

## Old Town Business Association

Minutes from our monthly meeting on March 9, 2022

President Joanne Wunderly called the meeting to order at 8:35 am. There were 23 people in attendance.

The City of Manassas was represented by Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger, Council member Ralph Smith, and Economic Development Director Patrick Small.

After introductions were made, Joanne made a few brief remarks. *The Guides To Shops, Services & Parking* are now printed and ready for distribution. Joanne asked those present to check their listing for correctness. A lot of volunteer time has gone into making the guide the most up to date and correct.

Treasurer Nury Mena reported that we currently have \$9234.60 in our account at Fulton Bank. Debits totaled \$2,608 for the Breakfast in January, the Christmas light program and postage. We received \$773 in membership dues. Invoices have been mailed as well as notices sent to encourage non members to join.

The minutes for our February meeting were approved. Debbie Haight made the motion to approve and Jerry Martin seconded.

### Reports

**ARTfactory** - Candace Penders announced that Beverly Hess, the current executive Director has accepted another position and has resigned.

Candace mentioned the on going and upcoming events at the ARTfactory:

The fiber art exhibit in the Merchant Gallery of James Brown, Jr. is in the final days of display.

Spring dance classes will begin on March 21st through April 1 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings from 7:30 -8:30 pm..

Back by popular demand is another "Evening with the Pundemics" - a comedy improv show has been postponed to April2 at 7:30 pm.

"The Odd Couple" will run for two weekends beginning April 22 through May 1. Friday and Saturday performances are at 7:30 pm and Sunday matinees performances are at 3 pm.

The Pied Piper production of Roald Dahl's "Matilda the Musical" will be at the Hylton on May 28 and 29.

**HMI-** Melissa Williams reported that plans are under way for table tents to be placed in restaurants to promote upcoming events.

The Farmers Markets will begin again in April. The Thursday market is at the Harris Pavilion and the Saturday market is at the Commuter Car Park on Prince William Street.

Melissa also handed out a schedule for the First Friday events for the remainder of the year.

Hop Around Old Town will be held from April 9 - 16th. This annual event is a cross marketing event where a purchase at one business might lead to a reward at another.

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

**Manassas Museum** -The actual Museum is currently closed for renovations. The Museum gift shop, "Echoes" has temporarily moved to the train depot.

The Osbourn High School Art Show will be exhibited at Jirani's Coffee House from March 18 - April 17th. The show "Artistic Expression" is in its 9th year and the exhibit is a partnership with the Museum, Jirani's and Osbourn High School.

A schedule for Park Cleanups was distributed. One can join a group to adopt a park or participate individually.

**Hylton Performing Art Center** - There have been full houses at the Hylton recently as we begin to return to "normal". Upcoming events include family friendly programs such as The Okee Dokee Brothers on March 20th and Paddington Gets in jam on April 3.

Veterans and the Arts Initiative has a series of Spring workshops to include Guitar Workshop series, Exploring Self and Social Identity with Women Veterans and a Collaborative quilt workshop.

**Chamber of Commerce** - representatives from the Chamber are working with the government in Richmond on incentives for businesses. Free seminars are held at CenterFuse dealing with such topics as marketing.

**VetPar** - Jerry Martin spoke about the fact that Manassas used to put flags on the lamp posts on Center Street for Memorial day to honor our veterans. This year in partnership with the Mayor, City Council, Historic Manassas and VetPar, the city will put up 12 banners honoring our local veterans.

**Manassas City Police** - Captain Tina Laguna will be moving back to her former department. Events in the City are ramping up. Please do call the non emergency number 703-257-8000 if you are having issues with the events.

On March 31, the Valor Award Ceremony will be held at the Hylton Center to honor individuals in the City, Manassas Park and Prince William County. The event is open to the public.

**Manassas Fire Rescue Department** - Chief Garrett said that the Fire Marshalls will be visible in the community and will educate the community on safety matters..

**Manassas City Government** - Budget planning sessions are open to the public on Wednesday at 5:30 pm.

The St. Patrick's Parade will be held on Saturday March 12, weather permitting.

Chip Rohr asked about the hot rod sounding cars and what can be done. Captain Laguna said that it is no longer considered a primary offense. The police would have to observe the offenders doing something else to make an arrest. The best course of action is to speak to your legislative representatives to have the laws changed.

**Featured Speaker** -OTBA Secretary Jan Alten who is Chairman of the Architectural Review Board spoke briefly about the new Design Guidelines for the City. There are three Historic Overlay Districts (HOD) in the City - the largest encompasses the downtown area and

surrounding neighborhoods, Liberia Mansion and the Mayfield Fort HODs are smaller in area. Within a HOD, design guidelines are specific for Landmark, Contributing or Non-contributing structures.

Before beginning any exterior work on a structure within the HOD, a determination will be made as to which designation applies. That designation will guide the process and whether it can be approved administratively by City staff or needs to come before the ARB for a certificate of appropriateness.

The Design Guidelines are on the web and can be viewed and commented on by going to [manassasva.gov/hod](http://manassasva.gov/hod).

### **What's New In Your Business**

Chip Rohr reported that the Ducks Unlimited Virtual event was a success and thanked all who supported the cause with gift certificated and offers.

Whitlock wealth Management announced webinars on Friday at 10 am on longevity planning.

Old Towne Veterinary Clinic said that they offer testing for bladder/prostate cancer testing for pets.

Kerbobble Toys is looking for more storage space. Please contact Patricia at Kerbobble.

The 50/50 collected \$54 and the winner donated her winnings.

**Our Next Meeting will be April 13th.**

Jan Alten  
Secretary