

OTBA Meeting Winter Breakfast Social March 14, 2018 at City Tavern

The meeting was called to order at 8:43 am by Secretary Jan Alten. There were 24 in attendance.

The minutes of our February meeting were approved. Curtis Harrover made the motion and Jaque Connor seconded.

Nury Mena gave the Treasurer's report. We have \$8,124.58 in the treasury and annual dues of \$125 have been coming in ahead of the March 1 deadline. Dues may be and were paid at the meeting.

Secretary Jan Alten welcomed and thanked the City of Manassas Electrical Department for their continuing efforts in the Christmas Lighting program. Chip Rohr echoed and elaborated on the work done by the Electrical Department with a special acknowledgement of their quick response to the damage done by the very windy beginning of March. Chip also announced that bills for the repair/replacement of lights atop the buildings were coming soon.

Because of illness, travel and scheduling conflicts, the OTBA BoD was unable to meet and finalize plans for a Shopping Guide. A prototype will be presented to the membership at our April meeting.

Additionally the Welcome Packet to be given to new businesses in town will also be available for viewing then.

At future meetings, we also plan to have a rotating "Spotlight on Your Business" segment at each meeting. It will be an allotted time to speak about what is going on in your business and by extension, familiarize others with what makes your business special. The thought process behind this portion of our meetings is that the more we know about who and what is happening in Old Town, the more we can educate our customers and visitors about Manassas.

Historic Manassas -Three members of HMI spoke about HMI's upcoming events. Rebekah Raze announced that the March First Friday Scavenger Hunt event had to be cancelled due to the high winds that were present in the area and has been rescheduled for the April First Friday. The popular "Hop Around Old Town" will happen again this year in the week prior to Easter (March 25 -31). Also on the horizon is "One Love", a juried art event to be held in early May.

David Rhodes announced a 5K and 10K race that is upcoming, the Merchants' Annual Sidewalk Sale and a sunrise Yoga class.

Melissa Williams spoke about our Farmers' Market which won an award in "The Best of Virginia". This year, it will expand to more vendors as word spreads about it. The market will open on April 5th.

Manassas Museum -Doug Horhota announced that the museum is undergoing renovations (the first since 1980's) and that exhibits will be more interactive and immersive. A new exhibit opened in February, "Annie's Porch" which allows visitors to hear stories about Manassas' past. A card listing the upcoming book talks was available at each table.

On March 14, "Stories of Preservation and Progress", a monthly conversation on Manassas' past, present and future, will feature Vice Mayor, Sheryl Bass as the speaker. These conversations are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 3 pm.

Center for the Arts -no report

Harris Pavilion -no report

Welcome Center on Route 66 -Kathleen Reilly brought new Virginia road maps, and a newly printed Travel Guide for distribution.

Hylton Performing Arts Center -Jaque Connor announced that the next performance in the American Roots Series. "12 Strings and a Goat Skin", is close to being sold out. A Hylton Extra, a performance by Livingston Taylor (brother of singer/songwriter James Taylor) will be on Sunday, April 15 in the Gregory Family Theater.

Additionally, a Bridal Show is planned for April 8th and the Hylton Gala will be held on April 14.

Fire and Rescue - Chief Rob Clemons gave a brief report of the Annual Report presented to City Council. In 2017, there were 6,815 calls for services which represents a 3 1/2 % increase over the previous year. Emergency Services calls increased by 73% and Advanced Life Support increased by 60%.

Most surprising is that there are an average of 18 calls per 24 hour shift and Tuesday afternoons are the busiest day and time for service calls.

Manassas Police -Steve Neely spoke about the Summer Police Camp program and the increased interest in it. In response to a question at last month's meeting about the need for a sidewalk linking one side of Prescott Avenue and Center Street, Officer Neely stated that it had been forwarded to the City for action.

Manassas City Government - Patrick Small announced that the building that currently is occupied by 'Love Charley' will be available for rent.

There will be the 25th Annual Volunteer Recognition Reception at the Hylton Center for all who volunteer for the city on April 24th.

Featured Speaker - Vice Mayor, Sheryl BassPolice gave a brief re-cap of the Manassas Town Hall Meeting that was held on February 21st at the Boys' and Girls' Club. The Mayor and City Council Members , plus various Department Heads were on hand to hear citizen concerns and answer any questions about the new facilities for our Emergency Services and Police Department.

Topics discussed at the meeting were the status of Annaberg Manor (which is currently in a state of disrepair) and the ongoing attempts to place it in the Historic Overlay District and questions about school safety. There was much concern in light of the recent school shootings and what is being done to protect our children. The Police are working closely with the schools to assess their needs. The newly build Baldwin Elementary/Intermediate School is an example of the safety features that are that currently in favor.

The next Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for September, date to be decided.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 am.

Jan Alten
Secretary

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 11 at City Tavern.