

## **OTBA Minutes – February 13, 2013**

Meeting began at 8:35 am

There were 25 people in attendance.

After introductions were made, the review from our last meeting on January 23 were approved by Debbie Haight and seconded by Chip Rohr. Our minutes are 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, 2013 is \$12,375.41. Nurey also announced that there were several businesses that have not sent in their renewals and that the Guide to Shops and Services will go to print as planned. Deadline for renewing membership is Friday, February 15.

President Joanne Wunderly pointed out that the Suggestion Boxes were once again on the tables and to please share your ideas and suggestions with OTBA.

**HMI** – Debbie Haight reported that upcoming events for the spring are the Saint Patrick's Day Parade and Spring Cleaning Day. Debbie also announced that the restaurants have formed a group focused on promoting dining in Old Town and are planning 'A Taste of Old Town' and 'Restaurant Weeks' twice a year. The first one will be the week in September and another is planned for March 2014. Restaurant Week promotions have been very popular in other locales. A Civil War Weekend of events is planned for August 23 – 25.

**Manassas Museum** – Doug Korpona announced that the current exhibit will run another two weeks and a new exhibit, on Civil Rights in the early 1900s. There are plans for scavenger hunts that will encourage visitors to go into shops and businesses to look for the items on the lists. If anyone has something that they feel would be interesting to add to the hunt, please contact Doug.

**Center for the Arts at the Candy Factory** – Marci Settle announced that Saturday, March 9 would be a busy day with the St. Pat's Parade in the morning and the Bootlegger Ball (a fund raiser for the Center) would be held that night. Tickets are \$75 per person. There are five really nice raffle items for \$25 a chance – a week in Orlando, a weekend cruise, or a weekend at the Poplar Springs Resort to name a few.

**Harris Pavilion** – no report.

**Manassas Art Guild** –no report

**Chamber of Commerce** – no report

**Welcome Center** – Kathleen Reilly announced that an exhibit for Black History month is up and that the story of Prince William's resident, Jeannie Dean is featured..

**Hylton Performing Arts Center** – no report

**Discover Prince William & Manassas (formally known as the CVB)** – Wendy Vestfall mentioned that the latest copies of Discover Prince William were out and on the table and to please take a copy. Their website will debut on March 1 and individuals can control the contents.

**Manassas City Police** –John Barnes was our Police representative today and he reported that there are now plainclothes officers on patrol – mostly in bars to control rowdy behavior. Upcoming events that will impact Old Town are the St. Pat’s parade on 3/9, a 5K run on 3/16, the MS walk on 4/3 and Spring Cleaning Day on 4/20.

**Manassas Fire & Rescue** – Brett Bowman was not in attendance.

**City of Manassas** – City Manager John Budesky announced that the new city wide website is up and running and is a ‘living’ document, unlike to older website which was often out of date. The city partners with HMI’s calendar of events to list all activities happening in the city. Mayor Parrish’s State of the City is on video and on the website. The CIP (Capital Improvement Projects) is being discussed weekly by city council and Mr. Budesky urged interested citizens to let your city officials know your thoughts.

John Grzejka gave a report on the fourth quarter figures which were up not too significantly for some but up overall. Residential property went up about 5% compared to last year.

**Business announcements: What’s New?**

Patrick Sullivan encouraged all businesses to be ‘wearing the green’ for the St. Pat’s parade. The committee strives to begin the parade promptly at 11 am and keeps it to one hour.

Chip Rohr mentioned that the local chapter of Ducks Unlimited was having its annual gala on Friday and that there were still tickets available.

**Featured Speaker** – Our featured speaker this month was Councilman, Ian Lovejoy, who gave a power point presentation on the CIP. Ian urged interested parties to really become familiar with all that the CIP is proposing and to make their thoughts known to their council with specific suggestions and solutions and not to be lulled into generalities or nonspecific comments. His presentation was lively and engaging. Again, interested parties may attend work sessions that will be held weekly until the vote is taken in April.

\$48 was collected for the 50/50 and John Grzejka was the winner. He donated his winnings to OTBA.

The meeting ended at 9:31 am.