

**Old Town Business Association
General Meeting**

March 13, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 8:47 am by President, Joanne Wunderly.

There were 31 people in attendance.

After introductions were made, the Treasurer's Report was given by Treasurer, Nury Mena. We have \$ 7,810.20 in our treasury as of February 28th. Membership dues have been coming in. Light bills for 2018 will be sent out soon. When your bill comes, please pay it promptly. We have finally collected monies owed for 2017!

The February minutes are one line. Chip Rohr made to motion to approve and Lu Harris seconded. The motion passed.

This meeting's special guests were the Electrical Department for the City of Manassas. The OTBA wanted to thank them for their efforts to make our city beautiful during the holidays. The lights atop the buildings as well as the lights in the trees created a magical atmosphere during the holidays and throughout the dreary month of January.

Nancy Rigby, the coordinator for the program gave a brief report on what is involved. There are eleven men on the crew and they spent more than 645 man hours making sure that the lights on the building would function - to include replacing timers, bulbs, clips, light strings, etc. On a daily basis, the crew chief would visually inspect the more than 65 buildings that participated and made note of any outages. Some were easily addressed, others were more involved. The cost of doing so was in excess of \$35,000 in man hours. Additionally, \$3,000 of supplies were purchased.

Our heartfelt thanks to all who made the effort to make the holidays in Manassas a special place to dine, shop and visit! A very small token of appreciation was a custom decorative cookie at each place setting in the shape of a Christmas light bulb. Cookies were made by the Lemonade Bakery on Main Street.

Joanne made a few brief announcements to include:

The event season is upon us - more to come in the reports portion the meeting.

City Tavern has been sold and is under new ownership. (After the meeting, we met with the General Manager who assured us that our meetings could continue as scheduled and that the menu would stay the same in the restaurant - down the road, menu additions would be added).

We are in need of someone who will take over the newsletter/meeting reminder position for OTBA. It is a Board position and requires that one attend both a BoD meeting and the regular meeting. Jaque Connor who had agreed to do so, has accepted a new position at George Mason University and will not have the time.

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

The upcoming "One Love" Art Festival in Manassas will take place over the weekend of April 26 - 28th. The festival is a multi media art event with visual and performing arts as well as vendors throughout Old Town.

Melissa Williams spoke about the First Friday in April. The event is themed around the popular “Game of Thrones” and costumes are encouraged! Old Town will be awash in costumed participants, turkey legs and mead!

The First Friday in May will be a themed event - Kentucky Derby. More info to come.

On going is the Winter Farmers’ Market. Our seasonal Farmers’ Markets will open on Thursday, April 11 and Saturday, April 13. Kudos to the Manassas Farmers’ Market which was voted Best In Virginia for the the 6th straight year!

Manassas Museum - Doug Horhota handed out a full schedule of events that are happening at the Museum and in Manassas in April. Currently, art created by students at Osbourn High School is on display. Upcoming are book talks, and on April 11 a new exhibit, “Bridging Cultures” that will highlight our local Latino community

Center for the Arts - Beverly Hess said that the recently closed exhibit of art by husband and wife artists, James and Zsundayka Nzinga Terrell, which featured mixed media afro futurist abstract portraits was filmed by Voice of America.

Currently on exhibit is “Fifty Shades of Green” by plein air artists in Northern Virginia.

Pied Piper Theatre production of “Annie” will be held at the Hylton.

In rehearsal now is “Godspell” (updated) which will run for three weekends in April.

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. It will arrive on Thursday and leave on Sunday.

Harris Pavilion - it was announced that Rink Management will continue to oversee the production of ice for the winter months and the City of Manassas will assume management of the Harris Pavilion warm weather events.

Welcome Center on I 66 - no report

Manassas Police -The Annual Report to the City by the Police department highlighted a decrease in serious/violent crime, domestic violence, graffiti, and driving under the influence for the year 2017 to 2018.

A gentle reminder from Captain Tina Laguna that only **blunted** swords will be allowed for the “Game of Thrones” costumed event.

Officer Laguna also enlisted the help of the Old Town business community in encouraging middle and high schoolers ‘hanging around’ during school hours to return to school. The police will respond if needed or the kids are belligerent.

Darlene Renaldue asked the question of what to do/or what can be done about kids on bikes weaving in an out of traffic or riding with the traffic on Center Street. It is illegal to ride bikes on the sidewalk. Bike riders need to operate the bike in a responsible manner. The police can be called to address this issue.

Manassas City - the proposed budget for the City has been made.

Hylton Performing Arts Center- Marit Majeske announced that the 9th Gala Event is sold out but that there are tickets available for the After Party which will feature a jazz lounge.

On Sunday, April 7th at 4pm will be “Raising Voices” which will showcase Washington National Opera’s Domingo-Cafritz Young Artists and George Mason University Opera and Vocal Studies Program.

On April 10, the 2019 -2020 Season line up will be revealed. It promises to be another exciting season of performances.

What’s New in Your Business?

Mark Wolf announced that “Chasing Lights’ will be performed on the Museum Lawn as part of the One Love Arts Festival. He also said that Manassas Ballet Theatre’s upcoming performance “Sleeping Beauty” is second only to “Nutcracker” in attendance.

Sheryl Bass announced several new classes at BedRock Yoga.

Chip Rohr said the recent “Duck Unlimited” event was the most attended and successful in a long line of successful events to raise monies for wet lands protection. Chip is also gearing up for his soccer camps held at Linton Hall School in the summer.

Virginia Martinez of Old Towne Veterinary Clinic said that pet owners can transfer their pet’s identity chip records for a one time fee of \$20. There is no annual fee for this service.

50/50 raffle was won by Lu Harris 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 9:33 am.

Our next meeting will be April 10 th.

Jan Alten
Secretary