

Old Town Business Association

Minutes from our monthly meeting on June 8, 2022

President Joanne Wunderly called the meeting to order at 8:40 am. There were 22 people in attendance.

The City of Manassas was represented by Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger and Economic Director Patrick Small

After introductions were made, Joanne made a few brief remarks. The First Friday was very well attended, lots of people out enjoying the warm summer evening.

Joanne thanked Deron of Shining Sol for helping OTBA with sending out meeting notices in a timely manner. A sign up sheet noting email addresses was passed around just to make sure that we have your email address.

The minutes for our May meeting were approved. Debbie Haight made the motion to approve and Melissa Williams seconded.

Treasurer Nury Mena reported that we currently have \$10,052.54 in our account at Fulton Bank. Debits totaled \$ 714.62 for insurance, web hosting and breakfast costs. We received \$640. in membership dues,

Reports

HMI- Melissa Williams said the Railroad Festival went well. Attendance was down from last year due in part to the many other events happening in the Metro Area.

Saturday, June 18th from 4 to 9 pm is the 17th Jazz Festival at the Harris Pavilion. General Admission is \$35 and VIP admission is \$90. The theme for this year's festival is "1930's Cotton Club" and will once again feature Marcus Johnson.

July 4th, "Celebrate America", always a big event is planned. The parking garage will again be closed to the public but will have a ticketed event for fireworks viewing on the top deck. Check out the full schedule on visitmanassas.org.

Manassas Police - Officer Ana Brown said that July 1 will mark the day when cars with loud exhaust systems (this has been a major problem in the Old Town Area) can be ticketed. A change was made at the State level to address this growing issue.

Manassas Museum - Rachel Goldberg announced that Acoustic Tuesdays are underway and will continue through September 6. All concerts begin at 7 pm.at the Harris Pavilion. A variety of music genres will be featured.

Even though the museum is closed for renovations, programs of enrichment continue. Check theManassas Museum website for more details.

While the museum is undergoing renovations, the lawn can still be rented for special events.

The next event in the History Hikes series is scheduled forJune 26 from4 to 5 pm and will "Walk with a Hawk". Meet Rosie the red-tailed hawk and explore new trails at Liberia House..

Adults are \$10, children under 16, \$5. Connect with nature while learning about the rich history of Manassas. Reservations can be made at cityofmanassas.recdesk.com

Other events at Liberia include a Front Porch Talk with Master Storyteller Dylan Prichett for a talk on “Interpreting African American History through storytelling and Music.”

On June 19th from 3 - 5 pm, Liberia House can be toured at your own pace. One can also meet the descendent members of the Naylor family who were enslaved there. Learn how the Naylor family helped to build the house and save it from destruction during the Civil war. There is no cost for this event and tour.

ARTfactory - no report

Hylton Performing Art Center - Tionge Johnson announced that the upcoming season of events and performances is to begin September 18. A new feature at the Hylton is the ticket exchange for subscribers. Details can be found at HyltonCenter.org.

Manassas City Government - Patty Prince said in celebration of the 150th anniversary of Manassas, the City would like residents to post videos. Topics suggested are: Why you moved to Manassas? How has the City changed since moving here? Tell why you like living in your neighborhood. Information about this can be found on the City’s website: visitmanassasva.gov.

Mayor Davis-Younger said that she tries to attend everything. Her “Walks with the Mayor” on Saturday mornings have been attended by numerous people and the response has been positive.

Patrick Small reminded the members that the weekend of June 29th will be a 3 day weekend and businesses might want to have promotions to encourage traffic. Mr. Small also noted that other than events, foot traffic has been down in Old Town.

Featured Speaker -Charles Clemmons of the Manassas Regional Airport presented a power point presentation and history of the history of Manassas Airport. which has been in continuous operation for 90 years.

Mr. Clemmons said that the primary goal of the airport is to drive economic development. There are currently 25 businesses on the field to include flight schools, aircraft maintenance and service businesses.

What’s New In Your Business

Kristin Perper of the Freedom Museum said that the Memorial Day Celebration was a success. There was a bell ringing ceremony at the Harris Pavilion noting the names of Manassas, Manassas Park and Prince William veterans who died in various wars.

Additionally, on Thursday following Memorial Day, News Channel 4 covered the 77th Wedding Anniversary of Betty and Pete Anastasi who met at a USO Dance and were married in 1945. Pete served in the Army and was stationed at Vint Hill when he and another soldier decided to attend the dance and there, spotted Betty and was immediately smitten. Pete penned a poem, which he read about the meeting, subsequent marriage and raising their family in Manassas after the war. Amazingly, he still fit in his Army uniform at age 100.

Billy Wiseman of 3 Monkeys said that in celebration of Pride Month, 3 Monkeys is hosting a nighttime and a Fathers' Day Drag Show. 3 Monkeys is also hosting a Tattoo Fundraiser during the month.

The Bee Festival will be held once again at Liberia Mansion on June 25th. At last year's Bee Festival, attendance was much better than planned for and this year the festival is expected to have more participants and attendance.

The 50/50 wasn't held this month.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 am.

Our Next Meeting will be July 13 th.

Jan Alten
Secretary