



Peekskill Business Improvement District
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 4, 2021 @ 6pm
Via ZOOM

Present: Brian Fassett, Larry D'Amico, Frank Vazquez, LaFern Joseph, Matt Rudikoff, Executive Director Bill Powers. **Absent:** Monique Michaels

Absent at start of meeting: Matt Alexander, Vanessa Agudelo, Drew Claxton, Cynthia Del Rosario, Ivy Fairchild.

Call May 4, 2021 Board of Directors meeting to order –

- Pres. Fassett called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

BID Member Public Comment –

- There were no BID Member public comments.

Request Approval of April 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes –

- Pres. Fassett moved approval to later in meeting when a quorum is reached.

Open Art Location –

- Larry D'Amico has been pursuing with Carla Rae the fabrication of a metal sculpture about the Underground Railroad.
- Board Member D'Amico has received one price estimate for \$50,000 made out of aluminum, which he thought would be less expensive.
- Board Member D'Amico will pursue additional price estimates, will also speak with Wilfredo Morel for ideas and speak with other artists to identify some temporary artwork that can go into the spot where the Tubman Statue was placed temporarily.
- Pres. Fassett asked the board how much time and energy does the BID want to put into bringing the new Harriet Tubman statue, the Beacon of Hope to Peekskill permanently. Should we prepare a presentation to the City Council?
- Secretary Joseph said the BID should put together a presentation and get others involved, the sooner the better.
- Pres. Fassett asked Board Member D'Amico to help him put together a short presentation to the Council. Board Member concurred and suggested strongly that a presentation needs to be done to the council before we go much further.

Ivy Fairchild and Matt Alexander joined the call. Executive Director Powers noted that Board Member Agudelo emailed to say she was running late.

Request Approval of April 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes –

- Sec. Joseph moved to have the minutes to the April 6, 2021 minutes approved, seconded by Board Member D'Amico. All in favor: Fassett, D'Amico, Joseph, Vasquez, Fairchild, Alexander.

Division Street Events –

- Since Board Member Del Rosario is still not able to access the call, Pres. Fassett will move on, but first wanted to remind downtown businesses that need a standard cafe permit that they are available through the city; the more complex one should be available this week.

Executive Director's Report –

Next Board Meeting/Holiday Conflict –

- Executive Director Powers noted to the board that the next Meeting date is the day after the Memorial Day Weekend; the board voted unanimously to move the June Board meeting from June 1 to June 8.

Pugsley Park Usage/Restrictions –

- Exec. Dir Powers noted that there has been a delay in permitting the Jazz Concerts at Pugsley Park because there is no permit in place for the use of Pugsley because it a passive park.
- Exec. Dir. Powers noted that he will send a letter to the City to expedite the development of a permit for Pugsley Park like the city has for other parks.

Jazz Series in Pugsley Park by Ray Blue –

- Exec. Dir. Powers further noted that the board had approved \$5K for four concerts over the course of the summer and early fall.
- The concerts are turn key with Mr. Blue bringing his own musicians, his own equipment and his own electric source.

Farmers Market Update –

- Exec. Dir. Powers noted that the city council approved both the street closure for Banks Street and the Park Street parking lot, further noting that the market manager is confident that we will be able to utilize both spots.
- Exec. Dir. Powers and market manager Chereese Jervis Hill are reviewing and adapting the COVID protocols which are changing frequently.
- There is a new Farmers Market logo, according to Pres. Fassett with new banners.
- Exec. Dir. Powers thanked Pres. Fassett for his input in getting the new logo done so that the Peekskill market can distinguish itself from other local markets.

Flea Market Input –

- Sec. Joseph would like to see the flea market move forward if it can be done safely.
- Exec. Dir. Powers committed to meeting with the Flea Market Manager and put a proposal together to get the flea market open while addressing the concerns of safety and insurance.

Brightr Travel –

- Exec. Dir. Powers noted that Brightr will set up two training sessions to start with so BID members can see what Brightr can offer.

Board Member Agudelo and Vice President Del Rosario joined the call.

Miss NY Competition –

- Miss NY Competition will be at the Paramount from Wednesday to Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend.
- Exec. Dir. Powers will be sending out an email to BID businesses who may want to host some of the contestants. There is no cost involved.

Harvest Festival -

- Vice Pres. Del Rosario reported that the Harvest Fest committee has met and that they are going to start planning for music, invite the artists to participate, food vendors, etc. the Committee consists of Herself, Board Members Claxton and Fairchild, and expects to have assistance from Board Member D'Amico to gain artist participation.
- Need to select date, either October 23 or 16. Board prefers October 23, 2021.
- Committee plans to meet every two weeks and then weekly as we get closer.
- There is another fall event scheduled for the weekend of October 9 and Scarlett may be planning for her Oz event at end of September or first weekend in October.
- Pres. Fassett asked to have a budget prepared.
- Board Member D'Amico stated that the PAA was considering conducting Open Studio Tours that weekend as well as their traditional truck stop gallery.

Division Street Events –

- Vice Pres. Del Rosario informed the board that the City Council approved the Division Street closure from May to September and from Thursday to Sunday, and she is awaiting approval of the submitted events.

Board Member Comments –

- **Syracuse, NY Ad Campaign** - Vice Pres. Del Rosario said she had judged an advertising competition and that the board should check out what Syracuse did during the pandemic to bring people back to downtown Syracuse.
- **Winter or Holiday Market** - BID Member Mary Foster asked if there is any consideration to do a holiday market in November and/or December. Exec. Dir. Powers noted that the one done in White Plains is done by a company, that he had spoken to the White Plains BID Director, and that the vendor fees are quite high. We had received a price quote from Events to Remember, and we can review that again for 2021.
- **Thanks to Matt Alexander** – Pres Fassett thanked Matt Alexander for stepping up to be Acting City Manager while City Manager Andy Stewart recuperates from his car accident. Pres. Fassett also welcomed Andy Stewart back to his role.
- **Thanks to Matt Alexander** – Board Member Agudelo also thanked Matt Alexander for filling in and reminded the board that Andy Stewart will be taking a lighter load at the beginning.
- **Nyack Boat Charter Service @ Riverfront Green** – Board Member Agudelo alerted the board that the city is likely to move forward with the boat service at Peekskill Riverfront Green; they would be offering small group trips on sailboats, power boats, other water sport equipment, etc. Board Member Claxton wanted to see if the trolley could be used to transport some off those people into the downtown from the larger events and activities there.

- **NY Heroes Act** – Board Member Agudelo stated that the the NY Heroes Act was recently passed that will require the Dept. of Labor to enact new health and safety standards, which will greatly impact employers across the state.

Adjournment –

- Sec. Joseph made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice Pres. Del Rosario. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:42pm.