

OTBA General Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2010

8:15 am – 8:30 am Coffee and Social
8:30 am Continental breakfast available
8:37 am Meeting called to order by Joanne

Self introductions of those in attendance and members – 33 attendees

President Joanne Wunderly:

- When the weather begins to improve we would like to start the “Friday After 5”. Looking for suggestions for free or inexpensive entertainment.
- We won an award for Battle Street Project. Presentation of award to take place in Fairfax.
- CTA training on January 24th was a large turn out.
- Suggestion boxes at each table for comments and suggestions for all meetings:
 - Comments from last meeting included:
 - Signs for parking areas throughout downtown
 - Longer operating hours for shops
 - Keep the monthly meetings at La Capilla
- Mayfield School had the roof collapse due to snow. Students are displaced and school is taking donation for supplies.
- Thanks to Lu Harris and Marie Balboni for making OTBA meeting reminder calls.

Treasurer’s Report – Jan Alten:

- BB&T account as of January 31, 2010 is \$6,788.44
- Fulton account as of January 31, 2010 is \$1,400.00
- Account totals \$8,188.44
- Jan is still waiting on reimbursement for the Christmas Lights
- Dues must be paid (\$100) to be in the Guide to Shops and Services

Minutes from the last meeting approved

Mary Reilly is in charge of the Guide to Shops and Services. All changes and submissions must be emailed to her before printing. Only major changes please.

HMI report:

- March 19th is the Team Manassas Meeting. They will be working on the rollout of the new community calendar. North Side Auto Sales is the sponsor for the calendar.
- Early November, Manassas will be the site of the Army of Northern Virginia Civil War Convention and re-enactment.
- Debbie is now the acting Executive Director of HMI

- April 17th is the Spring Cleaning Event
- Last Thursday in April through November will be the Farmer's Market
- Changed the visitor center to display area businesses
- New ideas are the addition of another Wine and Jazz Festival, Art Festival and September Fest.

Article was in Women's Day a while back about Old Town Manassas. Looking for anyone who might have read or seen the article.

Creston suggested the shops staying open later may help get more business as long as all the shops are open longer.

Creston also recommended the city turn the unloading spots outside of Carmello's into 2 hour parking spots – Both Carmello's and Okra's said they don't use it for delivery. Major Parrish agrees. Lou Balboni will take this to the sign committee for discussion.

OTBA members also requested Lou take complaints on behalf of the OTBA businesses and customers to the parking committee. The current 2 hour parking limit does not allow time for customers to attend a class and eat, shop and eat, etc.... Lou requested members email him with stories so he can share them at the meeting. He will report back at the next OTBA meeting.

- Marsha at Yoga Connection said she has heard her clients say they won't stay in Manassas to grab lunch after their class because they have gotten tickets for being parked over 2 hours.
- Chip Rohr said the history of the parking restrictions is because business owners were taking spots up front. He feels we need to have a representative at council meetings to bring this to their attention.

Creston says HMI and OTBA will be working together more this year to get more business into Old Town Manassas.

Manassas Museum report:

- Have cook books and farm tours going on

Center for the Arts report:

- No one was present to provide a report

Chamber of Commerce report:

- Young Professionals Meeting this evening (Feb 17)
- Tuesday, September 23, 2010 is the Fulton Brown Bag Seminar. Lee Mills from the IRS will be discussing taxes for business owners

Harris Pavilion report:

- Ice skating may be extended due to colder weather
- Added several bookings for the Spring and Summer schedule for this year

Michele Frantz, Manassas Art Guild, announced a contest for unusual snow pictures.

Kathleen Reily, Virginia Welcome Center, discussed Travel Riders on May 18-23, 2010, spring break campaign and the Rest Area reopening.

Creston said the Secretary of Commerce wants to come to Manassas.

Prince William Chapter of the American Red Cross, Karen Wayne, provided some updated information on Haiti. Said they are servicing 1,600 people a day at clinics, cell phones have been donated, 250,000 have received shots and education and there is a 3 to 4 year need for the country at this time to receive aid and support.

Susan Sandler, Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area talked about the Memorial Walk on May 29, 2010 at the Harris Pavilion.

Barry Roberts, Take 2 Productions, was unable to make it to the meeting as our marketing guest speaker due to car trouble. He would like to attend in April.

March we hope to have John Grzejka, Commissioner of Revenue join us.

Recommended that you go to www.visitmanassas.org to post your upcoming events on the community calendar.

Jorge and Mildred, La Capilla, are hosting a fundraiser on February 24, 2010.

Next meeting is March 10, 2010