

Old Town Business Association

Minutes from Regular Meeting on March 8 2023

President Joanne Wunderly called the meeting to order at 8:40 am. There were 24 people in attendance.

The City of Manassas was represented by Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger and City Manager Pat Pate.

After introductions were made, Joanne made a few brief remarks.

The minutes for our Annual Breakfast meeting were approved. Kristin Perper made the motion and Anne Hempen seconded.

Treasurer Nury Mena reported that we currently have \$9,119.14 in our account at Fulton Bank. as of February 28th. The Christmas light bill was paid and membership dues came in. with an outstanding check for the Christmas lights of \$2,060.

Historic Manassas - Laurel Howard, the new Executive Director was introduced as well as Herbert Zepeda as the new Communications and Promotions Director. Both new hires have extensive experience and are highly qualified for the positions.

The First Friday in April will kick off the popular “Hop Around Old Town” promotion held each year to encourage cross promotion of businesses Old Town.

ARTfactory - No report

Manassas Museum - Danae Lewis said the Osbourn High School Art Exhibit is currently at Jirani Coffee House and will close on April 3rd.

The Harris Pavilion ice skating season has ended.. The Winter Market each Saturday at the commuter parking lot on Prince William street is going well. The schedule for summer concerts is one with a variety of musical genres.

March 18th at 11 am a Family Workshop “Look, Learn and Create” will be held at the Public Works Conference Room at 8500 Public Works Drive. The cost is \$10 per adult and \$5 per child. The program is recommended for families with children ages 7 - 12.

A schedule for the various clean up events at our parks was available. Individual volunteers as well as group civic projects are encouraged to volunteer. For more information contact cfox@manassasva.gov.

The Bee Festival will be held at Liberia of June 24th.

Hylton Performing Arts Center - Tionge Johnson handed out flyers of upcoming events at the Hylton. Dervish, an internationally known traditional Irish music group will be performing on March 18th.

Manassas Police - Officer Tara Petty mentioned there was nothing to report.

Featured Speakers: Mayor Michelle DavisYounger talked about the plans for the 150th Anniversary of Manassas’ founding (1873 -2023) to be held at the Jeannie Dean Park on April

1st. There will be shuttle bus service from Old Town to the many events that are scheduled for that day.

The all day birthday party will feature a number of musical performances, numerous activities for children, a film to be shown at the Boys' and Girls' Club, food trucks, fireworks and the time capsule will be buried. For a full listing of scheduled events go to "Manassas 150th Anniversary".

Walking tours of Manassas will feature QR codes in the windows of historic buildings so that interested people can pull up the history of the buildings.

City Manager Pat Pate fielded questions from those in attendance. Questions about the future of the Olde Towne Inn property (the City is gathering suggestions from the public and no final decisions have been made), and the fate of the Police station on Fairview Avenue (will remain a public building once the police fully move to their new Public Safety Building on South Grant Avenue).

Mr Pate also spoke about the overall satisfaction rate of Manassas residents from a recent survey. The highest rating was for Public Safety.

Since our meeting was a week before Valentine's Day, the activity was to write thoughts about "What You Love about Manassas" on hearts on each table. The majority of hearts expressed the sense of community that is evident in Manassas. All very positive remarks!

What's New:

Daron from Shining Soul will be opening a new retail store on Center Street that will be more of 'General Store' featuring a wide assortment of items both edible and not.

John Hartt will soon be installing a number of outdoor creatures created from his wild artistic imagination at the Harris Pavilion. They will be on display through August.

The door prize drawing donated by Creative Brush Studio was won by Virginia Martinez.

The 50/50 raffle generated \$40 and John Hartt won the drawing and won \$20.

The meeting adjourned at 9:32

Our Next Meeting will be March 8 th

Jan Alten, Secretary