

OTBA General Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2010

8:15 am – 8:30 am Coffee and Social
8:30 am Continental breakfast available
8:35 am Meeting called to order by Joanne

Self introductions of those in attendance and members – 32 attendees

Minutes from February 17, 2010 meeting read and approved

HMI report from Creston:

- Summary of events in the near future presented
- 2nd Thursday in May the Travel Writers are coming to Old Town

Article was brought in from Women's Day which covered Old Town Manassas.

Manassas Museum report:

- Andy T. will be present. Wrote a book about Robert E. Lee

Center for the Arts report by Marci Settle:

- Saturday Night Fever Fundraiser this Saturday (March 13, 2010) cost is \$90
- Preparing for summer camps

Chamber of Commerce report:

- Polar Bear Golf Scramble on the 24th. Main Fundraiser
- **Chris Johnson to put in flyers for**
- Brown Bag on Managing Change

Manassas Police report:

- Continue their traffic and speed monitoring
- Will put pedestrian signs back up now that the snow is gone and plowing has stopped

Harris Pavilion report:

- Ice skating closed March 7, 2010
- Busy Spring and Summer schedule

Manassas Art Guild report by Michele Frantz:

- Paint Manassas will be in the fall

Open Comments:

- Lou Balboni said the parking and sign committee will meet on March 24, 2010. Please email all concerns and issues to him prior to the meeting to be presented.
- Mayor Parrish reminded everyone about the Farmer's Market starting again soon

- Creston said the Governor will be coming to Manassas to talk about tourism
- Heather Pesch, March of Dimes, discussed the March for Babies walk on April 18th at the Harris Pavilion. Money raised comes back to the local area. A Mom's and Babies Bus service is offered to ensure babies and moms stay healthy.

Special Reports:

- John Grzejka, City of Manassas, spoke about 4th qtr revenue numbers. Appears retail is up but restaurants are down. Residential properties are up but commercial is down.

Guest Speaker:

- Jean Kellogg and Maya Cholpin, Hylton Performing Arts Center, talked about the new center opening in May 2010. Grand Opening May 21-23 2010. Located on the George Mason Campus.
 - Hope to send customers to Manassas for the food and shops
 - Center does have catering available
 - Their desire is to work with OTBA and HMI to promote the center and the area Old Town Businesses
 - Many membership, subscription and benefits for businesses
 - New access road will be going directly to the Hylton PAC
 - Joanne suggested discounts given by Old Town Businesses for those coming from the center
 - Creston mentioned gift cards be offered to guests of the center to be used in Old Town to draw people in

President Joanne Wunderly:

- April 14, 2010 meeting guest speaker will be Barry Roberts, Take 2 Productions. He will offer marketing suggestions and ideas.
- Debbie at HMI is working on entertainment for Friday After 5
- Street sweeping has been cut. Businesses will need to clean up around their own streets and buildings
- Encourage everyone to put out plants and other things for the spring to make Old Town more appealing
- Volunteer sign up sheet available
- Suggestion boxes at each table for comments and suggestions for all meetings:
 - Comments from last meeting included:
 - Free Parking sign on garage at least for events

Mary Reilly said the Spring Gallery Walk is in the works and planned for May 7, 2010. Joanne thinks this might be a good time to kick off the first Friday at 5.

50/50 Raffle – Creston is the winner and donated back the proceeds to OTBA

Big Sky is moving out and Lucky Dog Grooming is moving in to Old Town. Hope to get them to join OTBA.

BB&T is still accepting donations for Mayfield School.