

Old Town Business Association

Minutes from Regular Meeting on September 13, 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 Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger, City Manager Pat Pate, Economic Development Director Patrick Small and Patty Prince.

Prior to the start of the regular meeting, Rob Rose representing the first annual CornHole Tournament sponsored by the Manassas Rotary Club to be held at the Harris Pavilion on October 15th. The tournament benefits the charity Semper K9 Assistance Dogs for Veterans. Rob encouraged those present to form teams to compete. There are several categories:

Kids Games - 12 - 1 pm Entry fee is \$10 per person

Adult Social - 1 - 4pm Entry fee is \$20 per person

Competitive - 4 - 7pm Entry fee is \$20 per person

The Social tournament will have over \$1000 in prizes/giveaways and the Competitive tournament will have over \$1500 in cash payouts.

The minutes for the July meeting were approved. Deron Blevins made the motion to approve and Ann Hempen seconded.

Treasurer's Report was made by Nury Mena. We have \$8,738.85. in our Fulton Bank account as of August 30th.

Joanne asked for volunteers for the 50/50 raffle held at each meeting. The proceeds help to defray the cost of the breakfast. Many winners donate their winning money back to OTBA.

Historic Manassas -Kristen Kiefer, the interim acting Executive Director stated that the mission HMI is to "refine and define their focus". In the past HMI was known for creating and having many events throughout the year. A change in leadership has eliminated many events to focus on a few.

The First Friday in October will theme will be Breast Cancer Awareness. The Fall Jubilee remains an event and will be held the first Saturday in October.

HMI will continue to host the Haunted Happenings event in late October. Volunteers are needed to help at the Visitor Center.

Manassas Museum -no report

Hylton Performing Arts Center - Tionge Johnson handed out the Fall season Calendar. The Hylton Fall performance schedule is literally packed with various offerings for your entertainment. The Fall Season opens with a performance by Voctave, an a cappella ensemble featuring Broadway musicals, Disney films and jazz standards.

Not only does the Hylton feature well known artists in music and theater in their Hylton Presents Series, local Arts Partners perform at the Hylton and include dance, symphonic, chorale and theater performances.

Manassas Police-Officer Tara Petty answered some of the questions asked at the last meeting and another officer handed out very informative sheets detailing various traffic offenses.

The period from June 1 to September 1 saw 524 citations issued in Old Town. The majority of offenses were for speeding and for holding a cell phone . Other notable citations were for vehicle inspection and license violations.

Featured Speaker: Economic Director Patrick Small gave an informative talk on a variety of subjects. He emphasized HMI's role in promoting the City and its focus to be voice of the business community in Old town.

The Battle Street redeveloped property between Center Street and the railroad is ready for tenants. The retail spaces can be configured to suit.

The Farmers' Market has been an incubator venue for many small businesses.

The grand reopening of Flowers With Passion was a huge success. The florist moved to the retail space in Messenger Place.

The Olde Towne Inn site is slated for demolition and salvage work will begin soon. There has been interest to redevelop the property. The suggestions from interested citizens at various meetings to solicit ideas

include a hotel, retail space on the first floor, and no surface parking. The block is at the center of Old Town.

South Grant Avenue will soon resemble the northern section with a median strip and trees. The improved section will add greatly to the footprint of Manassas as will the redevelopment of Holmes Heights when townhomes and single family homes replace the current housing there.

What's New:

City Manager Pat Pate praised the event space at the newly renovated Manassas Museum. The Museum will officially reopen on November 3rd. with new exhibits.

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 and the Manasseh 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.

The 50/50 yield was \$34 and Marc Hempen was the winner of \$17.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 am.

Our next meeting is Wednesday October 10th.

Jan Alten Secretary