

OTBA Meeting September 12, 2018 at City Tavern

The meeting was called to order at 8:43 am by President Joanne Wunderly. There were 29 in attendance.

The minutes of our July meeting were approved. Jacque Connor made the motion and Melissa Williams seconded.

Nury Mena gave the Treasurer's report. We have \$8,896.20 in the treasury.

President Joanne Wunderly made a few announcements: Our October meeting will an opportunity to meet the candidates for City Council (elections are in November). It won't be a candidates forum but rather each candidate will introduce themselves and tell us why they are running for council.

OTBA is participating in the Haunted Happenings again this year. At our BoD meeting, it was discussed that since there will be a similar event on the Museum lawn from 12 - 3 on Saturday, October 27 and our event was to be very similar and run from 10 - 12 then perhaps we should reconsider and plan another event for later in the year rather than have two back to back very similar events on the same day. Our contribution to Haunted Happenings is for the prizes awarded and the half of the cost for the police for the day. The merchants provide candy for 600 attendees.

After discussions with HMI and finding out that printed material had already been sent out, it was decided that we would go ahead with Haunted Happenings as originally planned.

There was a brief discussion about the many potential and cancellations due to the influence of Hurricane Florence.

The second Sunday in December, the merchants of Old Town have been invited to participate and showcase their merchandise at Liberia Mansion. The Annual Holliday Tour of Homes is that day and refreshments will be served at Liberia. It is a great opportunity to feature your business to many people who attend this annual event.

Jon Hartt is working on our Guides to Shops and Services. A business will have to be a dues paying member of OTBA to be listed.

As we have in the past, OTBA supported the Antique Auto Club event with a donation.

The election of officers of OTBA will be held in November. Anyone interested in becoming an officer should contact Jan Alten (Nominating Chair) to be on the ballot. Again, one has to be a dues paying member to be an officer.

There will be no meeting in December.

The Veterans Day Parade will be on November 3 at 11 am. This year's parade honors Sgt. John Connor of the Manassas City Police. Our Veterans Day Parade is the largest in Northern Virginia and honors all veterans who served in the military.

Historic Manassas -Two members of HMI spoke about HMI's upcoming events. Melissa Williams announced that there will be a Holiday Market on the lawn of the Museum featuring Arts and Crafts on December 8th.

Rebekah Raze mentioned the Steins, Wines and Spirits event on September 29 on the Museum Lawn.

The Fall Jubilee is October 6th. Businesses can come out onto the street in front of their location. A space is 10 x 20 feet and a refundable \$200 entrance fee if you do come out.

Manassas Museum -Doug Horhota had cards listing all the upcoming events this Fall on the tables for distribution.

Center for the Arts -Jordan Exum announced that the exhibit in the Merchant Gallery is of dancers at Manassas Ballet Theatre and a reception for the artist will be on 9/22 at the CFA.

Harris Pavilion -no report

Welcome Center on Route 66 -no report.

Hylton Performing Arts Center -Jacque Connor announced that Arts Alive has been cancelled this year due to the expected effects of Hurricane Florence. Jacque also had Fall Calendars to distribute.

Fire and Rescue - no report

Manassas Police -Lt. Lance Russ was introduced as our new liaison with the police. Steve Neely has retired and moved to West Virginia.

Manassas City Government - Patrick Small announced that in partnership with HMI a calendar of events listing public events is now available and has a 6 month shelf life.

Micron's expansion will bring 1100 high wage earners to the city at the completion of their expansion.

Other discussions: Jan Alten spoke about the upcoming OTBA elections and the need for a volunteer to be in charge of the 50/50 raffle each meeting.

Chip Rohr spoke about the Christmas light program and the City's desire to phase into LED lights over the next three years. Chip made a motion that the city be informed of the membership's desire for warm LED lights and not the cool ones that were put in the trees last year. Darlene Renaldu seconded. The motion passed unanimously. A letter will be sent to the city advising them of our preference. Some 65 buildings are lit up at during the holidays in addition to the trees in Old Town. The warm lights are more appropriate for an historic area.

Featured Speaker - Monica Bohringer of the City's Waste Management Department told of a new and funded project that will hopefully lessen cigarette butt litter. as part of the Keep Manassas Beautiful effort. Cigarette butts are the most common form of litter on our streets and it takes almost 10 years for a cigarette filter to break down. Most people do not think of cigarette butts as litter. To help bring home the message, Monica has for the asking, a free portable ashtray.

The increase in recycling is thought to be due to the "amazon effect" - more people ordering on line and having merchandise sent to their homes. Recycling in the City increased by 200%.

The 50/50 raffle netted \$30 and Pam Sebesky was the winner and donated her \$15 winnings back to OTBA. Thank you Pam!

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 am.

Jan Alten
Secretary

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 10th at City Tavern.