

OTBA Minutes – July 9, 2013

Attendees began the breakfast buffet at 8:10 am

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 am. There were 21 people in attendance.

After introductions were made, the minutes from our last meeting on June 12th were approved by Curtis Harrover and seconded by Chris Finnie. Our minutes are posted online at the OTBA website.

Nury Mena, OTBA treasurer gave the treasurer's report. Our ending balance in Fulton Bank as of June 30, 2013 is \$13,501.22.

Joanne announced that the ad program for Old Town will begin August 1st with Comcast, Discover Publications and the Manassas Observer. It will continue through the end of the year at which time it will be evaluated to determine its effectiveness.

Joanne also encouraged the use of the suggestion boxes that are on each table at each meeting.

HMI – Debbie Haight reported that the Celebrate America 4th of July event was a huge success and thanked the Police and Fire departments for assisting in this successful event. Estimate of the crowd size is at 70 thousand. Debbie also discussed the possibility of an evening Farmers' Market from 4 – 7 pm at the triangle parking lot at Prince William and Main Streets. On Tuesday August 6th from 6 until 10 will be the National Night Out. There will be demonstrations and activities that a family would enjoy. The second week in August, the ISSA, Senior Softball leagues will be in town. The Civil War Weekend will be on August 23–25. On August 27th, there will be another hospitality tour for hotel and motel managers to show what Old Town has to offer their guests. Debbie also reminded us that the Façade Grant Award is for any businesses sprucing up the appearance of their business.

Manassas Museum – Doug Horta reported their Toddler Time program is a hit. Doug also talked about the walking tour and the \$1 off admission cards that can be given to visitors and customers. On the Civil War Weekend, there will be a short parade and anyone in costume is encouraged to join in.

Center for the Arts at the Candy Factory – no report

Harris Pavilion – Anna Marie Robinson thanked The Things I Love, Prospero's Books and The Opera House Gourmet for sponsoring the ice cream social event that is held each Sunday afternoon.

Manassas Art Guild –no report

Chamber of Commerce – no report

Welcome Center – Kathleen Reilly invited any business that would like to do a demonstration at the Welcome Center to contact her.

Hylton Performing Arts Center – no report

Discover Prince William & Manassas (formally known as the CVB) – Wendy Vestfall mentioned that there are two mobile web sites to update your information for your business available.

Restaurant Alliance – Debbie Haight reported that the Taste of Manassas was a success and that ticket sales and attendance surpassed expectations. There will be a Restaurant Week the last week of September where one can get a three course meal for \$35.

Manassas City Police – John Barnes reported that the theft of cell phones and the ability to redeem a cell phone for cash is on the rise. The local place to redeem phones is at the ECO/ATM kiosk in Manassas Mall. If a cell phone has a GPS tracking device or is password protected, then there is a greater likelihood that your phone can be returned to you.

Questions were asked about the recent incident at Mackey's and the reported story in The Washington Post of a death resulting from a fight in Georgetown South. Officer Barnes stated that the fight started inside Mackey's and spilled on the street. Nighttime patrol officers are "on alert" when the bars let our since alcohol, is a factor as well as hanging around outside the bars. The death in GTS resulted from a gang related fight and beating that resulted in a death some months after the fact. There has been an arrest and sentencing.

Manassas Fire and Rescue – Brett Bowman reported that his stint as a judge for the Apple Pie Contest on the 4th of July was truly a 'hardship' task. There were 13 pies that were judged and the final pie with vanilla ice cream took the honors. A kitchen fire that resulted in \$ 35,000 worth of damage to the home was started by unattended cooking, and prompt response was hindered by a disabled smoke alarm. Brett also reported that a patient having a heart attack was promptly transported and treated successfully by the Cardiac Unit at Prince William Hospital. The Fire Department is partnering with schools this summer for a camp for 20 incoming freshmen to learn CPR and other emergency treatment skills.

City of Manassas – Councilman Mark Wolfe was our featured speaker this month and Mark spoke on a number of subjects in an informal give and take session. There are 65 candidates for the position of City Manager. The candidates are a geographically diverse group of either long term city managers or deputy city managers. It is hoped to have a final selection by the end of August. Mark also talked in general terms about re-development potential sites in Manassas and that a number of interested parties are looking at these sites. All of the developers were impressed by the proximity to the

VRE and the city itself. Mark reported that a concern is that the average median income has dropped in the city – it used to be on par with Prince William County but now is less.

There was general discussion about the truck traffic, the inability to cross Center Street and the fact that it is not pedestrian friendly.

Joanne Wunderly reported that the OTBA Board will meet with Chief Keane to discuss these issues.

Business announcements: What's New?

Ricky Simpson of Ricky Simpson, PHD, LLC spoke about a marriage counseling evening to be held at Vertical Rock on August 9th and 10th.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Doug Horta of the Manassas Museum and he won \$23.

There will be no meeting in August. Our next meeting will be September 11th.

The meeting ended at 9:28 am.