

OTBA Meeting September 14, 2016 at City Tavern Grill

Meeting to introduce candidates for the School Board

The meeting was called to order at 8:34 am by President, Joanne Wunderly. There were 31 members present. City council member Ian Lovejoy, Vice Mayor Jon Way, and Mayor Hal Parrish attended the meeting

July minutes were approved by Ann Hempen and seconded by Lu Harris.

Treasurers' Report - Nury Mena did not attend due to work related travel. Joanne noted that we have about \$9,000 in our treasury and that we are still collecting dues for this year even as we get ready to send out notices for next year. If your business is among the few who have not paid for the current year, **please do so as soon as possible!**

Brief Announcements - Joanne mentioned in her opening remarks that the annual Fall Sidewalk Sale will be held on September 17 and encouraged shops and service businesses to participate. Also on that day will be the 41st Annual Edgar Rohr Memorial Classic and Custom Car Meet on the lawn of the Manassas Museum and the International Food Festival at the Harris Pavilion. The Friday night prior will see the Harris Pavilion featuring a Greek Food Festival.

Other upcoming events are the Fall Jubilee and the Haunted Happening for children.

Historic Manassas (HMI) - Brittany Bowman from HMI elaborated on the many attractions that will be held during the Fall Jubilee on October 1st from 10 to 5. In addition to crafters and vendors, there will be a Dog Show on the Museum lawn, a community stage with music and performances, and a pumpkin pie contest. Pie makers and those who want to be contestants in the pie eating contest should contact Brittany at HMI.

OTBA and HMI are co-sponsoring a Candidates Forum at City Hall on September 28, 5:30 arrival and the forum will begin at 6 pm. There are seven candidates in the race for three seats on City Council, two candidates for Treasurer, and six candidates for four vacancies on the School Board. It will be a busy night!

Restaurant week will be held 9/18 - 9/24 and our many restaurants have specials and special pricing that will make one want to eat out every night!

Currently, HMI is working on the upcoming 13 month blitz at the Welcome Center on Interstate 66. Historic Old Town will be featured for a 'bakers' dozen' months with each month featuring different aspects/attractions of Manassas.

The plan is to have a monthly theme and as an example, April is scheduled to feature the Arts (visual and performing). Suggestions for other months are welcomed.

Manassas Museum - Doug Horhorta mentioned several upcoming events at the museum. In addition to the Antique and Custom Car Meet, the sidewalk sale (September 17), walking tours every Thursday & Friday at noon, Museum at the Market (Saturdays, 9 - 12 at the Farmers' Market), book talk on "The Gettysburg Cyclorama" on September 25 at 1:30 pm, and the current exhibit "Manassas Remembers 9/11."

Doug also mentioned the recent Civil War Weekend's events and particular, noted that the re-inactment of the burning of the supply train was a spectacular blaze.

Center for the Arts at the Candy Factory - Beverly Hess announced that the CFA's auditions are ongoing for two productions, Pied Piper Theater's "Oliver" and the Roof Top Theater's "A Christmas Carol". Opening weekend is Thanksgiving weekend for the Pied Piper Theater.

Beverly also announced a seminar for business professionals on creativity and innovation in the workplace. It will be held in two stand alone sessions at the Center for the Arts and lunch will be provided. Business Professionals are encouraged to call the CFA to sign up.

Beverly's also mentioned that the CFA is working with Prince William Arts Council to create an "Artisan Trail" to feature artisans of all kinds in Prince William, Fauquier and Stafford Counties.

Harris Pavilion - no report but the season continues to be fully booked with events and Anna will be making ice in November for the ice rink season.

Welcome Center on 66 - Kiley Wonn had a quick comment about the Marketing Leverage Grant Program - basically, "free money". Applications for the grant are due by November 30. If you would like your application reviewed, the must be in by November 6th.

Hylton Performing Arts Center - Carol DeVany announced that the Hylton and the Prince William Arts Alliance are hosting another event, Arts Alive - to be held at the Hylton performing Arts center and participants from all of the visual, performing and dramatic arts will be at the Hylton for a full day of entertainment and performances on 9/24.

Discover Prince William - no report

Restaurant Alliance - no report,

Police Department - Officer Steve Neely alerted us to attend the Open House to be held at the Police Department on 9/24 from 12 - 5.

Fire and Rescue - no report

Manassas City Government - Mayor Hal Parrish proudly announced that our Police Department received accreditation at the highest level - the top 1 to 2 % in the nation. Manassas is justifiably proud of our Police Department, even more so in light of the incidents involving Police Departments around the country.

Hal also proudly announced that the construction of the new Baldwin school is on budget, on time and will open shortly.

Manassas recently received a AAA Bond rating for the city.

Candidates for the Manassas City School Board - There are four vacancies for the School Board that will be elected on November 8th. The six candidates for election were invited to speak to our members and answer two questions: Why are you running for

School board and What are your ideas for improvement? Each candidate was allowed ten minutes to answer these two questions. Candidates addressed us in alphabetical order.

Scott Albrecht - incumbent
Kim Jenkins-Bailey
Kristen Keifer - incumbent
Peter O'Hanlon
Suzanne Seaberg - incumbent
Robyn Williams

All candidates were very passionate in their visions for our schools, children and staff. It will be an interesting election!

What's New in Your Business?

Beverly Hess of *The Center for the Arts* announced that the CFA has a program (STEAM) module available to schools at no charge in its Arts on the Go Outreach. The module offers students a hands on approach to learning.

Jim Bolt of *Edward Jones Financial Investments* announced a program, "How to Save for College" to be held at the Jirani Coffee Shop on September 20th at 7 pm.

Ken Mormon of *Jirani Coffee House* announced a night to meet all the candidates in the upcoming local election on October 12 at 7 pm.

Jan Alten, Secretary for OTBA had to leave the meeting at 9:30 and the following information was relayed to her for these minutes.

Shining Sol, a new business in Manassas was introduced.

The 50/50 drawing netted \$65 collected and the winning ticket worth \$32.50 was won by Shavonda Turner and donated back to OTBA. Thank you Shavonda!

Remember!!!

Our next meeting, October 12 will feature the candidates for City Council

The meeting adjourned at 9:58 am.