

Old Town Business Association
General Meeting

June 13, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 8:49 am by President, Joanne Wunderly.

There were 28 people in attendance. After introductions were made, the Treasurer's Report was given by Treasurer, Nury Mena. We have \$ 8,032.20 in our treasury as of May 31st.

Joanne made a few brief announcements to include:

The officers of OTBA did not have their regularly scheduled BoD meeting in early June due to the death of Joanne's Mother which necessitated Joanne being away.

The 50/50 raffle would be handled by Kathleen Reilly.

Old Town has been having many events each weekend and it bodes well for businesses. For years, "Flat is the new up" has been the mantra of shops as business revenues have remained unchanged. This year, there seems to be new energy and small, but encouraging signs of economic growth have emerged. Whether due to the events or other factors, it is welcomed.

Nury Mena, Joanne and Chip Rohr have been working to get the Christmas light bills out. Please pay your portion as quickly as possible.

Joanne met with the Women's Club who annually sponsors the Holiday Home Tour. This year, the Liberia House will be the stop for refreshments. There are plans underway to have businesses have a display of their business at Liberia on this very well attended event. Generally over 600 people attend the home tour. It will be an opportunity to market your business to those attendees.

Historic Manassas - Rebekah Raze spoke about the upcoming Jazz Festival on Saturday, June 16 from 12 - 7 pm on the Museum lawn. This year the event is the Saturday preceding Fathers' Day and not on Fathers' Day as in the past.

There is space in the Visitors' Center to promote your business. Call Rebekah to schedule your slot.

Melissa Williams spoke about the Farmers' Markets - its growth, the new 'international' vendors to include a French chef, authentic German brats and Jamaican foods in addition to the many vendors displaying and welling their wares. Attendance is up as well.

Debbie Haight spoke about The upcoming First Friday whose theme is 'Mystery of American History' a quiz like the scavenger hunt where participants will have to visit shops to participate. Debbie also announced that she had toured the new apartments near the market that are now open for occupancy and how attractive they were.

Manassas Museum - Doug Horhorta reminded us of the festivities on July 4th celebration. Additionally, there are scheduled book talks, on going exhibits and to check the website for more details.

Doug also mentioned planning is underway for the big event upcoming in August - celebrating Manassas' history.

Center for the Arts - no report

Harris Pavilion - Annamarie Morgan said that the Pavilion is booked for the summer and the only day available is Monday if anyone wants to do an event. There are colorful calendars with schedules of all events at the Pavilion available.

Welcome Center on I 66 - Kathleen Reilly reminded us that our events and newsworthy items can be put on virginia.org.

Hylton Performing Arts Center- Jaqui Connor announced that the regular season is over and the new season begins in September. This summer there are a number of camps and activities to include the Technical Boot Camp - a camp which emphasizes the backstage goings on of a theatrical production.

Next month, it is expected that construction will begin on the new wing at the Hylton.

Emergency Services - no report

Manassas Police - Officer Steve Neely announced that six newly trained police officers have completed the academy and are joining the force.

Officer Tina Laguna invited all to the “Rookies and Cookies” reception for the new officers on Tuesday, June 26th from 3:30 - 6:30 at the Train Depot

Summer camp for at risk youth will be held again in June.

The police are looking at the need for red light cameras at strategic intersections in the city. The increase in people running red lights necessitates this action.

The police are also looking at trucks making deliveries and blocking city streets while doing so and the hazard that is created.

Manassas City - Patty Prince announced the ongoing replacement of the brick crosswalks in the Old town sector. The old crosswalks are being replaced with stamped, colored concrete that looks like brick but is more able to withstand the stress of traffic. The expected savings in maintenance and the supplemental funding by VDOT is welcomed news.

If you have an event on public property, please put it on visitmanassas.org.

Guest Speaker and Program - Matt Arcieri, Planning and Zoning Manager for the City, and Kelly Davis, Senior Planner, presented an overview of how the City goes about assessing needs for future growth in several areas to include transportation, the master plan for the City, the various policy elements that all go into making a Comprehensive Plan to be approved by City Council.. Comprehensive Plans are reviewed every five years with an idea of assessing how the plan is in sync with the existing plan, what additional needs is the City facing and of most importance, what do the citizens want?

Citizens will have an opportunity to voice concerns and ideas at a number of citizen meetings. The first meeting will be at the Boys and Girls Club in September. It is an opportunity for citizens give input with City officials about issues in their neighborhoods.

Both Matt and Kelly indicated that they are more than willing to make a presentation to area HOAs to gather information.

Questions that were asked were: are the new firehouse and police stations a done deal? When will sidewalks be added to Center Street from the corner of Prescott to Fairview Avenue. At present, there is no sidewalk and no crosswalk at that busy intersection.

Patrick Small, Economic Director, answered that projects that aren't funded yet are prioritized to place in the budget.

What's New in Your Business?

Jim Boltz of Edward Jones Financial Planners announced that in October, there will be a walk to raise money for Alzheimers. His company is a National sponsor of this annual event and teams are forming. If one wants to participate either by forming a team or joining a team, please contact Jim. There will be both a short walk and a longer walk.

50/50 raffle was won by Joanne Wunderly who donated her winnings back to OTBA. Thank you Joanne! The 50/50 raffle helps to offset the cost of providing breakfast at our meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 am.

Our next meeting will be July 11th.

Jan Alten
Secretary