

Minutes of Peekskill BID board meeting January 6, 2015

In attendance board members Amy Harte, Mike Welti, John Sharp, Howard Copeland, Ken Laudon, Lou Lanza, Kathie Talbot, Jeanette Phillips, Giovanni Stiefelmann

Non- board members in attendance were Mary Foster and Arnie Paglia

Meeting called to order at 6:08

1. After reviewing the December board minutes a motion to accept the minutes was made by Amy, a second was made by Mike, and they were accepted unanimously.
2. Mike Welti explained that the RFP for the Ambassador program would not be ready for a vote at this time. The city unions were not comfortable with some of the work being done and some language in the proposed RFP. Some of the work even done now by the worker at the chamber may not be acceptable as they understand whatever agreements they have with the city. Mike was not sure how this was going to work out but would be able to have discussions that would make it clear whether this would be a viable option for the BID. He would have an RFP for the February meeting if something can be worked out.
3. Executive Director Search – A committee needs to be formed to handle the resumes and interviews and to present a candidate for board approval. After a short discussion of eligibility to serve on the committee being open to whomever the BID board chose, a committee was formed to include Jeanette, Amy, John, and Giovanni.
4. BID annual election - the board will wait for Jason's return to initiate the work on the schedule to be followed. This will also include the candidates to be up for election, with board members to be on the lookout for new people to replace the landlord and tenant seats that will become open.
5. John reported that the mayor has given a request to the BID to run the New Year's Eve Ball Drop a year from now. The discussion was hampered by a lack of financial details and clarity on what the city would do and would expect. A general discussion of New Year's Eve in downtown Peekskill followed. The restaurants were full. Some restaurants emptied out for midnight and then filled up again; other restaurants stayed packed at midnight. It was noted that a lot of the people who came for the Ball Drop were city residents.

This discussion overlapped with a discussion of what sort of event would take place in 2015 at the time of the Music Festival in late July. The discussion ranged widely because the initial BID offer to Red House Entertainment was turned down and a higher number (\$15,000) was proposed to Howard Copeland over the phone by Jonathon Close. Ideas mentioned by board members included dropping the festival, sending out new RFP's and finding another sponsor, meeting the \$15,000 figure, bargaining a better deal with Red House, seeking additional sources of revenue from street beer sellers, and combining the event with another at the river front.

A committee was formed to return a plan at the February meeting. John, Howard. Amy and Lou were appointed to the committee.

6. On a motion by Ken seconded by John, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35

Respectfully submitted,
Howard Copeland,
Secretary