

OTBA Minutes – May 8, 2013

Meeting began at 8:40 am

There were 20 people in attendance.

After introductions were made, the minutes from our last meeting on April 10th were approved by Chris Finnie and seconded by Debbie Haight. The minutes are posted online at the OTBA website.

Nury Mena, Treasurer, gave a brief synopsis of our financials and advised the group that the Christmas light payments were coming in.

Joanne Wunderly, President, advised the group that the new 'Guides to Shops and Services' arrived and have been delivered to: all Old Town businesses, City Hall, the Visitor's Center and the Manassas Battlefield. She has them available at The Things I Love whenever you need more. She expressed her thanks to the members who helped with the revisions and printing this year.

Joanne also questioned whether or not the sidewalk sale is an event we want to continue with as a group; or should we just let individuals do it if they so desire. We'll be discussing the subject between now and September, when the next one is scheduled.

The Spring Gallery Walk was well attended and a wonderful evening. She encouraged all OTBA members to support the events that Historic Manassas Inc puts on as they bring potential customers to our downtown.

HMI –Debbie Haight announced there will be a Hospitality Tour in Old Town on May 14th. Up to fifty area hotel managers/concierges will be in attendance. She will be contacting OT businesses to see if they would like to put an item in the goodie bags they will receive.

The Heritage Railway Festival will take place on June 1st. As an incentive to make the attendees aware of the businesses here, HMI will be conducting a scavenger hunt that will direct them to the shops. More info to follow.

The Wine and Jazz Festival will be held Sunday, June 16th from noon until 7 p.m. on the Manassas Museum lawn.

Manassas Museum – Jane Riley reported the museum has a new exhibit on Liberia Plantation that will run from May 11 through September 2. They are also conducting bike tours of Manassas and are hosting regular 'Museum on the Lawn' programs on Saturdays. Beginning Memorial Day and continuing through Labor Day the Museum will be open seven days a week.

Center for the Arts at the Candy Factory – no representative was present, but Joanne did report that Marci Settle has resigned from that organization. Joanne will try to find out who they might send to our meetings in her place.

Harris Pavilion – Anna Marie Robinson announced that the season’s schedule is up on the website. Many popular events will return including: Wednesday lunches, military band concerts, Friday night movies, Saturday dances and ice cream socials on Sundays. New this year are ‘Take-out Tuesdays’ which will feature local musicians/talent. Attendees are encouraged to get take-out from their favorite Old Town restaurant and bring it to the Pavilion to be entertained while they dine. Anna Marie has reached out to the Old Town restaurants suggesting they come up with special take-out deals to offer customers.

Manassas Art Guild – no report

Chamber of Commerce – no report

Welcome Center – no report

Hylton Performing Arts Center – Katy Campbell announced that they recently celebrated their 3 year anniversary. The season is winding down and they are putting together the schedule of performances for the next year.

Discover Prince William & Manassas (formerly known as the CVB) – no report

Historic Manassas Restaurant Alliance (HMRA) – In Kari Leporatti’s absence, Chris Finnie reported on the progress of the first ‘Taste of Historic Manassas’ event scheduled for Sunday, June 23rd, from noon to 5 p.m. at the Harris Pavilion. The permits are in the works. Fourteen restaurants have verbally agreed to participate. There will be food and beverage available – wine and beer provided by local distributors. Also, Pepsi will be a sponsor and will have non-alcoholic beverages available. There will also be live music. Tickets are \$25 in advance/\$35 on the day of and will permit 8 tastings of food and/or wine and beer. They will be available for sale in two weeks.

Manassas City Police – per Joanne, the police are providing extra patrols in the Old Town area at closing times for local dining/drinking establishments. They are also aware of issues with skate boarders and welcome our calls when we see activity that is in violation of city ordinance.

Manassas Fire & Rescue – Bret Bowman, Chief, reported that there have been quite a few fire calls lately with most being attributed to unattended cooking and improper disposal of smoking materials. He asked if OTBA or its individual members are interested in CPR training as the department would be happy to provide classes, if anyone is interested.

City of Manassas – John Budesky, City Manager, reiterated the importance of making calls to the police department now that the weather is warming and more people are out on the streets. He also added that the PD has been assigning plain clothes officers to Old Town. Regarding the skate boarders, the PD has been more aggressive with enforcement – including detaining the youths and contacting their parents to pick them up.

In other City business, there are great things coming for Old Town with the adopted budget – way-finding signs, trash cans for Old Town tenants, and the Main Street streetscape improvements that could start as early as next month.

The City recently received an international award for the new website and for providing ease of use and accessibility of government to our residents. Patty Prince is doing a great job getting our message out not only to locals but to the region, as well.

Vice-Mayor Andy Harrover was our guest speaker this month. He addressed two major issues of importance to OTBA – the budget/CIP process and search for a new city manager. He talked of the need to start doing capital improvements again. The City has had a flat tax bill budget for the past 4 years and, consequently, no CIP activity. At Council's directive, Mr. Budesky and Dr. Magouyrk, Manassas City Schools Superintendent, put together a combined city/school CIP to address the needs of the City as a whole. He described how the Council goes through the budget line by line and takes a straw poll on each item up for consideration. The process is long, but thorough and necessary. He feels the proposed budget and CIP are ready for adoption by Council.

Vice-Mayor Harrover also informed the group that, with Mr. Budesky's departure, Larry Hughes will be returning as the interim City Manager. The search for a permanent replacement has begun and they hope to be interviewing candidates by September.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

In the absence of Jan Alten, Secretary, these minutes are respectfully submitted by

Chris Finnie