

Old Town Business Association

Minutes from our monthly meeting on February 9, 2022

President Joanne Wunderly called the meeting to order at 8:35 am. There were 22 people in attendance.

The City of Manassas was represented by Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger, Vice Mayor Pam Sebesky, Council member Tom Osina, Commissioner of Revenue Tim Demeria, Treasurer Patricia Ritchie-Folks, City Manager Pat Pate, and Economic Development Director Patrick Small.

After introductions were made, Joanne made a few brief remarks:

Treasurer Nury Mena reported that we currently have \$11,069.60 in our account at Fulton Bank. We are beginning to collect member dues of \$150 per year and the final invoices of the December 2020 Christmas Light up Manassas have trickled in. Bills will soon go out for the 2021 Christmas Light up Manassas program.

The minutes for our January Breakfast meeting were approved. Marc Hempen made the motion to approve and Ann Hempen seconded.

Reports

HMI- Debbie Haight reported on the success of the February First Friday event - Souperbowl. 500 tickets were sold and the event was sold out. The winning soup was from Mariachi's La Cocina.

In March, plan is to have a Pajama Luau - a family friendly event. More information can be found on HMI's website.

Peeps on Parade contest will feature juried Peeps dioramas, similar to the Gingerbread house contest held each holiday season.

Other events from HMI will be the Hop around Old Town and in the planning stage is the popular Jazz Festival usually held in June.

Manassas Museum - no report

Hylton Perfuming Art Center - no report

Manassas City Police - Officer Lance Rust said that there are five potential officers in the academy and will graduate later the year.

Manassas City Government - Patty Prince said the plans for the 150th celebration of Manassas 2023 is underway. Patty is collecting photos for a "Then and Now" exhibit and asked interested citizens to submit photos as well as be a part of a video that tells about living in the city.

Mayor Davis-Younger briefly spoke about the recent City Council retreat in Harrisonburg, chosen for its similarities to Manassas. It was a chance to see how other governments are dealing with similar issues facing small cities.

Mayor Davis-Younger also noted that during the renovation of city hall, her office has moved to the Piedmont Building on the 4th floor

ARTfactory - Candace Penders had flyers/posters announcing the upcoming events:

Sunday Ballroom Dance is returning to the ARTfactory this month on February 20th with a Waltz lesson at 3:30 and open dance from 4 to 6 pm..

Currently in the Merchant gallery is a solo exhibit “ Capricorn Planetary Alignment 2020-2021” by artist James Brown, Jr. The exhibit will be on display until March 19th.

Rooftop Productions will present “Murder at Evergreen Manor”, an interactive murder mystery on Saturday, February 26th. Cocktail hour is at 6 pm and the show begins at 7 pm with a four course dinner prepared especially for this event.

Rooftop Productions presents “Love, Loss and What I Wore” by Nora and Delia Ephron. on March 4 and 5 at 7:30 pm. The play will feature women leaders in our community in the various roles.

On March 12th will be “An Evening with the Pun-demics”, a comedy improv night Show starts at 7:30 pm.

And in April, Rooftop Productions will present “The Odd Couple” by Neil Simon. This very popular play will run for two weekends with matinee performances on Sunday.

Featured Speaker - Chip Rohr, past President of OTBA and lifetime resident of Manassas shared his memories of living in Manassas “back when”. Chip said much of what Manassas is today can be attributed to the hard work by past City Councils, HMI,OTBA and interested citizens who worked tirelessly and together to improve life in Manassas. Chip suggested that quarterly meetings between the “idea people of OTBA’ and the “make it happen HMI” be reinstated.

Chip also noted that the 44th Anniversary event of Ducks Unlimited will be held virtually on February 25th. Gift cards or gift certificates from local businesses are bundled and auctioned to support wetlands and wildlife conservation.

The 50/50 collected \$44 and the winner, Vice Payor Pam Sebesky donated her winnings to Ducks Unlimited

Our Next Meeting will be March 9th.

Jan Alten
Secretary