



**Peekskill Business Improvement District Minutes**  
**Tuesday, July 11, 2017**  
**Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce**  
**One South Division Street, Peekskill, NY**

**Call meeting to order**

Meeting called to order by Executive Director Bill Powers at 6:05pm

Present: John Sharp, Giovanni Stiefelmann, Frank Pugliese, Roya Zarrehparvar, Jeorjia Shea, Brendon Fitzgerald, Anne Scaglione, Louie Lanza, Executive Director Bill Powers. Absent: Sean Kearney, Jim Pinto, Kathie Talbot. BID members: Sepp Spenlinhauer, Brian Fassett, Mary Foster.

**June 2017 Minutes:**

Motion by Mr. Sharp/Mr. Stiefelmann to accept the minutes of the June 2017 as read with 2 changes: Planters to be "moved," not "removed" and should be \$7,000, not \$700 under new business regarding New Years Eve. All in favor.

**Executive Director's Report:**

**Keon Street Sweeping Program** - Mr. Powers brought the board up to date on the KEON street sweeping program. He noted that he was told the union is on board, which will allow the program to move forward.

A question was posed by Mr. Spenlinhauer as to whether the mulch around the trees could be addressed, adding as needed or sweeping back into the planting area. Mr. Powers will contact the City, noting that the mulch is not covered under the Keon program or the BID, and may be objected to by the union if added to the Keon program at this time. The Keon crew will sweep three days a week and the program will continue for 40 weeks (sweeping may be limited if the streets are unsweepable due to snow/weather.)

Mr. Powers asked for a \$5,000 budget expenditure from the BID reserves for the street sweeping program. Wheelabrator is contributing \$10,000 to the program and the city is contributing \$5,000, once approved by the Common Council.

Motion by Mr. Sharp/Mr. Stiefelmann recommended to spend \$5,000 from the BID account for the KEON street sweeping program. All in favor, carried unanimously.

**Norwegian Air/Ireland** – Mr. Powers noted that he had and Deb Milone met with a group of travel agents and tour guides from Ireland who work for Norwegian Air, which is now providing air travel to/from Ireland to Stewart Airport. Mr. Powers thanked Mr. Sharp for providing lunch to the group on

July 4 and suggested the BID pursue tourist opportunities and further suggested inviting an expert to address BID members and other key players in the fall. He had attended a Westchester County Tourism seminar on the topic presented by an expert in motor coach tours. Mr. Powers noted that Mr. Pinto was willing to contribute to help pay for the presenter to come to Peekskill. Coach tours can be done on slow business days to accommodate tourist crowds with structured timelines and activities at specific locations. Peekskill can be promoted as the “hub” to visit other sites i.e. Bear Mtn. NYC, etc.

Additionally, a travel writer from Ottawa will be coming to do a profile on things to do in the Peekskill.

**Hudson River Oil barge docking/mooring** – Mr. Powers was pleased that the Coast guard has dropped the plan to place barge docking stations along the Hudson River, at least for now, but warned that we need to remain vigilant on this topic.

**BID Member Comment -**

Mary Foster asked about the flower barrels, and would like to see more flowering plants vs greenery in place. She also questioned the appearance of the hanging flower baskets; she said most appear withered or dead. She requested more attention be paid to the planters and baskets to improve the overall streetscape appearance. Mr. Powers indicated that in order to stay within budget, the decision was made based on recommendations from the landscaper to use succulents in the barrels this year since flowering plants cost considerably more and the succulents survive better in urban areas. Mr. Powers indicated that flower baskets are not under the domain of the BID.

Ms. Foster also suggested that more lights be strung over the streets, in addition to the snowflake lights during the Holiday season. Mr. Powers said he would relay the information to the city, noting that the over the street lights have not been in place for several years and that again, there are budget concerns.

Ms. Foster asked about the proposed “15 min grace period” for parking meters that is under consideration. She stated that the City is against any “grace” periods, and that the item is on the agenda for next Council meeting. Ms. Foster said there have been many complaints regarding the parking enforcement agent handing out tickets and said that she had received two tickets.

A concern was voiced regarding the visual look of the streetscapes, sidewalks, etc. are not what they should or could be. Ms. Scaglione noted that concerns/complaints received at City Hall are forwarded to the proper Dept. Head for attention. Mr. Spenlinhauer discussed an app that is used to report problems or issues that should be addressed by the city. He will forward information of the app after the meeting to Ms. Scaglione and others.

Mr. Sharp suggested a sub-committee be formed on this issue, contact him if interested or have any suggestions.

Ms. Scaglione reported that the Youth Bureau READI program is being promoted at a press conference on Wednesday, July 12, all are invited. Peekskill is the pilot City for the program, which teaches skills to

youth to be better prepared to enter the job market. Approximately 44 youth have been trained to date and Ms. Scaglione is supportive of the program which was developed and embraced in order to address the concerns of small businesses who are seeking qualified employees.

#### **Executive Session - Executive Director Contract**

Mr. Powers asked non-board members to leave so that the Board could discuss renewing the Executive Director's contract. Mr. Powers also excused himself. Currently Mr. Powers salary is \$30,000 (app. 30% of the budget), with a current one year contract. After much discussion, the following was presented as a new Contract: Terms: 1 year contract -- no salary increase for 2017—verbal incentive to be discussed at next month's meeting. Vote on Contract-7 yea, 1 abstention—Contract vote carried.

#### **Executive Director's Contract – Public session**

General meeting reconvened, Mr. Powers notified of the new Contract, and accepted same, understanding the BID's budget limitations.

Mr. Powers was directed to contact other BIDs to see how they increase fees, get more involvement, and procure more grant monies.

Motion for adjournment at 7:25pm—carried

Respectfully submitted,  
Frank Pugliese  
Secretary

#### **Next meetings:**

**Tuesday, September 12, 2017 (Note: second Tuesday because of Labor Day Holiday,  
Tuesday, October 3, 2017, Tuesday, November 7, 2017, Tuesday, December 5, 2017**