

## Old Town Business Association

Minutes from our regular meeting March 13, 2024

President Joanne Wunderly called the meeting to order at 8:53 am. There were 15 people in attendance. The City of Manassas was represented by Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger.

After introductions were made the minutes from our February meeting were approved. A motion to approve was made by Ann Hempen and seconded by Jerry Martin.

Joanne began the meeting by announcing that invoices have gone out and dues are now due. Joanne also mentioned that she has met with two restauranteurs who are interested in becoming more involved. Plans are a foot for a social to be held in April.

Joanne presented the Treasurer's report. Currently we have \$6,592.31 in our Fulton Bank account as of March 8, 2024. Expenditures were for the January Winter Breakfast and the Christmas Light bill from the City. We still have outstanding expenditures to be paid once the invoices arrive which will be offset by dues being paid.

**Historic Manassas** - The Farmers' Market Coordinator, Gemma Henriques Mora was introduced. The markets will resume in April. The Thursday market opens April 11 and the Saturday market will open April 13.

Jheanel Butler, Vendor and Event Coordinator, spoke about HMI continuing to work with the Main Street program in an effort to attract more visitors to Old Town.

**Manassas Museum/Harris Pavilion** - Several programs suited for a variety of ages and interests are being offered at the museum:

“Things That Go:” toddler story time suitable for ages 18 to 36 months. No reservation is required but attendance is limited.

Saturday March 16 at noon is a Gallery Talk which explores new exhibits.

A book talk with State Senator and author Danica Roem. on March 30th at 2 pm.

Prince William/Manassas History Symposium on Saturday March 23 from 8 am to 4:30 pm which explores the many facets of County history through a wide variety of lectures.

**Hylton Performing Arts Center** - Tionge Johnson announced that GRAMMY Award winning artist Eileen Evers and the Raw Roots Tour will be the featured artists on Sunday, March 17 at 4 pm.

Also at the Hylton in the Mae Merchant Hall will be Artistic Expressions in its 11th year featuring art from the talented students at Osborn High School.

**Manassas Police** - Captain Tara Petty said that there are six recruits soon to complete training.

**City of Manassas** - Mayor Davis-Younger said that candidates for the position of City Manager has been narrowed to four. Mayor Davis-Younger touched on several projects in the City: The Olde Towne Inn redevelopment thoughts continue to lean toward a hotel with retail or restaurants on the first level and much needed conference room(s) for large meetings. The Mayor also spoke about the redevelopment on South Grant Avenue which is being developed by Van Metre Homes for additional housing and finally, the announcement that the Manassas Shopping Center is to be purchased and redeveloped as part of the Gateway Entrance into Old Town.

**What's New:**

Jerry Martin of VETPar presented a banner featuring Sgt. John Conner, a Manassas Policeman who was killed while responding to a report of a man firing an AR15 rifle. Sgt. Conner was a military veteran and his banner, along with others, will fly on Memorial Day. Jerry presented the banner to Captain Tara Petty as a gift to the Police Department and to community.

Daron Blevins of Black Metal Mercantile said that the building next to his shop will become a gelato shop.

The 50/50 door prize was won by Patricia Kouttab of Kerbobble Toys and she donated her winnings back to OTBA. Thank You Patricia!

The meeting adjourned at 9:24 am.

**Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 10th.**

Jan Alten Secretary