



Peekskill Business Improvement District
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 8, 2021 @ 6pm
Via ZOOM

Present: President Brian Fassett, Vice President Cynthia Del Rosario, Secretary LaFern Joseph, Board Members Larry D'Amico, Ivy Fairchild, Matt Rudikoff, Frank Vasquez. Board Members Drew Claxton, Vanessa Agudelo, Monique Michaels, and Treasurer Matt Alexander joined the meeting in progress.

Call June 8, 2021 Board of Directors meeting to order – Pres. Fassett called the zoom meeting to order at 6pm.

BID Member Public Comment –

- BID Member Mary Foster noted that she had received the BID postcard alerting her to the bylaws discussion on June 24, 2021.
- Proposed changes to the bylaws will be posted on the BID website in the next day or so.

Temporary Statue -

- Board Member D'Amico noted that he has had discussions with Wilfredo Morel about identifying a temporary statue for placement on the former Tubman Statue site.

Request Approval of May 4 2021 Meeting Minutes –

- LaFern Joseph made motion to accept the May 4, 2021 minutes, seconded by Cynthia Del Rosario, all in favor.

Division Street Closure –

- Vice Pres. Del Rosario reported that they have received all approvals to close Division Street from now until the end of the year on Thursday, Friday Saturday and Sunday through the end of the year; this past weekend was the first full weekend closure.
- She and Ruben are putting together a music schedule and have started a new website, peekskillevents.com.
- Any musicians who wish to be considered for performances, should contact info@peekskillevents.com.

Harvest Festival –

- Vice Pres. Del Rosario met with the Harvest Festival committee, need to meet again.
- Vice Pres. Del Rosario received all the documents from Pres. Fassett related to the Harvest Festival from previous years.
- Harvest Fest will be on Saturday, October 23.
- Vice Pres. Del Rosario and Executive Director Bill Powers will work on completing the city's permit application.
- Vice Pres. Del Rosario will have a full report at next month's meeting.

Board Member Drew Claxton joined the meeting

Executive Director's Report – Bill Powers

Request for \$750 in support for Peekskill PRIDE -

- Request for \$750 in support for Peekskill PRIDE activities from Wilfredo Morel to sponsor day long family event at Pugsley Park, and Artist Gallery openings with 41 artists housed st Sun River and in Wilfredo's gallery above the chamber.
- Motion was made by Sec. Joseph to approve the \$750 sponsor donation for Peekskill Pride, seconded by Board Member Claxton; all in favor, except Pres. Fassett who abstained because of his affiliation with Peekskill Pride.

Request for \$250 from Peekskill Youth Bureau to sponsor National Night Out -

- Exec. Dir. Powers presented a request for \$250 from Peekskill Youth Bureau to sponsor National Night Out at Pugsley Park, in conjunction with the Peekskill Police Department, on Tuesday August 3, 2021.
- They are planning on family fun activities as a way to build positive relationships between Peekskill police officers and kids in the community.
- Vice Pres. Del Rosario made a motion to approve the \$250 request, seconded by Board Member Claxton, all in favor.

Jazz Series in Pugsley Park by Ray Blue –

- Exec. Dir. Powers reported that the Ray Blue Jazz Series at Pugsley Park is underway and that the BID will do more promotion.

Flea Market Update –

- Exec. Dir. Powers reported that the BID had been getting a number of inquiries about restarting the Flea Market and suggested that with the lifting of the COVID rules, that now may be the time to look at starting the flea market.

Farmers Market Update –

- Chereese Jervis-Hill had an internet outage and is moving to another location to join us.

Bright Travel Training Dates -

- Two training dates for BID members have been set up so BID Members can experience the Bright Travel app and learn how to take ownership of their listing.
- An Eblast is going out with the dates and times. Both sessions will be recorded.

Board Member Michaels joined the meeting.

Miss NY Competition -

- Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce President and Exec. Dir. Powers were invited up on stage at the Miss New York Competition and were presented with awards to say thank you to the BID and the chamber for our support.
- Several of the contestants did photo ops and meet and greets at various downtown businesses.

- Vice Pres. Del Rosario said the BID should embrace the event more, do more promotion, and do more events around the competition, because it is an excellent event.
- Pres. Fassett asked if an educational marketing campaign could be implemented to educate residents about the Miss New York Competition since many people still think it is a beauty pageant.

Proposed By Laws Revisions –

- Board Member Fairchild reminded the board that she, Board Member Michaels and Claxton were appointed to a special bylaws review committee along with Exec. Dir Powers and Board Member Agudelo as advisors.
- Board Member Fairchild noted that she and Board member Claxton met without Board Member Michaels the first time because Michaels had been called into work. They made some suggested changes which were reviewed by Exec. Dir Powers and Board Member Agudelo, which were then sent onto the full board for review.
- The propose changes will be posted on the BID website this week.
- There will be a special meeting for BID members to comment on the changes on Thursday, June 24, 2021 at 6pm.
- BID Members will be notified of the meeting by direct mail.
- The BID Board will then vote on the proposed changes and the new bylaws will be incorporated into the packet of information that will be sent to the city council as part of the BID's renewal.

Board Member Agudelo joined the meeting

- Proposed bylaws changes: increased the number of classes to include a dedicated artists seat, added an additional property owner seat to keep the number of board members odd for voting purposes, going from a double envelope system to a single confidential envelope system, preserving the integrity of the voting system with some new wording, adding the requirement of developing an annual communications plan with a focus on the Latino business owners, allow board members to run for three consecutive two years terms.
- The meeting on June 24 is designed to hear from the BID members and have a board discussion as well.
- Board Member Agudelo asked if her recommendations for bylaws changes could be sent to the full board. Exec. Dir. Powers said he would send them around to the board.
- There was a lengthy discussion about Board Member Agudelo's concerns about some of the sections of the proposed changes that she disagrees with or has concerns.
- Pres. Fassett asked Exec. Dir. Powers for clarification, and he indicated that the recommendations from the Bylaws Committee were relayed to and reviewed by the Executive Committee as well as Board Members Agudelo's suggestions, of which some were included in the final proposed bylaws changes. He additionally stated that it would be confusing to BID Members to have an additional document with one person's views. Board Member Agudelo was advised that she could bring up her viewpoint at the June 24 meeting.
- Board member Agudelo then stated that the Executive Board ignored recommendations, and Pres. Fassett stated that he took offense to the claim that the Executive Committee ignored any recommendations. He stated that some proposed changes made it into the final draft, and some did not, after careful consideration.

- There was additional discussion about a January 1 deadline for entity property owners to file their representatives' forms.
- Vice Pres. Del Rosario thinks we should hear from the members on June 24, and allow Board Member Agudelo to present her suggestions and hear from the BID members about her suggestions.
- BID Member Foster cautioned that there may need to be additional legislative action by the city with regards to adding more board members. Exec. Dir. Powers will check into it.

Peekskill Farmers Market -

- Market manager Chereese Jervis Hill joined the call and provided an updated on the first weekend of the Peekskill Farmers Market; she said it was a great day; we did use the additional parking lot behind the diner. We had a good turnout, vendors were very happy with first day sales. We will not be using the overflow space all the time because some vendors sign up for once a month, twice a month or for some odd dates, so all vendors are not present every week. We had a ribbon-cutting; Mike Miner shot a video.
- Exec. Dir. Powers said he spoke to all the vendors, especially the new ones, and he said they all had a great time in Peekskill and that everyone was gracious and friendly.

BID Member Public Comment –

- BID Member Scarlet Antonia stated that she had hosted several Miss NY Contestants and reminded reiterated that the competition is about scholarships, not wearing bathing suits. She was impressed with the contestants. She also had a great auction for Inga Dube's final auction and was pleased with the event. She also announced that she is coordinating entertainment on Division Street for the Division Street Series on the third Thursday of the month. She is planning Oz Land on September 18, with the Elks Club having the film festival at the Elks; they will have vendors. She is planning to submit a map of vendor locations to the city. Pres. Fassett suggested Scarlet continue to keep Exec. Dir. Powers in the loop.
- BID Member Foster asked how the art crawl went over the weekend, and BID Member Antonia stated that it went very well, reporting that artist Wendy Garber had a strong turnout.
- Board Member Vasquez asked if the BID would be doing anything to help Kathleen's Tea Room. Pres. Fassett said everyone is interested in helping out in some way, but if anyone has any appropriate ideas, please let him know. Vice Pres. Del Rosario advised that a GoFundMe page for Kathleen's Tea Room was shut down because it was not authorized and because the owner is an elected official. Board Member Drew Claxton suggested that any effort could be cleared through the city's ethics' committee. Vice Pres. Del Rosario suggested supporting the Tea Room's employees.

Adjournment into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations -

- Motion made by Vice Pres. Del Rosario, seconded by Sec. Joseph, all in favor to adjourn and go into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations.
- Meeting concluded at 6:55pm.