



**Peekskill Business Improvement District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Hudson Valley Gateway
Chamber of Commerce Conference Room
Tuesday, February 7, 2017**

Present: Louie Lanza, Sunny Cover, Kathy Talbot, Frank Pugliese, Deb Milone, Roya Zarrehparvar, Gabriel Arango, Monica Flaherty, Jim Pinto, Anne Scaglione, Giovanni Stiefelmann, BID members, Arne Paglia, Brendan Fitzgerald, Brian Fassett. John Sharp, Executive Director Bill Powers, Peekskill Farmers Market Manager Corinna Makris.

Meeting Called to order at 6:10

December Minutes

Ms. Scaglione and Ms. Flaherty were absent from December meeting and abstained, all remaining in favor.

January Minutes

Correction was made to minutes, changing 2016 to 2017 in shuttle report.

Mr. Pugliese, Mr. Pinto, Ms. Cover and Ms. Zarrehparvar were absent.

Motion to accept by Ms. Milone and seconded by Ms. Talbot, all remaining in favor.

Farmers Market Update -Corinna Makris

- Ms. Makris and Mr. Powers, based on vendor feedback, and financial review that it is not in the interest of the BID to do a Winter Market.
- Ms. Makris noted Summer market was very good with improved sales and positive market-goer feedback.
- Total of 25 Vendors, only 17-18 at a time
- Working with non-profit groups, hope to have one in the market every weekend
- Green Mountain Energy has signed up as a sponsor, at \$150.00/visit; they noted that they have had the best sales from Peekskill Farmers Market.
- Ms. Makris proposed to bring in food trucks @ \$100.00/Weekend. Mr. Pugliese felt strongly that the Peekskill business should have first choice. Board expressed concerns that if allowed in the food trucks will follow all health and food safety guidelines. Ms. Makris agreed. Trucks must be in keeping with Farmers Market idea of fresh, locally sourced prepared foods or organic, natural, good quality.

- Would like to raise fee by \$5-10 for market Vendors, which is currently \$40, agreed on going to \$50.
- Mr. Powers asked Ms. Makris to share her additional training and certification in Farmers Markets. Ms. Makris received farmers market certification from a two year NYS-run program.

Executive Director Bill Powers

- Since Dramatic Hall could not accommodate the annual BID meeting, Mr. Paglia offered his place and the Board accepted.
- Board appointed Ms. Talbot, Mr. Pugliese and Ms. Zarrehparvar to oversee elections on February 23rd at the Division Street Grill.
- Motioned to accept first by Monica Flaherty and seconded by Louie Lanza
- Persons running for BID board: Brendon Fitzgerald, Sean Kearney, John Sharp are running for three property owner seats; Jeorjia Shea and Sylvio Mendia are running for the tenant representative seat.

Promote Peekskill

- Mr. Powers plans on having a BID/City of Peekskill booth at the upcoming Business Council of Westchester EXPO. Mr. Powers will send an eblast out asking BID businesses if they would like to provide printed materials that can be distributed at the booth. By being a member of the chamber, the BID gets the member discount for booth space.
- Ms. Milone would like BID to try cable T.V. advertising; John Sharp stated he was against it saying millennials don't watch News 12.

Trash

- Stash The Trash initiative goes out soon with posters in English and Spanish.
- City Manager Leins would like to move receptacles where the business have cameras, to catch offenders.
- Mr. Paglia suggested that tenants should be educated about trash laws.
- Mr. Sharp says there is a lot of trash in city owned lots.
- Mr, Powers said a proposal has been sent to Westchester County to get KEON back on board.
- Trash will be picked up on the next holiday day.

Trees

- Former Mary Foster will be spearheading council of 9 to inventory trees in Peekskill.
- It's a \$50,000.00 grant to count the trees categories the species and see where they need to add more trees.
- The BID wrote a letter supporting the grant.

Entergy Closure:

- Mr. Powers updated the Board on the Entergy meeting with elected officials.
- Businesses and non-profits will lose between 10-30% of their annual support which comes from Entergy.
- Peekskill is not going to be effected as much by the closure but will feel ripple effects.
- Mr. Powers stated that Peekskill will have to focus on tourism, cannot wait for state to help; city/BID must be proactive.
- Mr. Pinto agreed and stated that we have to develop other incentives.

Old/New Business:

- Ms. Flaherty complained about the state of the new meters, some are not working; tenants get tickets and are told to go to court to fight it. Ms. Scaglione acknowledged that the City is aware of the problem.
- Ms. Milone thanked everyone, noting it was good serving on the BID Board, and promised to stay involved.
- Mr. Lanza asked if the board could invite Father Higgins to hear his position on the plans to pursue a charter school at Assumption again. Mr. Powers said he would invite Father Higgins to a BID meeting. Ms. Talbot suggested their proposal should be looked at, and ask is this good for Peekskill? Some board members pointed out that the last time this issue came up, it was defeated and further noted that it is a sensitive and potentially divisive issue.
- Ms. Cover stated that she felt the Peekskill Flea Market needs to be revamped; Mr. Sharp would like to see it stepped up into a real antique and collectibles market. Ms. Flaherty felt that the flea market serves a purpose for the local population. Mr. Powers inquired about any paperwork, contract or letters of how the current arrangement came about with the Flea Market Manager. Mr. Lanza said that the flea market vendors should collect tax.

Meeting to adjourn 7:30

Motion to accept first by Ms. Cover and seconded by Mr. Pugliese, all in favor.