

OTBA Minutes – June 11, 2013

Meeting began at 8:46 am

There were 26 people in attendance.

After introductions were made, the minutes from our last meeting on May 14 were approved by Curtis Harrover and seconded by Kathleen Reilly. Our minutes and treasurers report are posted on line at the OTBA website.

OTBA treasurer Nury Mena was at another meeting and Joanne Wunderly reported that as of May 31st, our balance at Fulton Bank was \$ 8,885.

Joanne Wunderly announced that OTBA has printed 4,000 “Where to park in Manassas” counter cards that will be available this week. The depot lot is still an issue and its status is uncertain. Joanne said that Chip Rohr has urged businesses to email, speak to, and attend council meetings to urge city council to do something about the parking issues here in Old Town. This issue is definitely hurting businesses as customers do not know where to park and are staying away.

Joanne also mentioned that we have had one person interested in being an associate member of OTBA. Associate members would not be able to vote or enjoy our monthly breakfasts but would be listed in the Guide to Shops and Services.

Joanne also mentioned that our 50/50 helps to defray the cost of our monthly breakfasts.

HMI – Debbie Haight announced the following events:

1. The 10th Manassas Wine and Jazz Festival is this weekend on Sunday, from 12 – 7.
2. Our next First Friday is July 4th. Fifty thousand people are expected to attend. If your business will please let HMI know if you are plan to open or be closed on that day. Balloons will be available for businesses that are open.
3. HMI is working with Mary Reilly, Patty Prince and the Center for the Arts on a banner contest. Artists can submit their designs for use on banners. This is slated for 2015.

Manassas Museum – Doug Horhota gave out Civil War Weekend Schedule of Events brochures for the weekend of August 22 – 24. There are many exciting events, speakers and activities. Event brochures are available for giving customers to generate excitement for the weekend.

Center for the Arts at the Candy Factory – Sally Lay stated that there is an exhibit in the Merchant Gallery – “Along the Rails” – depicting scenes of the railroad that will hang through June. The exhibit coincides with the recently held Railroad Festival.

Summer Camps will begin after July 4th for all ages.

The Summer Sounds Concert Series will begin on June 28th.

Harris Pavilion – Anna Marie Robinson said that the event calendars are out and will be available for distribution. The Tuesday Take Out concert/farmers market is in its second week and while attendance has been not outstanding, there has been a positive response. Coupons for discounts from area restaurants for take- out meals are on the website and can be printed for use.

Welcome Center – Kathleen Reilly said that the Welcome Center on 66 was handing out Virginia peanuts to visitors and that they have been a hit. An intern from the Manassas Museum is in costume every Friday evening to give out information about Manassas.

Hylton Performing Arts Center –no report

Restaurant Alliance – Kari Laparotti said that the Taste of Manassas held on Sunday, June 1 st enjoyed perfect weather. The alliance has not met since the event. The next item on their agenda is Restaurant Week in September.

Discover Prince William/Manassas – Wendie Vestfall said that a radio personality Marco from WRQX ate at Okra’s and will be doing reports from ‘On the Road’ promoting eating and shopping in Manassas and Prince William. The station is also hosting a contest which includes a \$100 gift card donated by HMI.

Four Canadian travel writers will be in town on June 26th for lunch and shopping.

Manassas Fire & Rescue – Brett Bowman said that there has been an increase of incidences of fires started because cigarettes have been put out in mulch. Please be alert to this problem. Brett also asked that we be alert to children or pets being left in cars as the summer days heat up.

City of Manassas – Commissioner of Revenue, Doug Waldron gave the very disturbing and disappointing results from the first quarter of this year. Retail in Old Town was down by a whopping 32% when compared to last year. Lodging, and miscellaneous businesses were also down. The only bright spot in the report was that restaurants were up 2.3%.

General Discussion – In lieu of a guest speaker this meeting, the topic for discussion was how to improve on First Friday. The First Friday that was held on June 6th was a success and many positive comments were heard about the Center Street being closed

and the ability to sit and enjoy the beautiful evening. The musicians out on the street were not as successful as they were drowned out by the music on Battle Street.

There were several suggestions to include: closing Center Street for future events, hula hoops, a dog parade, face painters, mimes, moving it to Second Sunday, etc. Ideas were tossed around and no firm decision was made other than to give it a year to and make improvements.

Officer Trey Lawler said that the police presence and closing of the street went well with few exceptions and that there were no major issues. Several cars were towed and signs were posted well in advance of the event. There might have been some confusion because of the lighted signs announcing the Railroad Festival the next day.

What's New in your Business?

Creative Brush Studio featured special exhibit to commemorate D-Day will continue through July 19th. It is called 'Canvassing the 1940's'. Artists Mary Reilly, Christine Raymond and Lu Harris have contributed to this exhibition.

Bob Chase spoke about the garage parking changes that will help all of us and our customers.

There was \$37. Collected for the 50/50 and Jean Harrover won the pot and donated her winnings back to OTBA.

The meeting ended at 9:41 am.