

Old Town Business Association

Minutes from our monthly meeting on July 13, 2022

President Joanne Wunderly called the meeting to order at 8:46 am. There were 25 people in attendance.

The City of Manassas was represented by Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger, Council Members Lynn Forkell-Greene and Ralph Smith, City Manager Pat Pate and Economic Director Patrick Small

After introductions were made, Joanne made a few brief remarks. We will not have a meeting in August.

The minutes for our June meeting were approved. Jerry Martin of VetPar made the motion to approve and the minutes were seconded.

Treasurer Nury Mena reported that we currently have \$10,202.54 in our account at Fulton Bank.

Reports

HMI- Melissa Williams said the July 4th Celebrate America was well attended.

The Farmers' Market has no space available and continues to attract crowds.

The next upcoming event is First Friday in August. The theme is "Dog Days of Summer".

Plans are underway for the Bands, Brews and Barbecue event in September.

The Roller Skate Event held at the Harris Pavilion recently generated much interest and twice monthly skating events are planned to be held on the first and third Fridays of the month during non ice-skating months.. There will be skate dancing to DJ provided music. Bring your own skates or rent skates for the evening.

Manassas Museum - The ground breaking ceremony for the Museum renovations will be on Wednesday, July 28 at 7:30 pm.

ARTfactory - Talya Conroy, the new Executive Director of the ARTfactory, shared information about upcoming events. The Roof Top Players will present the play "Sweet Delilah Swim Club performances will be held in the Kellar Theater of the ARTfactory for two weekends.

On August 6th a FUNdraiser "Love to Swing" will be at the ARTfactory on the third floor. A 30 minute Swing Dance lesson will focus on East Coast Swing Dance move like the Jitterbug and the Lindy Hop. Competitive costume contest is at 8:30. A DJ will be spinning big band classics. Early registration is highly recommended.

VETPar - Jerry Martin thanked the businesses, the Mayor and City Council in Old Town for their support of the Banner Program honoring deceased veterans from the area. There were 12 banners throughout Old Town during the month of May and were up though June and part of July.

The program has generated much interest and plans are to increase the numbers of banners and the location footprint of the banners next year.

Jerry introduced Bobby Knight, President of the VFW who made a request for support of the organization.

Manassas Rotary - President Cindi Kaicer introduced herself and shared information about some of the Rotarian involvement in the community.

Manassas Police -As of July 1, the police can now stop and ticket cars with loud exhaust systems. The recent change in the law was changed at the General Assembly after many complaints from various localities across the Commonwealth.

The downtown Police Task Force reception by businesses has been very positive

Manassas City Government - Patty Prince said in celebration of the 150th anniversary of Manassas, the City would like residents to post videos. Topics suggested are: Why you moved to Manassas? How has the City changed since moving here? Tell why you like living in your neighborhood. Information about this can be found on the City's website: visitmanassasva.gov.

Mayor Davis-Younger said that she recently had such with three former mayors and learned a great deal from them. Her new venture is "Midday with the Mayor" where she will be at the Harris Pavilion from 12 to 1 having lunch and available for drop in visits from interested citizens. Bring your lunch and join her or just stop by for a chat.

Patrick Small mentioned the photo contest and that any of the photos on the City's website can be used for marketing.

Councilman Ralph Smith mentioned that "National Night Out" is Tuesday, August 2nd and will be held on Prince William Street.

Featured Speaker - Jim Porter of the Freedom Museum was our speaker this month. The Freedom Museum moved to the Hibbs and Giddings Building on the corner of West and Center Streets a year ago from their location at the Manassas Airport. The move has been a success and the reaction and reception from the community has been positive.

Mr. Porter shared several stories from the visitor reactions that were heartwarming, to include a family seeing a photograph of the great grandfather who fought in the world war....they had never seen a photograph of him before and were moved to tears..

News 4 did a story on the Freedom Museum and featured Pete and Betty Anastasi who were married during the war.

The Museum is solely funded through donations and grants.

There are high school interns who help with model making and repair and doing research on the many items that visitors will bring to the museum for identification.

Hylton Performing Art Center - Tionge Johnson announced that as of August 1st, tickets for the season will go on sale. A new feature at the Hylton is the ticket exchange for subscribers. Details can be found at HyltonCenter.org.

Matinee Idols will return and will now feature lunch.

What's New In Your Business

Chip Rohr urged those in attendance to go to the Freedom Museum.

Chip also said that the 46th Annual Edgar Rohr Auto Show will be held in Old Town the second Saturday in September. This year, because of the Manassas Museum renovations, cars on display will be parked on the streets of Old Town. The show is free and draws a large crowd. Chip asked for help in paying the cost of additional police. The event is their main fundraiser.

The 50/50 yielded \$70 collected and Ralph Smith won the raffle of \$35.

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 am.

There is no OTBA meeting in August

Our Next Meeting will be September 14th

Jan Alten
Secretary