

## Old Town Business Association

Minutes from Regular Meeting on July 12, 2023

President Joanne Wunderly called the meeting to order at 8:45 am. There were 17 people in attendance.

The City of Manassas was represented by Council Members Tom Osina, Mark Wolfe, Economic Development Director Patrick Small and Patty Prince..

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

Treasurer's Report was made by Joanne. We have \$9,104. in our Fulton Bank account.

The recent First Friday was well attended as was the 4th of July Fireworks. The crowd viewing the fireworks was estimated to be 30,000.

Joanne asked for a volunteer for the 50/50 drawing that is held each meeting to help defray the cost of the buffet breakfast that everyone seems to enjoy .

We will not have a meeting in August. Our next meeting will be the second Wednesday in September - the 13th.

**Historic Manassas** -Kristen Kiefer, the interim acting Executive Director introduced newly hired Events Coordinator Jheanel Butler. Kristen asked for ideas to improve the annual Fall Jubilee Event held the first Saturday in October. This event draws thousands of visitors and residents into Old Town and is in need of a new look.

The First Friday in August will be the ever popular "Dog Days of Summer."

**Manassas Museum** - Rachel Goldberg announced that July 15 is Parks and recreation Day and there will be self guided tour and scavenger hunt at Winterset Park. The event is from 10 to 1:30.

The Manassas Museum will re-open by invitation (with the exception of the Main Gallery) on July 28 from 6 - 7 pm. It will re-open to the public on July 29. Hours will be daily from 10 - 5 and on Sundays 12 - 5.

The music series continues at the Harris Pavilion. This Saturday, the Silver Tones, a swing band, will be the featured artists.

A traveling exhibit is on line and can be seen at the Central Library.

**Hylton Performing Arts Center** - Tionge Johnson handed out flyers to announce group discount pricing for Hylton presented performances. Savings are substantial and seats can be reserved prior to seats goin on sale August 1st.

**City of Manassas** - Patrick Small mentioned that the City is re-printing the Business Guide and their will be a QR code which will access all businesses located in the City.

Patty Prince said that 10 small trains have been 'hidden' around the City in a program called "Trains off the Tracks".

Patty also mentioned that notices will be sent to residents to check your pipes for the presence of lead in the water. She assured that there is no need for alarm that the water supply is tested routinely and that the notice is a precautionary measure.

Council Member Tom Osina said that the recent public meetings to give the public an opportunity to voice concerns and ideas for the Old Town Inn property are being studied by City Council. No decision has been made regarding the future of the property.

Also for consideration before Council is the proposed development of the airport. Council meets the 2nd and 4th Monday and a work session on the 3rd Monday of each month.

**Featured Speaker:** Council Member Mark Wolfe was our featured speaker this month. Mark said that potential pieces of property around the Old Town Inn are also under consideration but was not at liberty to discuss any details.. The key factor in deciding what is to be built there is economic viability as it is an integral part of the community. No tax dollars were used to purchase the property.

The discussion then evolved into a litany of complaints and concerns by business owners and building owners about the noise from mufflers, speeding, and red light runners on Center Street.

#### **What's New:**

Chip Rohr handed out flyers for the 47th Annual Edgar Rohr Memorial Car meet on September 16th. The popular event will have a new 'home' this year. It will be held at the Manassas Lodge 182 on Cockrell Road. Registration is at 8 am to 11 am with the show running from 11 am to 3 pm and will be held rain or shine.

Chip also mentioned that old photos of current buildings and their former uses will be available as posters to be placed in windows. The project is to give a 'passive history lesson' of Manassas.

Chip also suggested that Eric Godwin (who is a learning specialist at Osborn High School) is willing to recruit student interns to work in local businesses, thus giving them an opportunity to gain job experience which is necessary when applying for a first time job. The interns could also visit businesses to make a presentation of the benefits of membership in OTBA.

Mark Wolfe noted that Manassas is a very different community from what it was thirty years ago and cited the upcoming ribbon cutting at Rapid Flight and the proposed airport expansion as examples.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 am.

**Our next meeting is Wednesday September 13th.**

**Stay Cool!**

Jan Alten  
Secretary