

**Old Town Business Association
General Meeting**

February 13, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 8:40 am by President, Joanne Wunderly.

There were 24 people in attendance.

After introductions were made, the Treasurer's Report was given by Treasurer, Nury Mena. We have \$ 7,664.20 in our treasury as of January 31st. Recent expenditures included \$1,840 to the City of manassas for the Christmas Light program and \$150 to Carluzzo, Rochkind & Smith as our Virginia Commissioner Agent for the OTBA association.

Joanne made a few brief announcements to include:

The November minutes (there was no meeting in December) never made it on line so there was no need to approve them.

Historic Manassas - Rebekah Raze spoke about the upcoming event season:

The 1st Friday in March theme is MadHatterness a scavenger hunt and poker run. The best poker hand will win a prize.

In April, the event is themed around the popular "Game of Thrones" and costumes are encouraged!

April will also see the "One Love" art extravaganza featuring all forms of art throughout Old Town.

On going is the Winter Farmers' Market

Manassas Museum - no report

Center for the Arts - Beverly Hess said that the popular Mystery Dinner Theatre production of "Murder on the Menu" is sold out. In response to last year's successful mystery dinner, an additional weekend was added this year.

In the Merchant Gallery in honor of Black History Month, an exhibit by husband and wife artists, James and Zsundayka Nzinga Terrell, features mixed media afro futurist abstract portraits. The enhanced lighting at the Merchant Gallery really brings their works to life. The exhibit will hang through March 4.

Auditions for "Annie" are in progress. If you know of someone 8 - 18 who is interested in theater, let them know about the Pied Piper Theatre and their productions.

In rehearsal now is "Godspell".

The CFA is participating in the "One Love" Art Festival. The art mobile from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts will arrive and park in the parking lot adjacent to the center. It is expected that school tours will be visiting the art mobile while here.

Harris Pavilion -no report

Welcome Center on I 66 - Kathleen Reilly handed out newly printed Virginia Maps and Travel Guides in addition to "Virginia is for Lovers" flashing pins and bumper stickers. Kathleen said

that the Virginia is for Lovers campaign is celebrating 50 years since the inception of this iconic slogan. There will be a series of events for celebrating this milestone beginning in June..

Hylton Performing Arts Center- Jaqui Connor announced that the popular all female bluegrass group “Maybe April” will be in concert at the Hylton on February 16.

Upcoming later this month is “Cirque Mechanics” a signature blend of acrobatics, mechanical marvels and a good bit of clowning around.

The 9th Gala is sold out although there are still tickets for the after party following this event.

Fire and Emergency Services - no report

Manassas Police - Captain Tina Laguna announced that three new hires are currently in the academy and two recently graduated officers are now in training, one of whom is a graduate of Osbourn High School.

Manassas City - Patty Prince announced that there is a newly created phone number to research First Friday events. It is: 1-888-777 and first friday will get the information.

City Manager, Pat Pate, said that the City Council recently adopted a ‘blanket’ licensing process for events held in the City. It is hoped that this will prevent unlicensed vendors from ‘crashing’ events and setting up shop. There is hefty fine for those who choose to do so.

The new facility at MICRON is currently under construction and it is expected that a 1,000 or more construction workers will be involved in the building of the facility. These are potential customers for businesses in Old Town.

Mr. Pate also said at the various meetings he attends around the area that Manassas is known as “the place for events”.

There was a round of applause to HMI for the very successful “Souper Bowl” First Friday event for February. Despite the very cold weather, more than 500 soup tickets were sold and the night was a busy one.

Guest Speaker and Program - Erna Pomrenke, of the Manassas Viking Festival spoke about the second festival coming in May. Expectations were exceeded when the first Viking Festival that was held last year. This year the event will be held on Saturday, May 11th from 10 - 5. Sponsorship opportunities are available for this festival.

What’s New in Your Business?

Speaking for Chip Rohr who is recovering from surgery, Jan Alten announced that the Ducks Unlimited Gala is completely sold out for the second year in a row. If any business has donated items for this event, please contact Chip for pick up of your donations.

Jim Boltz of Edward Jones Financial Planners announced that on March 19 at 6:30pm at Logans’ Roadhouse restaurant there will be a dinner/seminar to address concerns about the volatility of the stock market in recent months. The title for the seminar is “ Can you Stay Calm when the Markets go Wild?” If interested in attending, contact Jim at Edward Jones.

50/50 raffle was won by Jan Alten who donated her winnings back to OTBA. The 50/50 raffle helps to offset the cost of providing breakfast at our meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 am.

Our next meeting will be March 13 th.

Jan Alten
Secretary