



OTBA General Meeting  
*Thursday, July 21, 2016*  
*8:30 am- Bistro 103*

Meeting began at 8:30 at Bistro 103 restaurant with:

Dave Johnson, Nell Curran, Linda Moffat, Robyn Beer, Kelley Neff, Daniel Berlant, Jenn Welch, Linda Mundekis, Matt Wozniak, Mike Walker, Lynn Carpenter, Linda Robinson, Karin Koons, Victoria Aritsta, Kristen Marquis, Jessica Haddad, Roberta Smith, Lina Haddad, Michael O'Brien, Mark Haddad, and Gary Moffat, Patty & John Dooley in attendance.

**June Meeting minutes were passed as presented by Kelley Neff.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Kelley Neff provided a current balance of 11,754.00. She also stated that all outgoing checks going forward ought to have two signatures and that the appropriate banking signatories will be updated as of today. She also emphasized the need to have a budget agreed upon for upcoming events.

**Web Report:** Mike O'Brien indicated that the FB likes and clicks were much increased. Additionally, "liking" each other's posts and re-posting on the OTBA site through him really helps exposure.

**Marketing Committee:** Brandy Alvis said that the Board is forming a marketing committee to put forth "how-to's" and best practices for area businesses. Dave Johnson also commented that downtown is also doing more to make the most of social media.

**City:** Daniel Berlant announced that the city has adopted a balanced budget and that cash reserves are the highest in years. Recent steps forward and upcoming:

- OT Restrooms are being renovated (completion date TBA)
- Road and sidewalk improvements
- Weed removal in various areas...hopefully to be done with minimal harmful chemicals as suggested by Kristen Marquis
- The Mayor has sent supportive letters to McClintock and others in support of the OT historic post office

Comments...Lynn Carpenter mentioned that we ought to be updated on the restroom project so we know where to send customers. She also said the gift basket that many businesses contributed to was fantastic for the museum raffle. Additionally, the post office sign should be fixed and more explicit as to services available. Linda Robinson commented that a new roof is also expected for the post office.

### **General Business:**

- Victoria Arista (post office) updated the group that federal workers have not had a contract for 1 year, plus, all new contracts are delayed 1 year. The current contract is still in effect, however, equals 7.76/hr for wages at the current hours. July of 2017 there could be a possible negotiation. Some retail could be added, but the space isn't well set up for that. 161 P.O Boxes are rented, 218 are possible total. Suggestions: Linda Mundakis suggested a retail/ restaurant surcharge to assist the post office. Linda Robinson and Victoria suggested vessels for donations to the post office in businesses or selling return address labels, proceeds to go the post office.
- Fall Street Fair- Logistics and details discussed. Linda suggested an event committee ought to be formed for major events. Patty Dooley indicated that templates of forms and necessary letters are available, and that a "punch list" of what has to happen prior and day of was put forth to the Board. Lynn Carpenter is not happy with the automated system and the payment fee associated with paying online. Kristen Marquis and Dave Johnson agreed there may be merit in getting an event planner for major events as so many on the Board are busy with their own businesses. Linda Robinson indicated that she has a sliding scale document available to assess profitability for events.
- Merchant Mixer-Network event for OTBA coming up but venue TBA.
- Halloween: Jessica Haddad volunteered to arrange the festivities.
- Country Christmas: Dave Johnson said that there are plans to work in tandem with downtown for more cohesive marketing of Christmas events in both areas.
- Other Events: Linda Robinson said there may be plans for a "Ghost Tour" in OT in October. Dave Johnson said the movie night 7/20 not well attended, though a fun event. He also mentioned the chamber business networking event to take place at the fairgrounds tonight.
- Tina Wilkins presented information on the Auburn Wine/ Spirits Festival scheduled for 10/7-8-9. Three days, three events. Wishes for coordination of OT and Downtown for the event, participation of multiple businesses, and "earmarked" money for "culinary marketing". Fri nite: DWTN Farm to Fork Dinner + band, etc. Sat: wine, ale, apps + OT/ DT

Dinner. Sun: OT Brunch spearheaded by Nell at Bootleggers+ any who can participate. Hopefully outdoor.

**Old Business:**

- Gary Moffat reported that the potential park renovation is in discussion with the City but also must be approved through the Historical Review Committee. Plan is submitted for review. Funding will wait for approval. Deficient properties, general upkeep and maintenance of OT are issues still being pushed for City support and "spotlighting".
- Matt Wozniak would like to bid out a landscape company for renovation of the "triad" are near the OT statue and get ideas for improvement, plus potentially a metal sculpture. Also we need to find a way to solve erosion and safety issues.
- Jessica Haddad and her family are holding a fundraiser event for an ailing family- spaghetti night plus fixings for 20.00 ea. to go to treatments... please attend!
- Linda Robinson proposes more events: revitalization of "Taste of Chocolate" in February, Taste of Chili from a few years ago, and also promoted the "Phenomenon Reunion" due to take place at the State Theatre on 8/18.

**Meeting ended at 9:45 am. Next General Meeting is 8/18 at Bistro 103 8:30AM.**

**Minutes provided by Patty Dooley, Secretary.**