

## **OTBA Meeting July 13, 2016 at City Tavern Grill**

The meeting was called to order at 8:50 am by President, Joanne Wunderly. There were possibly 23 members in attendance.

Minutes for our meeting in June were approved by Kathleen Riley and Patrick Langdon seconded.

**Treasurers' Report** - Nury Mena was unable to attend but sent her report. At present we have \$8,967.35 in our treasury.

Joanne touched on a few items before reports were given. She mentioned that the year long (13 month) blitz at the Welcome center on 66 is a real marketing opportunity for Old Town and that sign ups would begin soon. All businesses are welcomed to participate. Brochures, interactive presence, displays of merchandise, artists painting at the center are all ways to drive tourists into Old Town. After all, the Welcome Center is less than five miles away from our historic center.

Also mentioned was that some dues to OTBA are still outstanding, OTBA pays the city for the maintenance and replacement of the holiday lighting atop the buildings in Old Town and each participating business/or building owner is billed by OTBA for this service. The additional cost of electricity is usually paid directly to the utility department on one's monthly bill. There are still outstanding amounts due to OTBA. Please check to see if you are one of them!

First Friday in August theme is "The Dog Days of Summer". Expect to see a lot of dogs in town that night as owners of pets usually eagerly participate in this event.

The fall Sidewalk Sale is once again going to be held in September.

Reports from all the member organizations were given.

**Historic Manassas (HMI)** - Brittany Bowman mentioned that Civil War Notes will once again be issued by HMI during the Civil War Weekend (August 26 - 28, 2016) and that reimbursements will be made to businesses that accept them in lieu of payment for services. This has been a popular program with the many participants on this weekend event. For more details: [www.vistmanassas.org](http://www.vistmanassas.org).

**Manassas Museum** - Doug Horhota had cards on the tables announcing the many events that the museum puts on. Book talks will be held July 10, 17 & 31, downtown walking tours are every Thursday and Friday at noon, tours of Liberia Plantation are on Sundays at noon and are free, van tours require advance ticket purchase, and in August, there will be an Archaeology and Swim Camp. Also coming up in August is the Civil War Weekend and due to popular demand, dances will be held at the Harris Pavilion on Friday and Saturday nights that weekend. For more information: [www.manassasmuseum.org](http://www.manassasmuseum.org).

**Center for the Arts at the Candy Factory** - Beverly Hess mentioned the many activities of the Center for the Arts at the Candy Factory that are going on or up-coming: Summer camps for children, the Summer Sounds Concert auditions for the upcoming production of "A Christmas Carol". Details for these events can be found on the center's website, [www.center-for-the-arts.org](http://www.center-for-the-arts.org).

**Harris Pavilion** - no report

**Welcome Center on 66** - Kathleen Riley elaborated on the Blitz promotion that is upcoming. It will be in the Welcome Center on the westbound side of I-66. Access to the center can be made from Battleview Parkway (all the way at the end). There will be a banner on both sides of 66.

**Hylton Performing Arts Center** - Susan Landis mentioned the Prince William Little Theatre's upcoming performance of "Cabaret", the on going summer camps, the Hylton Family Series events - "The Barefoot Puppets" and "Can you Kazoo" - both of which would be entertaining for children of all ages. The Hylton is booked for the fall.

**Discover Prince William** - Dan Cook, our new contact with this organization mentioned several programs to drive tourism to our area: Virginia by Rail, USA BMX, and the Farm Aid presentations, in addition to the 'fam tours' and bringing media to shops.

**Restaurant Alliance** - no report

**Manassas City Police Department**- Officer Steve Neely spoke about the appreciation of the outpouring of public support in response to the tragic shootings of police officers elsewhere in the US. Officer Neely also spoke about the Manassas City Police Department's participation in the National Accreditation of Police Departments program next month. It will be the 6th time our Police Department has participated and is ranked in the top 1% of police forces nationally.

**Fire and Rescue** - The city has hired a new Fire and Rescue Chief, Robert Clemmons, to take the helm of the department. Chief Clemmons replaces retiring Chief Brett Bowman.

**Featured Speaker** - Patrick Small, the Economic Development Director gave a power point presentation about new developments that will be taking place in the city. In some detail, Mr. Small spoke about plans for residential, business and hospitality development that will be taking place on city owned land at the Manassas Airport.

He also addressed several sites for development which are in planning stages, have approval or are anticipated: residential development of the former ABC Photo Lab site on Prince William Street, Messenger Place, a five story upscale residential unit on the site of the former Journal Messenger building.

**Announcements** -

The building that housed The Fauquier Bank at the corner of Center and Main Streets has been purchased and on the ground level will be an incubation laboratory for start ups and new businesses. The upper floor will house a new to Manassas business, Whitlock Wealth Management which will be their second office in the area. Gayle Whitlock was introduced and welcomed to OTBA.

Ann Hempen, Manassas Junction B & B, said that there is a final public hearing scheduled for a cottage addition to their property. Mary Reilly mentioned that she sees many B & B visitors to her studio and thanked Ann for promoting Old Town to her guests.

Chip Rohr announced that his soccer camp for children age 6 - 13 is in its 38th year at Linton Hall School.

The 31st Bull Run Regional Edgar Rohr Antique Auto Show is coming in September and anyone interested in sponsorships of trophies can do so for \$50.

The 50/50 drawing netted \$30 and Doug Horhota held the winning ticket. Doug donated his winnings to OTBA. Thank you Doug!

The meeting adjourned at 10:03.

**THERE IS NO MEETING IN AUGUST.**

Our next meeting is September 14th.