



**Peekskill Business Improvement District Minutes**  
**Tuesday, October 2, 2018**  
**Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce**  
**One South Division Street, Peekskill, NY**

**Call meeting to order**

Meeting called to order by President Brian Fassett at 6:05pm.

**Present:** Brian Fassett, Frank Pugliese, Jeff Tracy, Ann Scaglione, Larry D'Amico, Sean Kearney, Executive Director Bill Powers. Brendon Fitzgerald and Vanessa Agudelo joined the meeting in progress at different times.

**Absent:** Jim Pinto, Jeorjia Shea, and John Sharp.

**BID members present:** Sepp Spenlinhauer, Arne Paglia

**Guests:** Ken Lewis, New Year's Eve Ball Drop; Jason Angell, Community Congress arrived at approximately 6:15PM.

**Call meeting to order:**

Meeting called to order @ 6:05PM by Mr. Fassett.

**New Year's Eve Ball Drop:**

Ken Lewis, representative from New Year's Eve Ball Drop Committee addressed the board and requested a contribution of \$1,500 towards this year's event and include the Ball Drop in the BID's holiday radio advertising. The City is contributing \$10,000 towards the \$16,000 budget to cover the expenses of the event. BID board said they would consider his request at the November meeting.

**Community Congress:**

Jason Angell (former BID Director), outlined plans to conduct a Community Congress in Peekskill to (1) build a stronger community, and (2) determine top community priorities that need to be addressed. Mr. Angell stated that the process takes the politics and personalities out of assessing and tackling community priorities. Mr. Angell stated that when the focus is on issues, and not people and political beliefs, more can get accomplished and it becomes clear that we have more in common. The effort will be a non-partisan/non-political, grass-roots effort and will start with informational forums and outreach. He would later schedule four meetings. Each presenting individual or group will have three minutes to fast pitch their idea as to what they think is the

biggest priority. Mr. Angell stated that he found that making the meetings more of a social event, people were more likely to attend and present their ideas. He has already conducted a similar Congress in started in Philipstown. In that area, 40 ideas were placed on a ballot, mailed to 4300 homes, and the top three ideas were announced. About 900 votes were received and 750 were deemed valid through a check and balance system. In Philipstown, the Town Supervisor embraced the recommendations, implemented actions plans to achieve the priorities, and fulfill the community's wishes. The process cost about \$10K in Philipstown and Mr. Angell stated that he had the costs for Peekskill, estimated at \$12K, already covered through donations. The purpose is to advocate for a better community by asking residents, "what do you want. Residents, age 13 and up, can submit actionable ideas. The top three priorities—which Mr. Angell stressed must be actionable—are determined by a vote conducted by Mr. Angell and his team. In Philipstown, among the top priorities were: Biking and Walking Paths, Clean Water, Teen Center, Fairer Sales Tax Distribution, etc. Mr. Angell has not discussed Peekskill's Community Congress with the local elected officials so that it remains non-partisan. Mr. Angell expects to get started in late October with an informational meeting and forums starting in mid-November; he expects to have one a month for three or four months, and it takes an additional three to five months to complete. He will be reaching out to PAPA, NAACP, Hispanic Coalition, etc. as well. Mr. Powers and Mr. Fassett thanked Mr. Angell for bringing this opportunity to the BID and Mr. Fassett offered the BID's support. Ms. Agudelo arrived part way through Mr. Angell's presentation.

**Motion to approve August 7, 2018 and September 11, 2018 meeting minutes:**

Motion was made by Mr. Pugliese, and seconded by Ms. Scaglione to accept the minutes of September 11, 2018 and August 7, 2018. All in favor.

**BID By-Laws:**

Mr. Fassett noted that the Executive Committee, Mr. Powers and Legal Counsel have been working on the 3<sup>rd</sup> revision of the BID bylaws and should have a final draft for review and vote to implement by the Board soon.

**Election Committee:**

Mr. Fassett noted that he was appointing the Election Committee which is to be comprised of 1 Class C member and four other directors, for a total of five, which is more than previous years. This additional committee member relates to upcoming changes to be presented in the new bylaw revision. He appointed the Class C member, Ms. Agudelo as chair, as required. He additionally appointed Ms. Scaglione, Mr. D'Amico, Mr. Tracy, and himself as well.

**Downtown Trick or Treat:**

Mr. Fassett presented a concept forwarded by Ms. Milone at the chamber to promote Trick or

Treating as a safe afternoon activity in the Downtown on Wednesday, October 31. There was little support for the event and the BID would leave it up to the individual business owners if they wanted to distribute candy. Mr. Powers did indicate that many children visit the Farmers Market in costume the Saturday before.

**Budget:**

Mr. Powers noted that the BID's annual budget must be submitted to the City Manager by end of November. He suggested the Executive Committee meet with him in the next few weeks to craft a 2019 Budget. The BID realized some significant savings due to the reduced flower barrel expenses and lower office expenses.

**Harvest Festival:**

In the absence of Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Fassett noted that the Festival planning is in full swing. He stated that the budget is approximately \$16,000 and that approximately \$12,800 in sponsorship and vendor income has been realized to date. Vendors will be allowed to enter the area at 10AM and must be out by 12noon; it was decided that there will be no refunds for no shows or bad weather after 10AM Saturday. Mr. Powers said he would distribute a draft time line in the next day or two. Mr. Pugliese was asked to have signs printed. Mr. Powers will forward the agreed upon verbiage and numbers of signs to Mr. Pugliese. Mr. Fitzgerald arrived. Various last minute issues about the Harvest Festival were discussed and addressed including:

- Adding more corn stalks to the stage area, Mr. Kearney will handle.
- Placement of signs on the wings of the stage that Mr. D'Amico would create and Mr. Spenlinhauer would install, but he would need to call Enormous Creative and get a large vector file so that the image was clear.
- Mr. Fitzgerald will call Bertolines to have the age ID-wristband signs made along with the beer pricing sheets.
- Mr. Paglia will get two mats to cover the electric grate near the beer sales.
- Mr. Fitzgerald will contact Mr. Lanza to provide his antique farm truck on which to place the huge pumpkin.
- Mr. Powers will make sure Farmers Market Manager Ms. Makris assembles the Farmers Market basket on Saturday and have it moved to the festival along with the pumpkin.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:25PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Frank Pugliese  
Secretary