

**Old Town Business Association  
General Meeting**

**October 9, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by President, Joanne Wunderly at 8:45 am.

There were 28 people in attendance. City Council Member Michelle Davis-Younger was in attendance.

After introductions were made, Nury Mena gave the Treasurer's Report. As of September 30, we have \$ 10,782.80 in our treasury.

Approval of the September minutes was the next order of business. The minutes are on line. Ann Hempen from Manassas Junction B & B made to motion to approve and Heather Beebe of Olde Towne Veterinary seconded. The motion passed.

Joanne made a few opening remarks:

First Friday was a great day and the weekend was buzzing with 'feet on the street' due to the Annual Fall Jubilee. The perfect weather plus a record number of vendors contributed to the success of the event..

OTBA will purchase an ad in the Veterans' Day Parade program. The Veterans Day Parade will be on November 2 nd.

On December 15 th, Liberia Mansion will be open with the Museum Associates hosting an "informational" event where businesses can have on display objects and information about their business. This is not a 'sales event' but an opportunity to showcase your business and create interest.

**Historic Manassas** - Rebekkah Raze spoke about:

Rebekkah thanked participants in the FallJubilee.

Saturday, Lockheed Martin will be feted on the Museum Lawn in honor of their 50th year in business.

First Friday in November will be the Gallery Walk with a "Sip and Shop" theme. Participating shops and businesses will be open until 9 pm and and art in its many forms will be on display. Balloons outside will designate which businesses are participating.

**Manassas Parks and Recreation - Museum/Harris Pavilion** - Liz Via-Gossman addressed the concerns raised at our last meeting about the removal of the Civil War signs that were in Old town. The City has erected new signs with the new branding logo of the City. The Civil War Trail organization which had originally placed the Civil War signage is now charging for maintenance of the signs state wide.

Chip Rohr voiced an opinion that the Civil War Trail signs were a draw for tourism and asked if some of the signs could be put back.

Liz suggested that if concerned, to study the Downtown Manassas Walking Tour map and if an additional sign is needed, perhaps OTBA could forward that information to her for consideration. The cost per sign is \$200.

Liz said the City is planning ahead for 2023 when Manassas will be 150 years old.

### **Welcome Center on I 66**

Kathleen Riley said that the City has purchased display space at the Welcome Center and all are encouraged to bring brochures and/or information to be placed on display. Kathleen attended the Virginia Tourism Summit.

### **Center for the Arts** - Beverly Hess reported:

Local artist, John Hartt's exhibit "Carnival of the Absurd" will be on display from September 14 through October 14. Prints of John's work are available for \$40.

The upcoming play from Rooftop Productions is the deliciously frightful Mystery Dinner Theater production of "Monster Mash Murders" - on October 25th and 26th at 7 pm. The event will feature a catered dinner by Georgetown Caterers and a cash bar. Attendees are encouraged to dress in their 'monstrous best' for the occasion. Tickets are on sale now.

Rooftop Productions will present "Elf, The Musical" for their holiday performance. Play dates are November 30th through December 15th on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm and on Sundays at 2 pm.

Pied Piper Theater plans for production of 'Alice in Wonderland' the first weekend of November at Metz Middle School. In January, the Pied Piper production of 'The Hunchback of Notre Dame' will be at the Hylton.

The Center has added a Creative Movement class which will be both relaxing and meditative.

### **Hylton Performing Arts Center** -Tionge Johnson mentioned that the Hylton schedule is full.

**Manassas Police** - Captain Tine Laguna said that the feedback from First Friday and the Fall Jubilees has been positive concerning the open carry permit that allows for alcohol to be consumed in a confined area and carried around. The police first priority is safety and security of the public.

If you live in a restricted parking district zone, the parking permit is to be placed on the back driver's side window.

**Manassas City** - .Economic Director Patrick Small reiterated that on the evenings that public consumption of alcohol during the special licensed events are held, that all alcohol must be in clear plastic containers and no glass bottles are permitted.

The City is partnering with HMI to host a 50th Anniversary Party for Lockheed Martin on the Museum lawn on October 12th from 12 - 4 pm. Lockheed Martin is the City's largest employer with 1,100 employees. This is a community event.

Captain Laguna said that our special license with the Virginia Alcohol Board to allow for public consumption during special events is more definitive than in other jurisdictions. The City has 12 special licenses per calendar year.

**Program** -The program for the meeting was to give candidates running for City Council and School Board vacancies an opportunity to introduce themselves to the members of OTBA.

**Lynn Forkell-Greene** - candidate for City Council has been a resident for more than 20 years and has become more involved in with the City for the past four years. Her vision for Manassas includes the City becoming more involved with the community, having more transparency in government and keeping Manassas the “special place” that it is.

**Ralph Smith** - candidate for City Council was recently appointed to fill the vacancy left by Ken Elston. Ralph has lived in the City for 40 years and been active in the community at large in a number of areas. Ralph’s vision includes helping businesses grow and thrive and supports economic initiatives.

**Peter O’Hanlon** - candidate for School Board was appointed to the School Board three years ago to fill a vacancy. Peter has been a resident in Manassas for 35 years and actively involved with the school system for 26 years while his children were in attendance. Peter is a retired Postal Inspector and in his career questioned everything which he plans to do if elected.

**Lisa Stevens** - candidate for School Board is a 25 year resident of Manassas and a Special Education Teacher. Lisa has been knocking on doors and engaging with residents about concerns regarding our schools. Lisa believes that smaller informal sessions with the community will encourage more honest dialogue about concerns and needs for the school community.

### **What’s New?**

Chip Rohr mentioned that Edward Jones is sponsoring the Alzheimer’s Walk on Saturday, October 19th and to donate or interested in forming/joining a team can contact Edward Jones office.

Chip also mentioned that the Annual Bull Run Edgar Rohr Car Show held on the Museum lawn in September was very successful.

Heather Beebe commented on the layout of the Fall Jubilee and how well organized it was.

Jackson Miller mentioned that Crossroads Realty has moved from Center Street to Lee Avenue. The building on Center Street is for rent.

The LOVE sign at Manassas Airport is made from old airplane parts.

There was a 50/50 raffle today and Michelle Davis-Younger of 1For Hire won \$23.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 am.

**Our next meeting is November 13 th**

Jan Alten  
Secretary