

Old Town Business Association

Minutes from our monthly meeting on September 14 2022

President Joanne Wunderly called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. There were 25 people in attendance.

The City of Manassas was represented by Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger, Council Members Theresa Coates-Ellis, Lynn Forkell-Greene and Tom Osina,

After introductions were made, Joanne made a few brief remarks. Today's meeting is to introduce the candidates for Manassas City School Board. The election for three seats on the School Board is on November 8. Next month, we will have the candidates for City Council, also to be voted to office on that same date.

The minutes for our July meeting were approved. Joanne Wunderly made the motion and Nury Mena seconded.

Joanne reported that we currently have \$9857.54 in our account at Fulton Bank.

Liz Gossman, the interim Historic Manassas Incorporated (HMI) Director, spoke briefly about the reorganization of HMI. The BoD of HMI met for a retreat on September 13 to discuss the issues facing HMI and its future.

Manassas School Board Candidates

All candidates addressed the challenges and lowering of test scores that were created by the shutdown of in person school attendance during the pandemic.

Sara Brescia

Sara is a mom of two soon to be entering Manassas City Public Schools. Sara is a para legal who has worked in public education with at risk students and is currently of the board of Alpha-Bet Preschool in Manassas. Sara spoke about the need to restore confidence in our schools, to raise the student expectations and bridge the community divides by attracting students from all neighborhoods. Sara also spoke about reviving volunteer and tutoring programs

Samuel Gross

Samuel is Marine Corps Veteran with a PH.D in Mathematics and Cryptology and has two children in the Manassas City Schools. Samuel has over 16 years of experience which includes classroom instruction, curriculum oversight and K - 12 teacher education programs. Samuel spoke about the need to reduce overhead and put more of your tax dollars into the classroom, bringing focus back to competency in core subjects areas, and regular evaluation of financial and academic health of our schools .

Mel Kent

Mel's priorities are: academics - reading, math and literacy are foundational to successes, transparency - parents have a right to know, options - families have benefits when they have options in the city for educating their children to include the creation of Charter Schools.

The following are three incumbent School Board Members up for re-election.

As Manassas City School Board Members, their stated focus is:

We must meet our students where they are,
Diversity is our strength
Student achievement and growth occur when students are engaged
School and student safety are central to a supportive learning environment.

They have seen the results of their efforts in improved student performance and recognize that it takes time to undo the the past.

Alex Iqbal

Alex was appointed to the School Board in January 2022 and is a graduate of Osbourn High School in Manassas and Virginia Tech and is currently an engineer with Micron. Alex is an 18 year resident of Manassas.

Jill Spall

Jill was appointed to the School Board in November 2021. Jill is a volunteer with the Cemetery Committee and Sustainability task Force. Jill is a local business owner, the parent of three Manassas City School graduates and a 28 year Manassas City resident.

Lisa Stevens

Lisa was elected to the School Board in November 2019. Lisa is a special education teacher in the Prince William County school system, has 18 years experience as the SACC Director at All Saints Catholic Church, 22 years volunteering with local youth sports team, is a parent of three Manassas City School graduates and on child currently in Manassas City school and a 28 year resident of Manassas.

Handouts were available from:

Hylton Performing Arts Center current listing of performances for Fall 2022 and the Veterans and the Arts Initiative and workshops.

Whitlock Wealth Management announcing the webinar series of lectures in September that are held on Friday mornings at 10. for more information and to register call 877-WHITLOCK

The Freedom Museum fundraiser Sock Hop on September 24 from 6 - 10 pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Stonewall Road. Tickets are \$65 per person.

The 50/50 yielded \$14 collected and Chip Rohr donated his winnings back to OTBA. Thank you Chip!

The meeting adjourned at 9:31am.

Our Next Meeting will be October 12 th

Jan Alten, Secretary

