

OTBA Minutes – FEBRUARY 12, 2014

Our Meeting venue this morning had to be changed at the last minute. We were locked out of our usual location due to extenuating circumstances and quickly re-grouped across the street at Grounds Central Coffee Shop. Our sincere THANKS to Matt for allowing us to re-arrange his coffee shop and the breakfasts he provided.

Attendance was 22 members.

After introductions were made, Joanne Wunderly announced that there would be no minutes from our last meeting in January as it was a social meeting and not a business meeting. Our minutes along with the Treasurer's report are always posted on line at the OTBA website.

Nury Mena, OTBA treasurer gave the treasurer's report. Our ending balance in Fulton Bank as of January 31, 2014 is \$11,791.17.

Joanne also announced that the CTA Training for volunteer 'ambassadors' for the Journey Through Hallowed Ground will be held at the Manassas Museum. Joanne also announced that the First Friday celebration in February was a success and thanked Kari Laparotti for her efforts in helping to make it a success. The theme for the First Friday in March is "March Madness" and all are encouraged to participate in their own special brand of madness. The merchants' Sidewalk Sale will be on April 26th.

Our next meeting will be March 12th.

HMI – Debbie Haight introduced Kristina Skokham, the manager of the Visitor's Center who discussed the Employee Passport Program. Business owners and their employees are encouraged to visit each of the listed businesses to see what it is that they offer. By becoming more familiar with all that Old Town has to offer, we can better promote Old Town to visitors and shoppers. Each business listed will have a stamp or sticker and once completed, the passport can be turned into HMI for a \$20 gift card to shop in Old Town. This is a program that has been discussed for years and it is good to see it finally ready to launch.

The "Win the Window" promotion entries will be picked up on Friday the 14th and a winner of the window contents notified. There has been much interest in the window which contains \$1,000 worth of merchandise from the merchants and restaurants.

Center for the Arts – Candace Penders announced that the 30th Anniversary Gala for the Candy Factory will be held on March 8th. The theme is "Flashback to '84" and will begin at 7 pm. More information can be obtained from the Candy Factory's website – www.center-for-the-arts.org. Candace also spoke about the Rooftop Theater's upcoming production, "Don't Dress for Dinner" which will be performed at 8 pm on both Friday and Saturday nights the last weekend of March and the first two weekends in April. The Pied Piper Theater production of "OZ" sold out at the Hylton Center – a

first. There have been more than 100 children who have auditioned for Peter Pan which will be held May 10 & 11 and 17 & 18 at Garfield High School.

There are a number of classes that would be of interest to people who use digital photography that are being offered in the coming months. Again, check the website for details. .

Harris Pavilion – no report. Anna Marie did send word that ice skating will end at the end of February.

Manassas Art Guild –no report

Welcome Center – Kathleen Reilly gave out Virginia is for Lovers tote bags as well as Virginia Travel Guides. The tourism blitz theme is “Love is at the heart of every Virginia Vacation”.

Discover Prince William & Manassas (formally known as the CVB) – Wendy Vestfall mentioned that the ad for Old Town was on page 131 of the Virginia Travel Guide. Wendy said the deadline for getting on the hotel maps has been extended to March 1. The Discover Prince William website is getting an average of 25,000 hits per month and Wendy urged all to post news and events on it. There will be a tourism luncheon of Friday, March 9th at the Old Prince William Courthouse (upstairs).

Restaurant Alliance – Debbie Haight announced that the Restaurant Week (February 23 – March 1) has offers on the HMI website. For example three course meal for \$25.00. Still in the planning stage is the next Taste of Manassas.

Manassas Fire and Rescue – no report.

Manassas City Police – no report

City of Manassas – no report

Featured Speaker – Patrick Sullivan representing the St. Patrick’s Day Parade on March 15th did leave information about sponsorships and advertising opportunities. Because of the re–location of the meeting and the lack of space, Patrick chose not to speak.

Business announcements: What’s New?

Mary Reilly mentioned that the Guides to Shops and Services would go to print at the end of March. Please review your listing and check for accuracy. No frivolous changes please.

Kathleen Reilly thanked all who donated coats, hats and gloves for the House of Mercy. They were quite pleased with the donation.

Doug Horta of Manassas Museum mentioned the CTA Training at the Museum on March 12th. Doug also said that there are book talks coming up and the last tour of

Liberia before it is closed for renovations would be on Saturday, March 1. Doug also announced plans for three bicycle tours which will be held every 2nd Saturday through the end of the year.

The 100th 'birthday' of the train depot will coincide with the Railroad Festival the first weekend in June and the First Friday in June. Renovations are planned for the depot and Mary Helen Dellinger is restoring the railway exhibit in the depot. Re-dedication of the building will be on June 7th.

Mike Flynn of Art Beat announced that August 1st would mark the 10th anniversary of Art Beat.

Kari Laparotti said that any major celebration could be incorporated into a First Friday event. Kari mentioned that Philadelphia Tavern would be celebrating 15 years in February and two former owners, Carl Joseph and Tim Holland would be 'guest bartending' on February 27th.

Debbie Haight announced the opening of new businesses in Old Town:

Man Cave Salon will be going into the building at the corner of Main and Center

Love Charley will be going in to building that housed Persnickety Cakes.

El Cactus had a ribbon cutting yesterday.

A Tapas restaurant is going in where Thai Secret was in May.

The Bones Bar-b-Que restaurant going in where the Washington Post was located and a re-do of the building is underway.

Bob Chase announced that the Prospero's Book Club is in its 4th year and meets the last Sunday of the month at 7 pm. The selection this month is "Plain Song".

The meeting adjourned about 9:30 am.