

OTBA Meeting July 12, 2017 at City Tavern Grill

The meeting was called to order at 8:45 am by President, Joanne Wunderly. There were 26 in attendance.. City Manager Pat Pate attended the meeting, as did Manassas City Council Members Sheryl Bass and Ian Lovejoy.

The minutes of our May meeting were approved by Mary Reilly and seconded by Elizabeth Bailey.

Joanne gave a recent guesstimate (\$8,500 +/-) of our treasury balance as Treasurer Nury Mena, was running late Joanne also reported the results of our Board Retreat held on June 26 and highlighted the many items and ideas discussed at that meeting. Below is a partial list of items discussed.

It was decided that HMI Executive Director Debbie Haight would be invited to be a liaison member to our BoD. It was felt that Debbie's presence at our BoD meetings would help both organizations to work together for the betterment of Historic Old Town.

Ideas for first weekend of December

Evening OTBA social meetings

Extended hours for retail businesses

Ideas for First Friday

Speakers Committee to speak at retirement communities to inform of what is here in Old Town.

"Post Mortem" for all events to include those affected by the events

An OTBA Newsletter to be emailed before the meetings to act as a reminder

Historic Manassas (HMI) - David Rhodes, the newly hired Event Coordinator, introduced himself and gave a re-cap of the many successful HMI organized events held in June: The Annual Railroad Festival, The Wine, Beer and Jazz Festival on Fathers' Day and the 4th of July Celebrate America. This year, the rooftop dinner and fireworks viewing was a success.

David announced that the First Friday in August theme will be "The Dog Days of Summer" and invited those present to bring dog related ideas to him and/or volunteer for the event. Virginia Martinez of Old Towne Veterinary Clinic has offered to help coordinate this event.

A second Event Coordinator, Charlotte Walsh, has been hired.

David also noted the new businesses in town - Jitterbug Ice CreamCafe, MooMoo Junction, LLC, The Lemonade Bakery and Popcorn Monkey. All have opened since our last meeting.

HMI is also coordinating after hours socials to bring large companies into Old Town to be held at Centerfuse, our small business incubator and shared workspace.

Manassas Museum - Doug Horhorta reported that August will once again the Blue and Grey troops in Manassas. Civil War related historical events and those fought in Manassas will be the highlight of the weekend. Doug handed out a facsimile of an old time newspaper/poster listing all the many events that will take place that weekend. It is scheduled for August 25 - 27th.

Center for the Arts at the Candy Factory - Jordan Exum announced that the popular Summer Sounds Concerts are underway at the Harris Pavilion. Concerts are scheduled for 7/22, 8/5, 8/19 and 9/2 and begin at 6:30 at the Harris Pavilion. A variety of musical genres are on tap for your listening enjoyment.

There will be "Evening of Comedy" at the CFA on Saturday, August 12 at 8 pm. Seating is limited and tickets may be purchased on their website or by calling the CFA.

Summer camps are filling up quickly. Camps are held at the CFA and at Windy Knoll Farm in Nokesville. One of the more unique camps is the "Main Street Makers - City Planning" and geared for children 5 - 10 years old. It will begin on July 31. Registration can be made on the website or by calling the CFA 703-330-2787.

Harris Pavilion - no report

Welcome Center on 66 - Kiley Wonn mentioned that the "Blue and Grey Ladies" are frequent presenters at the Welcome Center and generate a good deal of interest in their period era costumes. Kylie also mentioned that brochures can be placed in the information racks at the center.

Hylton Performing Arts Center - Susan Landis announced that the new Hylton brochures are out and had them available. The upcoming season has an exciting variety of performances. The Prince William Little Theatre will be presenting "Oklahoma".

Discover Prince William - no report

Fire and Rescue - no report

Police Department - Officer Steve Neely mentioned the department's summer camp programs, in particular, "Teen Quest" for at risk teens to hopefully direct them on a more positive path.

There are 71 new officers attending the the Police Academy who will be graduating in April of 2018.

National Night Out is scheduled for August 1 and the community is invited to attend.

Several business owners expressed frustration with petty but annoying situations that have occurred recently: flower boxes have been destroyed by pulling out the contents, scam calls threatening electrical service to be disconnected, and customers temporarily parking on Center Street to unload/load pieces of furniture. Officer Neely addressed each concern and is looking into resolutions.

Manassas City Government -City Manager Pat Pate said there were no shops available to rent in Old Town.

Bennett Whitlock thanked the City for the spectacular 4th of July Fireworks display

Treasurer's Report - Nury Mena presented the report and our actual balance is \$8,747.81.

Program - Monica Boehringer, the Refuse and Recycling Coordinator for the City, discussed the complex issues of refuse collection in a downtown area that is both business and residential. Residents in Old Town who live atop the businesses below have a different need for collection. Service businesses generate less refuse than restaurants who, depending on the volume of their business, might need more frequent pick up of waste. Some businesses have contracted with a private collection services.

The physical layout for our downtown makes it more of a challenge for refuse collection.

Monica presented highlights from the proposed Commercial Solid Waste Management Plan for Historic Downtown Manassas and further thoughts on Manassas becoming 'more green'. We currently recycle at a higher than average rate but the goal is to push recycling upwards to 50% of refuse generated.

Project Recycle Runway aimed at girls and boys ages 9 -13 is scheduled again this year due to increased interest from that age group. It involves re-purposing and re-design of used clothing into fashion statements. The new designs are presented in a judged fashion show.

Civil War recycling is an idea that was developed by members of the Solid Waste Committee who researched the re-use of paper, metals and textiles during the Civil War and presented to the American Civil War Museum in Richmond.

What's New in Your Business:

Chip Rohr asked that anyone wanting to be included in the City 's Christmas Rooftop Lighting Program to contact him. His is the coordinator for this magical transformation of Historic Old Town during the holidays.

Manassas Junction Bed and Breakfast announced that their cottage is now open and that interest in staying in the cottage is high.

Jirani Coffeehouse is partnering with Novant Health Systems to provide continuing education on issues pertaining to parenting at their "Baby Cafe" sessions. Jirani was featured on USA online and as a result, their website is getting hundreds of 'hits' per day from around the world.

Old Town Veterinary Clinic is offering discounted specials for micro chipping your pet and flea and tick collars.

Chip Rohr announced that Chip Rohr's Soccer Camp is in its 39th year of providing day camps for children ages 6 - 13 at Linton Hall School in Bristow.

Michelle Younger of The 1 for HR, LLC announced that she is having a workshop on resume writing at Jirani Coffeehouse on August 7th from 10:12 noon. It is free. Michelle

specializes in human resources for small businesses and helping people entering or re-entering the workforce polish their resumes and interviewing skills.

Jim Boltz of Edward Jones Financial Planning said that he is now responsible for hiring ex government and military personnel to work at his company.

Bedrock Yoga made available 10% discount cards for classes. Summer events include Yoga Bingo and Facebook Summer Vacation Photo Contests. Both event participants can win either a free class or three free classes for the photo with the most 'likes' on Facebook.

The 50/50 drawing raised \$37 and the winning half was donated to OTBA by Elizabeth Bailey of Bedrock Yoga. Proceeds from the 50/50 drawing help to defray the cost of breakfast at our meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 10 am.

Jan Alten
Secretary