

Old Town Business Association

Minutes from our monthly meeting on April 13, 2022

President Joanne Wunderly called the meeting to order at 8:38 am. There were 22 people in attendance.

The City of Manassas was represented by Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger, Council members Tom Osina, Lynn Forkell Greene, Ralph Smith, City Manager Pat Pate, Economic Development Director Patrick Small, and City Treasurer Patricia Ritchie-Folks.

After introductions were made, Joanne made a few brief remarks. *The Guides To Shops, Services & Parking* are now printed and ready for distribution. A lot of volunteer time has gone into making the guide the most up to date and correct. When the Guides are reprinted, only the members of OTBA will be included.

Joanne commented on the success of First Friday, the Peeps on Parade contests and that Hop Around Old Town is going well.

Treasurer Nury Mena reported that we currently have \$11,081.60 in our account at Fulton Bank. Debits totaled \$403. for insurance and web hosting, We received \$2,250. in membership dues, Christmas lights reimbursements and proceeds from the 50/50 raffle held at every breakfast.

The minutes for our March meeting were approved. Debbie Haight made the motion to approve and Bennett Whitlock seconded.

Reports

HMI- Debbie Haight reported that there have been more than 1,000 votes in the Peeps on Parade Contest which has generated more traffic than the annual Gingerbread Contest.

For the May 6th First Friday people are encouraged to send in videos of them wearing hats..

On June 4th, the 27th Annual Railway Festival will be held from 10am to 3 pm. Admission is free, train ride tickets are \$11 and are now available.

Saturday, June 18th from 4 to 9 pm is the 17th Jazz Festival at the Harris Pavilion. There is General Admission for \$35. and VIP admission for \$90.

Debbie also introduced David Martin who is the President of the HMI Board of Directors.

The Farmers Markets will begin again in April. The Thursday market is at the Harris Pavilion and the Saturday market is at the Commuter Car Park on Prince William Street.

ARTfactory - Candace Penders had multiple flyers to hand out and announcements of upcoming happenings at the ARTfactory.

ARTstars Art Classes for ages 7 - 11 Start April 16 and continue for three weekends from 3 to 5 pm.

“The Other Side of the Coin” is the exhibit in the Gallery at the ARTfactory by Lukman Ahmad. The exhibit runs from March 24 - April 30 and a closing Artist Reception is on April 23 from 6 to 8 pm. At the reception there will be a live painting demonstration and light refreshments.

ARTfactory Sunday Dance begins May 22nd from 3:30 to 6 pm. There will be a Rumba lesson at 3:30 with open dance from 4 to 6 pm. Admission is \$30 per couple in advance or \$20. per person at the door.

Rooftop Productions presents "The Odd Couple" by Neil Simon in the Kellar Family Theater on the third floor of the ARTfactory. The play will run on Fridays and Saturdays (April 22,23,29 & 30th) at 7:30 pm and on Sundays (April 24 & May 1) at 3 pm. Tickets can be purchased either on line or by calling the ARTfactory.

The Pied Piper Theatre's production of Roald Dahl's "Matilda the Musical" will be at the Hylton on May 28 (2 and 7 pm) and May 29 at 3 pm.

Hylton Performing Art Center - Tionge Johnson said that Matinee Idylls will feature John Bullard and Markus Compton in concert on Tuesday, May 3. Lunch is available at 12:30.

April 19 the new season will be announced. This event is an opportunity for Friends of the Hylton to see and purchase tickets in advance of sales being open to the public.

VETPar - Jerry Martin said that the banners honoring Manassas Veterans will be put up the middle of May. There are 12 banners honoring our local veterans' service.

Manassas Police -Captain Tara Petty said that six officers will focus on Old Town and the events that are held.

Jerry Martin suggested that the Officer of the Year be invited to attend the OTBA meeting.

Manassas City Government - Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger said that budget planning sessions are open to the public on Wednesday at 5:30 pm.

Other events scheduled in the future area Corn hole contest between City Council and the School Board and "Mayor on the Move".

Lisa Otten said that in celebration of the 150th anniversary of Manassas, the City would like residents to post videos on why you moved to Manassas, how has the City changed since moving here, and tell why you like living in your neighborhood. Information about this can be found on the City's website: visitmanassasva.gov.

Featured Speaker -Rachel Goldberg from the Museum spoke about the approved design for the renovation of the museum. The new gallery space can accommodate 100 seats for a banquet/fundraising event. There will be intergenerational family rooms. The Museum Gift Shop will be much larger. The current gallery spaces will be gutted and re-vamped. During renovations, the lawn in front of the Museum will be accessible.

The actual Museum is currently closed for renovations. The Museum gift shop, "Echoes" has temporarily moved to the train depot.

A schedule for 2022 at the Harris Pavilion listing concerts to be held was given out. The following events were noted:

Acoustic Tuesday Concerts from May 17 through September 6 at 7 pm.

Saturday Night Concerts series at 7 pm - June25, July 16, July 30 and October 8th.

Sunday Funday Concerts at 3 pm from May 29 through September 4th.

Summersounds Concert Series presented by the ARTfactory are July 9 & 23, August 13 & 20, and September 3. All Summersounds concerts begin at 6:30 pm.

Spring Programs for 2022 are:

Liberia Basement to Attic Tours from 2 to 3 pm. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$5 for children under the age of 16. The remaining tour is May 21st.

Museum at the Market is the third Thursday of every month from 9 to 1 pm at the Farmers' Market at the Harris pavilion. This is a free event.

History Hikes are scheduled for April 24, May 22 and June 26 from 2 to 3 pm. Adults are \$10, children under 16, \$5. Connect with nature while learning about the rich history of Manassas.

Stories of Preservation and Progress. This is an ongoing speaker series showcasing local and regional history. The next one is May 15 at 2 pm. This is a free event.

A question was asked about the bricks that are in the wall (to be torn down) and the bricks that were purchased by Friends of the Museum. There was no definitive answer at this time.

What's New In Your Business

Virginia Martinez gave out instructions on how to advertise on Google Maps.

Nury Mena reported that Fulton Bank is offering Home Equity loans at a low interest rate.

Chip Rohr asked about the Civil War Trails signs that used to be up at several sites in the City and whether they are still up or will be replaced. Many are.

City Hall offices are temporarily at the old DMV building on Godwin Drive.

Patricia Ritchie-Folks said that the Treasurers of Fairfax, Falls Church and Arlington would be coming to Manassas next week.

The 50/50 collected \$38 and Jerry Martin won \$19.

Our Next Meeting will be May 11th.

Jan Alten
Secretary