

**Old Town Business Association
General Meeting**

February 12, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President, Joanne Wunderly at 8:45 am.

There were 27 people in attendance. City Council Mayor Hal Parrish, Council Members Michelle Davis Younger and Ian Lovejoy, and Economic Development director Patrick Small were in attendance.

After introductions were made, Nury Mena gave the Treasurer's Report. As of January 31, we have \$ 8,691.40 in our treasury.

Approval of the November minutes was the next order of business. The minutes are on line. Mary Reilly from Creative Brush Studio made to motion to approve and Lou Harris Burr of The Studio at Opera Alley seconded. The motion passed.

Joanne made a few opening remarks:

Annual dues of \$125 can be paid at the meeting. It is hoped that members will be current by the beginning of March at which time, the list of current members will be sent to the printer for the publication of the Guide to Shops and Services. Initial printing will be small and as new members join or information changes and the Guide will be updated as those changes occur and reprinted.

The First Friday in February, "Souper Bowl" tickets to the event were pre sold out on line and a rousing success.

Our January Winter Breakfast was well attended and a 'social event' with no business conducted.

Mayor Hal Parrish spoke before he had to rush off to attend another meeting. Mayor Parrish stated that "Manassas is Alive and Kicking" because of all the different pieces that come together to make our City great. Our water, sewer, electric, police and fire departments take care of the needs for our city, The City Council represents the citizens, OTBA and HMI working together to make our City interesting and inviting. The Comprehensive Plan looks at the needs for further growth in the City, new investments such as the 4 million dollar Cardiac Catheterization Center at Novant Prince William Hospital , the high tech companies such as Micron that are invested in our community providing jobs and contributes mightily to our tax base — — all working together to make Manassas great.

Our Police force is top notch and in the top 2% nationwide of Police Departments.

Historic Manassas -Rebekah Raze, Event Coordinator, spoke about:

Souper Bowl First Friday and the success of the event. Lots of people downtown enjoying soup on a cold Friday night.

First Friday in March will not be as complex.

One Love Art and Music Festival in April will feature juried art, musical performances, performance art and workshops.

Manassas Parks and Recreation - Museum/Harris Pavilion -Rachel Goldberg reported that programs are going “gangbusters’. Some of the featured programs for Blacks History Moth are: Front Porch Conversation about the enslaved people working at Liberia Mansion, Genealogy workshops on African American Ancestry, a spotlight talk on the life of Jennie Dean and her contributions to the Manassas community and an evening for Educators on African American History in Manassas.

Danay Lewis said that the Museum Gift shop is having a sale to make room for recently purchased items.

The skating season will end at the end of March. Bookings for the Spring/Summer have begun.

Center for the Arts - no report

Welcome Center on 66 - Kathleen Riley said that there is an exhibit of Jennie Dean. Kathleen also noted that the movie, “Harriet” was mostly filmed in Virginia.

Hylton Performing Arts Center -Tionge Johnson mentioned that the Hylton Educational Wing Open House saw more than 800 people avail themselves of the tour and activities. On February 23, the National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine, Matinee Idols on February 25 will feature Chao Tian an award winning dulcimer virtuoso and electric cellist Wytold both are previous Strathmore Artists-in-Residence.

Manassas Police - officer Lance Rust said that the department is developing a strategic plan and that there are currently six in the Police Academy and will graduate in July.

Manassas City - .There will be a Town Hall meeting on March 16th at 7 pm.

Program - Police Officer Christopher Shields spoke about the proposed ordinance regarding special events to be held in Old Town and that it passed City Council.

In particular, the ordinance looks at certain community events that are designated annually and can close Main Street. Special events are listed on the City’s website. Currently there are 29 events . Ten First Friday events, March - St. Patrick’s Parade, April - One Love Art and Music Festival, May - Air Show at the airport, June - Railroad Festival, July - \$th of July Celebration, August - African American Festival, September - Bands, Brews and Barbecue, October - Fall Jubilee, November - Veterans Day Parade, and December - Merry Old Town to include, tree lighting and the Christmas Parade.

Patrick Small said that several other communities have come to Manassas to see how our special events are handled.

What’s New in Your Business?

Darren of Shining Sol noted that he sees increases in business on every event. He is also opening a second shop in Myrtle Beach.

Ian Lovejoy invited interested people to have”Coffee with the Councilman” at Jirani’s on March 14th. Robin Williams of the Manassas City School Board will also be present.

Ian is also hosting a "Lunch and Learn" at CenterFuse on July 15 on economic development. Ian also announced that he is running again for City Council and he considered it a privilege to serve.

Chip Rohr said that the Ducks Unlimited Event is sold out for the 4th year in a row. There are still underwriting opportunities available. The event has 250 people in attendance.

Chip also urged those in attendance to look at the Comprehensive Plan/CIP and to really look at what is in the future for Manassas. There is continued building in Old Town that will take away the available parking.

Sheryl Bass said BedRock Yoga would love to see new faces. Sheryl is teaching a Mid Week Mix class on Wednesdays.

Mary Reilly said that the 4th Friday of each month Creative Brush Studio has a model posing and that there are new oil painting classes forming.

The 50/50 raffle today yielded \$24 total and the winner donated \$12 back to OTBA. Thank you!

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 am.

Jan Alten
Secretary