



Peekskill Business Improvement District
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 9, 2019 @ 6pm
Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce

Call meeting to order: Meeting called to order by President Brian Fassett at 6:07pm.

Present: Brian Fassett, Frank Pugliese, Brendon Fitzgerald, Ann Scaglione, David Kaminsky, Monique Michaels, Jim Pinto, Lafern Joseph, Ivy Fairchild. Executive Director Bill Powers.

Absent: Larry D'Amico. Councilwoman Agudelo arrived later in the meeting.

BID Members present: Michael Safe Baker, Nancy Warham-Gordon, Susan Sheridan, Evelyn Lee, Barbara Connie, Brian Conigliaro, Amy Upton, Carol Bash, Connor Green, Mary Foster, Scarlett Antonio, Eileen Sullivan.

BID Member Public Comment: Pres. Fassett opened the floor for BID member comment on agenda items.

In commenting on BID Sponsored Mayor/Council Candidates Debate agenda item, Ms. Foster stated that if the BID is going to sponsor a Mayoral debate, it is usually sponsored by a political organization like the League of Women Voters. She also stated that she is uncomfortable with the BID sponsoring it using taxpayers dollars. She wants the BID to reach out to political organizations and support them to conduct a debate, not the BID, since it is a business development organization. She stated that it is not easy to conduct political debates and to do them fairly. She stated the BID could get caught in the middle and it may have an impact on the BID's reputation.

There were no other BID member comments.

Request Approval of June 4, 2019 Meeting Minutes – Secretary Joseph made a motion to approve the June 4, 2019 Meeting Minutes as submitted. Treasurer Pugliese seconded, all in favor, one abstention (Ivy Fairchild).

Results of Action Taken during 6/4/19 Executive Session – Pres. Fassett stated the BID Board considered three people for the seat vacated by tenant representative Jeff Tracy in last month's Executive Session and selected Ivy Fairchild as the newly appointed BID Board Member because of her credentials.

Introduction of new board member, Ivy Fairchild – Pres. Fassett introduced and welcomed Ms. Fairchild to the Board. Ms. Fairchild stated that she was excited to become a member of the BID board here and stated that she has a business here on Park Street. She has helped to run the BID in Washington Heights and one on Southern Blvd. in the South Bronx and knows it is very challenging; she operates a business focused on helping non-profits. She also stated that she wants to do as much as she can to help on this board.

Peekskill Summer Sounds – Vice President Fitzgerald stated that now is crunch time for Summer Sounds and more help is needed. We have reached 50,000 people on Facebook. Yard signs are coming in and posters are up. D. Bertoline and Sons will distribute the posters through their truck routes, and they are sponsoring radio ads. All of the bands are booked and the permits are in place, including that for the showmobile and for the beer permit. Vice Pres. Fitzgerald is handling logistics, ie, tents; T-shirts are being designed. We need more volunteers. Pres. Fassett noted that Christopher Kennedy and his team are heading up the Family Fun Zone, associated with New Era Creative Space. The Quiet Man will prepare childrens' food for sale.

Pres. Fassett stated he created a volunteer chart and that we will need volunteers for two-hour shifts at a time. The current list of volunteers and spaces that need to be filled will be available tonight.

Vice Pres. Fitzgerald stated that he was looking at carports vs. tents to provide some shade for people in the food/beer court and decided that the carports are less expensive @ \$150.00 each and that we will need four to six with each being 10' x 20'. Summer Sounds sponsors are Lanza Family Foundation, D. Bertoline and Sons, NYP Hudson Valley Hospital (for both events) as well as Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union (for both events).

Mr. Pugliese asked when the next Summer Sounds meeting will be held; Vice Pres. Fitzgerald stated that he will schedule a final meeting next week, and will send out a notice.

Flower Barrels Update – Pres. Fassett stated that a company, GreenPro, was hired to trim the Boxwoods in the barrels and all the flowers have been planted.

Gazebo Update – Mr. Kaminsky stated that the Gazebo has been scraped and painted and the bricks have been power washed and new railroad ties were installed around the garden area. He stated that he has a meeting with the City Manager and Deputy Mayor on July 24th to discuss completing the Gazebo upgrades. The Plexiglas needs to be replaced and they are waiting on an estimate from a company. David also stated that the plaza needs to be fixed (ie, brick sidewalks) and the trees/bushes need to be pruned. The light fixture also needs to be fixed because it does not work.

Ms. Foster stated that she met with a Plexiglas company and she got prices to remove the Plexiglas and consider different replacement options such as canvass, or new Plexiglas.

Councilmember Agudelo arrived.

Paramount Update – Councilmember Agudelo stated there is not much of an update to provide. The city is still trying to work with the two RFP candidates. She stated that City Manager Leins will ask Jennifer Garvey-Blackwell (consultant suggested by Pres. Fassett) to come speak with some of the Council members and staff for guidance on how to move forward. Pres. Fassett asked what the status was of the BID's offer to fund a new RFP. Council is waiting to speak with Ms. Garvey-Blackwell before they look at a new RFP option.

Miss New York Competition – Exec. Dir. Bill Powers stated that in June the City and the Paramount hosted candidates for the Miss New York Competition. He said they were bright and charming and each one of them had a great story; they were thrilled about how Peekskill received them. The reigning Miss America was also here since she is the former Miss New York. 700 people came to the Paramount. BID and Chamber are hoping they come back next year since they are looking for a permanent home. Mr. Powers thanked the Mayor for his role in greeting the crowd at the Paramount.

Renewal of Keon Street sweeping Program – Pres. Fassett reported that Wheelabrator will help fund the Keon Street sweeping program for \$20,000 for another year; the City will be asked to contribute \$5K again. The BID provided \$5K in past years. Pres. Fassett asked the board to approve the BID's \$5K contribution, motion by Jim Pinto, Mr. Pugliese seconded, all in favor.

Trash Cans/Cigarette Butts – Pres. Fassett asked Executive Director Powers if there was any update on the proposed initiative to fund the placement of cigarette butt collection canisters; Mr. Powers said not yet. Pres. Fassett also asked if he received any information on how much it might cost to repaint the existing trash cans, and Mr. Powers said he had received an estimate of approx. \$125 per can, but that we would have to issue an RFP to get firm prices and paint 10 at a time. Mr. Pugliese noted that Dave Rambo has assumed the acting DPW head position.

Pres. Fassett said we must determine where we need more garbage cans. Brian Conigliaro said there are no garbage cans all the way down South Street to the river. Since it is one of the entrances to the city, it needs to be clean. Councilmember Agudelo also said more trash cans are needed on Lower South Street from Washington. It was noted that there needs to be better code enforcement to make sure building owners maintain clean sidewalks and a discussion about whether warnings, summonses or tickets are ever given out. It was noted that code enforcement must be backed up by corporate counsel. Pres. Fassett stated that code

enforcement is essential. It was noted that there is trash near Broad and Maple near the former firehouse. Councilmember Agudelo will bring the matter to the attention of the city and she stated that anyone with a complaint or a mess in front of any property should send an email to the city. Pres. Fassett stated “We will keep pushing” and also offered to forward any email complaints to the city. It was suggested that the BID could send a kindly-worded letter to violators appealing to their sense of community pride to clean their properties. Vice Pres. Fitzgerald stated that the city should hire someone to handle code violations and that the revenue would offset costs associated with the hire. He stated that BID is not going to solve this problem. Upon further discussion, it was noted by Nancy Warham-Gordon that Ossining has a brochure that goes out to the city residents to keep their area clean. Pres. Fassett noted that the BID did a similar mailing to BID property owners. Ms. Warham-Gordon was asked to forward the brochure information to Mr. Powers.

BID Sponsored Mayor/Council Candidates Debate – Pres. Fassett said he was interested in having the BID sponsor a candidate’s debate/forum with a focus on downtown issues. There was no further discussion at this time.

BID Extension – Pres. Fassett alerted the board to the fact that the BID expires at the end of the year and needs to be renewed, by the City Council. The BID Management agreement was extended for five years, while the BID's authority to operate was extended for only three. Our goal will be to align the dates, renewable every 5 years or exist in perpetuity. Pres. Fassett asked Ms. Fairchild and Mr. Kaminsky to serve on the committee to renew the BID with assistance from Exec. Dir. Powers.

BID Member Public Comment – Pres. Fassett opened the floor to BID member comments on any topic or if any board member had anything to bring up.

Expo Volunteers needed - Exec. Dir. Powers asked, on behalf of the Chamber, if anyone wanted to volunteer for the EXPO on August 3, to contact the Chamber.

Do Not Block the Box at Main Street Entrance to K Lot – Exec. Dir. Powers also noted that as requested at the last meeting, the Police Chief and Acting DPW Head were going to review the entrance to the K Lot from Main Street to see if they could place “do not block the box” striping and signage at the entrance to ease traffic backups.

Hispanic/Latino Heritage Month Event - Exec. Dir. Powers also noted that there was a request forwarded to the BID from the City Clerk regarding a Hispanic/Latino celebration planned for 9/14/19. Mr. Powers advised the clerk that the Division Street restaurants have the permit to close Division Street that day. Mr. Powers further noted that the organizers had gotten signatures on a petition supporting the event. Ms. Sheridan, who was present, indicated that

the date presented a conflict for the Downtown Music/outdoor dining schedule.

Jim Pinto's Departure - Exec. Dir. Powers lastly wanted to thank Jim Pinto for his time and service to the BID Board, stating that he was an asset at City Hall and that he appreciated his guidance in navigating city government.

Three Businesses Lose Locations - Pres. Fassett alerted the Board that the new owners of the Riley Building rapidly kicked out three businesses including 3rd Eye Studio which is going to relocate to the Bean Runner building. The sudden move is to accommodate laundry or trash facilities for the nine apartments that are going in upstairs.

Shuttle Service – Pres. Fassett announced that Westchester County Executive Latimer is coming this Friday to Peekskill to followup with them about reintroducing the shuttle service or a loop service to get people around Peekskill.

Jim Pinto's Departure – Pres. Fassett also thanked Mr. Pinto for his service on the board and wished him the best in his new endeavors.

Artists Coming to Peekskill - Pres. Fassett announced that State of Hudson Valley is coming to the Paramount on 7/21/2019. A lot of Hudson Valley artistic talent is coming to Peekskill through this endeavor.

Diven Street – It was reported that Diven Street was cleaned up. Thank you go to Councilmember Agudelo for getting the city involved and to Vice Pres. Fitzgerald and his family for helping clean up the block. Street cleaners are coming through Diven more frequently and two trash cans were placed on the street thanks to Dave Rambo, Acting DPW head. Diven Street looking much better, it is safer and nicer.

Peekskill Walks - Connor Green spoke about Peekskill Walks, one of the initiatives in the Community Congress, which will focus on making things nicer for Peekskill for walking and riding bikes. He reported that there will be an informal meeting on Wednesday about this initiative.

Peekskill Film Festival – Carol Bash reported that 50 filmmakers are participating and looking for businesses to donate gifts to the swag bags. Jen Brown will receive gifts at the library for the bags. Also looking for volunteers. PeekFilmFestival@gmail.com The student/youth film films will be shown July 28 @ Studio 4.

Executive Session - Pres. Fassett asked if there were any other comments, with none, he announced that the board was moving into executive session to discuss Mr. Powers' contract extension. Mr. Powers excused himself.