

**Old Town Business Association
General Meeting**

July 10, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President, Joanne Wunderly at 8:53 am.

There were 18 people in attendance.

After introductions were made, Nury Mena gave the Treasurer's Report. As of June 30, we have \$ 9656.20 in our treasury.

Approval of the June minutes was the next order of business. The minutes are on line. Chip Rohr made to motion to approve and Bennett Whitlock seconded. The motion passed.

Chip Rohr addressed the Christmas Light program and mentioned that it is being considered that we bill in advance for participating businesses. OTBA pays the City in January for the maintenance fees associated with the lights and bills businesses a minimal fee based on the size of the building. We are half way through the year and are still chasing down money owed to reimburse OTBA.

The City crews inspect the lights on a regular basis during the holidays to correct any problems (lights not coming on, lights partially coming on, light strings dislocated by weather events, etc.). So, if you have not paid for your Christmas Lights - **PLEASE DO SO IMMEDIATELY**

Joanne made a few opening remarks: July's First Friday was very well attended. Young families were plentiful in the beginning and later in the evening, more adults were present. Joanne stated that they were still customers in her store and making purchases well after it was time to close.

The fireworks were amazing and many people were in town.

The newly opened Olde Towne Antiques hosted an antique sale in the Pavilion that was very well received and attended.

The Guide to Shops and Services is in production. The plan is to print in smaller numbers so that changes can be made in a more timely manner as businesses either come to Manassas or close. It is expected to be out for distribution before the fourth quarter.

It was mentioned that the Civil War Trail signs around town have been removed. New ones will be put up by the City. Chi Rohr said that those signs are very useful for the tourists who come to town and who are particularly interested in all things Civil War.

Historic Manassas - Rebekkah Raze spoke about:

The 4th celebration celebration was well attended. The watermelon eating contest was a hit. There were some complaints due to the fireworks display having been moved up a half hour but overall, people were understanding. The change was due to the threat of thunder storms.

Dog Days of Summer will be the theme for First Friday in August.

The 4th Annual Steins, Wines & Spirits Festival will be held on the Museum lawn on Saturday, August 10th from 12 noon - 5 pm.

Manassas Museum/Harris Pavilion - Patty Prince spoke about happenings at the Museum. The Lunch and Learn series is held at CenterFuse on Wednesdays. Topics include local history.

The exhibit, "Bridging Cultures" will run through September.

Annaburg Manor has been purchased by the city and will provide much needed "green space" for our residents.

The weekend in August that traditionally has been about the Civil War will not be held this year.

The Harris Pavilion is now under the wing of the Parks and Recreation Department. Every week there is something entertaining at the Pavilion - dances, concerts, Acoustic Tuesdays, the Thursday Farmers' Market, Sunday Ice Cream socials and much more. For more information, visit manassas.org for the schedule of events.

Center for the Arts - no report

Welcome Center on I 66 - Kathleen Riley distributed reproductions of the original iconic logo "Virginia is for Lovers" bumper stickers as well as a magazine.

One can get a free listing on Virginia.org - the Commonwealth's official travel and tourism website. - All of Virginia's Tourism's marketing drives travelers to Virginia.org where consumers can find and book your attraction or business and learn what your locality has to offer.

Hylton Performing Arts Center - no report

Manassas Police -Officer Lance Rust reported that the lost elderly man reported missing on July 4th was found safe.

Five new officers are on patrol.

Questions were asked about the issue of brief parking on Center Streets to load/unload merchandise purchased. Delivery trucks for the restaurants often park for as long as 40 minutes on Center Street.

Officer Rust stated that the State and City codes specifically state that only emergency vehicles can stop on a street like Center Street.

Because some of the businesses do not have rear access, there has been some latitude regarding this issue.

Capt. Tina Laguna said that on average, eight to ten new officers join the force annually and not all are aware of the flexibility that has been historically granted.

Jan Alten mentioned that the designated delivery parking place was eliminated when Battle Street was sidelined. At present, there is only one designated delivery parking space in downtown and that is on the corner of Center and West Streets. UPS and FedEx regularly park

there and make deliveries. Commercial food and beer trucks do not preferring to park in the travel lanes on Center, Battle and Main Streets.

Darlene Renalduie said that drivers in traffic on Friday evenings between 4 and 5 pm seemed to be more aggressive than on other evenings.

Manassas City - Council member Michelle Davis Younger was in attendance.

Program - Because typically the July meeting is not as well attended due to vacations, it was decided that today's meeting would address some concerns that have been brought up to OTBA.

Specifically, the unsightly piles of trash on Center Street on Monday night. Monica Bohringer, Waste Management Director for the city, addressed the problems:

1. Logistics - no thought was given to the amount of waste generated by businesses and residents in the beginning.
2. Trash carts/recycling bins are distributed by the city. Businesses have discretion as to where to place for pick up.
3. Residents living above the businesses have no recourse other than to place garbage bags curbside for pick up.

Chip Rohr asked if the soon to open Battle Street Bistro had to provide a plan for their trash removal. The answer is yes.

Monica also spoke about the campaign to Keep Manassas Beautiful and the 2nd Annual Cigarette Fairy project. Cigarette butts are the most common form of litter on our streets. It takes almost ten years for a cigarette filter to break down. Most people do not think cigarette butts are litter.

Monica handed out portable ashtray/butt containers and asked businesses to give to customers For more information: www.manassascity.org/kmb.

What's New?

Bennett Whitlock invited all to a complimentary seminar on "Social Security and Your Retirement" on July 11 at 6:30 at the Old Hickory Golf Club in Woodbridge.

Chip Rohr announced that Doug Horhota is leaving the Manassas Museum. For many years, Doug was the Museum's representative to OTBA and kept us all informed about the goings on at the Museum. Doug will be sorely missed.

Ground was broken on the new True Hilton Hotel near the airport. The hotel will have 98 rooms. Also in the area are new townhomes that are being built.

The benches on Center Street need to be refurbished.

Sheryl Bass announced the summer session at BedRock Yoga has begun.

There was a 50/50 raffle today and Ken Crick of ECU won \$21 which he generously donated back to OTBA. Thank you Ken!

The meeting adjourned at 9:41 am.

We do not have a meeting in August!

Our next meeting is September 11th

Jan Alten
Secretary