Theater at the CFA. Tickets may be purchased on line at: center-for-the-arts-.org.

“Let’s Dance” , Ballroom Dance Classes are on Thursdays, beginning June 8 through July 13. You can take “The basics” or “Intermediate. Swing Dance classes will be held on Tuesdays, June 6 - July 18.....and if that is not enough dancing for you, once a month on Sunday afternoons, you can drop in for a lesson and open dance. Check out the website for more details.

Summer camps are scheduled to be held at the CFA and at Windy Knoll Farm in Nokesville. Some of the offerings are: Plain Air Painting, Beautiful Batik and Fabric Art, Lego Camp, Robotics , Mindstorms Made Easy and Technic Building. Call the CFA at 703-330-2787 or go to their website for more information on any of the events.

Harris Pavilion - Anna Marie Robinson reported that the Harris Pavilion is already booked for the season.

Welcome Center on 66 - Kiley Wonn mentioned that the “Blue and Grey Ladies” are frequent presenters at the center and generate a good deal of interest in their period era costumes. Kylie also had copies of the 2017 Guide to Virginia’s Civil War Battlefields and Sites for those interested.

Hylton Performing Arts Center - Carol DeVany announced that the Hylton is wrapping up its season but that there is still more things to entertain you and little ones.

Manassas Ballet Theatre will present “Romeo and Juliet” May 19 - 21, a bootcamp for those interested in the technical aspects of a production will learn the behind the curtain skills needed for a smooth production, and several summer performances for young audiences to include “The Science of Sound”, “Latin Ballet of Virginia” and “Cello Fury”.

More information can be found at [hylton center.org](http://hyltoncenter.org).

Discover Prince William - A Craft Beer and Winery Train called “Steins and Vines” is the most recent offering of things to do. The artisan trails include the counties of Prince William, Stafford and Fauquier and the City of Manassas.

There is a new website launching this fall and anyone having events should consider posting those events on this site.

They are looking at “deals” for the visitor market to entice more visitors to our area.

Fire and Rescue - no report but Patty Prince reminded us of “Operation Staying Alive”, a hands on CPR training at the Harris Pavilion on May 20.

Police Department - Officer Steve Neely mentioned the department's participation in Nation Police Week activities with events leading up to Memorial Day.

Police summer camp, Quest, will begin in July.

Manassas City Government -Patrick Small encouraged businesses that have not responded to the City's Annual Business Appreciation Breakfast to be held at the Center for the Arts on Thursday, May 11th to do so. There will be a guest speaker and door prizes. Patrick also announced several new businesses: Sinistral Brewery, PopCorn Monkey, Lemonade Bakery, Moo Moo Junction and Jitterbug Ice Cream Parlor are all in the final stages of getting open.

Round Table Discussion on three questions:

In an effort to keep abreast of what the membership thinks is important, the following questions were posed and each of four tables had a lively discussion about the questions: Questions are in bold face, responses follow.

What would you like OTBA to have at our meetings as far as speakers or presentations?.

Presentations by local business owners
Anything related to helping small business owners grow
General marketing presentations by local expert
Not really interested in speakers or presentations
we come to hear what's going on with fellow business and related matters
If we had some, keep it local with non OTBA city businesses
CenterFuse Owners
Presentations on the Artisan Trails
Marketing ideas
Outside presentations, teach rather than 'sell' themselves
Main Street ideas from other communities

Is there any thing in Old town that you think OTBA should be more involved with?

Parking
Marketing
Utility bill calendar could include advertising - merchants could help w/
increased postage
All businesses should have flowers in front of their location (seasonal flowers)
Inspire businesses to take pride in their storefront appearance
Strengthen B2B communications
Beautification (flowers, etc. but keep it uniform)
Self police - keep eyes out and help report violations
Keeping Old Town clean, (trash and litter pickup)

Would you like to have other opportunities to socialize with fellow members of OTBA other than our breakfast meetings? For example, an after hours wine and nibbles gathering?

Of course
Yes. We know a lot of people who can't make these breakfast meetings because of kids, etc.
A great way to get restaurants involved

A resounding YES!

Gather at local restaurants early evening hours

Should encourage fellow members to visit each other's shops

Create a card offering a discount to capture an email

As you can see, lots of interesting ideas were presented. These will be discussed at our BoD meetings and at future OTBA meetings to determine what we can do, how we can accomplish what was suggested and calculate the cost (if any) of doing so.

There was no 50/50 drawing today.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 am.