



Peekskill Business Improvement District
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 3, 2021 @ 6pm
Via ZOOM

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

Call August 3, 2021 Board of Directors meeting to order – Pres. Fassett called the zoom meeting to order at 6:02pm.

BID Member Comment –

- BID Member Mary Foster asked if the planned placement of the bollards for Bank Street represented a new safety concern or whether it could be used for the restaurants on Bank Street. Exec. Dir. Powers stated that there had been plans to add the bollards to Bank Street for the Farm and Flea Market for some time, which was initiated by the police chief.

Executive Director's Report – Bill Powers

- Flea Market Update – Exec. Dir. Powers announced that the Flea Market started on Sunday, August 1; there were about 10 spaces still to fill but we expect to fill them this weekend; applications are on our website in English and Spanish. There was a good crowd on Sunday and everyone was happy to have the Flea Market back.
- Farmers Market Update – Exec. Dir. Powers noted that the farm vendors are selling out early, and that there have been large crowds. All is going well.
- Brighter Travel Update – Press Release promoting the app is scheduled to go out next week. Board Member Vasquez will be doing a training video for the BID and Brighter on how to take ownership of a business listing.
- Public Art Tours – Exec. Dir. Powers noted that he is working with two volunteers through the city manager's office—a photographer and a writer—to gather information on all of the public art in the Downtown so that it can be added to the Brighter Travel app as a self guided public art tour. Hoping to get that launched for Labor Day weekend.
- BID Renewal – The public hearing for the renewal is set for Monday, August 23, 2021 at 7:30pm at City Hall. The BID sent out a post card to property owners and BID businesses alerting them to and inviting them to attend the public hearing.
- BID Office – The BID office was moved from above Peekskill Coffee House to 1010 Park Street, second floor. The BID's new landlord was nice enough to reduce the asking rent from \$500 to \$300 a month. Exec. Dir. Powers plans to go in and set up and organize the office.

Vice Pres. Del Rosario and Board Member Ivy Fairchild joined the call.

Harvest Festival –

- Vice Pres. Del Rosario stated that the Harvest Festival committee met since the last Board meeting and that Board Member Fairchild created the vendor applications and sponsorship forms for the Harvest Festival. Documents were sent to the committee for review and changes. Need to finalize vendor fees, but moving ahead. Need approval for submitted budget. All

documents (for permit application) have been submitted to the City of Peekskill.

- Motion made by Board Member Claxton, seconded by Board member Fairchild, to approve up to \$27,000 in expenses for the Harvest Festival as outlined in the budget submitted, all in favor.
- Pres. Fassett asked that the vendor fees be kept the same as 2019 and that the BID develop a COVID contingency plan in case we have to modify or cancel.

Pres. Fassett announced that a quorum is now present with Board Member Agudelo joining the call.

Board Member Monique Michaels also joined the call.

Request Approval of June 8, 2021 and July 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes –

- Motion by Vice Pres. Del Rosario and seconded by Board Member Claxton to approve the June 8, 2021 and July 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes, all in favor.

Request for funding for bollards on Bank Street –

- To improve the safety of the attendees of the Flea and Farmers Market, Pres. Fassett noted that the BID is considering two different kinds of bollards, one is like a bicycle rack, one is more of a steel bollard which are like the ones on Division Street, which are very difficult to install all the time. The city and the BID would split the cost 50-50.

Board Member D'Amico joined the call.

- After general discussion, the board was leaning towards purchasing the bike rack bollards since it would encourage bikes to be ridden to the market, and they are easier to install. ETR staff will supervise and coordinate the installation and de-installation with the help of the Wengerd family.
- The split would cost the BID \$10,370 for the bike rack ones and the steels ones cost a little over \$11,000. Motion was made by Vice Pres. Del Rosario, seconded by Board Member Claxton to contribute up to \$10,500 to purchase the bike rack bollards in cooperation with the city. All in favor.

Temporary Art –

- Board Member D'Amico stated that Wilfredo Morel has a steel sculpture located next to the Health Center that he recommends moving to the former site of the Harriet Tubman Statue.
- It's called the Tree of Life and is a good size.
- Pres. Fassett asked Board Member D'Amico to help him put together a one pager to present to the City Council about the statue, since the city would have to approve placement on city property.
- Pres. Fassett reminded the board that the former Tubman Statue site should be a temporary, rotating exhibit space until a permanent statue is in place.
- Board Member Monique Michaels suggested the BID get a jump start on planning new rotating artwork in that location for 2022 since many artists have had difficulty in finding work during the pandemic.
- Pres. Fassett asked Board member Michaels to spearhead the project of having rotating artwork in the space, as long as it is large enough to fill the space on a 3, 4 or 6 month basis for

2022.

- Board Member Michaels agreed to put together a proposal to provide the artists with a stipend for the board to review at the next meeting.
- Board Member D'Amico stated that there are some artists that already have existing pieces that may be good for that spot.

Oz Land Event/Request for Funding –

- Scarlett Antonia stated that she is moving forward with her Oz Land event and hopes to make it an annual event.
- She has met with Exec. Dir. Bill Powers regarding funding and her plans.
- She plans to close Division Street for part of the event, there will be a Paramount performance, the Elks Club is hosting a screening of the movie the Wizard of Oz, and she plans to host performances at the Artist Spot.
- There are city fees associated with the street closure and the city is working with her to keep the costs down. She estimates the city fees will be around \$1,000. She would like the BID to cover this expense and perhaps some additional funds for entertainment.
- Ms. Antonia stated that her total expenses have been scaled back to about \$12,000 for the event and that she has raised about \$6,000 in revenue so far.
- After discussion, Board Member Claxton made a motion to have the BID pay for the city fees and services up to \$1,000 and consider either funding some entertainment or some of the fees associated with the Paramount at a later meeting, seconded by Board Member Michaels, all in favor.
- Ms. Antonia thanked the board for their support.

Smoking Ban @ Public Events – Request for Opinion, City Manager –

- Exec. Dir. Powers relayed a request from the City Manager regarding a smoking ban at events like the Harvest Festival, which is held on city owned streets.
- After much discussion, the general consensus of the board was that there could be a smoking ban at such events, but that the city may want to allow a designated location within the event or adjacent to such events for smoking.
- Exec. Dir. Powers will relay the board's position to the City Manager.

Review of Exec. Dir. Report -

- Pres Fassett asked any Board Member if they wanted Exec. Dir. Powers to review any part of his Executive Director's report which was given earlier, prior to a quorum.
- Board Member Agudelo asked to review what is happening with the BID renewal. Mr. Powers reiterated that there is a public hearing on the BID renewal on Monday, August 23, 2021 at 730pm at City Hall and that the BID had sent out a post card alerting BID members about the hearing. Additionally, all the renewal documents were posted to the BID website and the public hearing was noticed on the BID's calendar.
- Board Member Agudelo also asked about the status of the changes to the BID By Laws. Exec.

Dir. Powers noted that the recommendation from the city's Corporation Counsel was to renew the BID under the existing By Laws and have the BID come back with the revised bylaws at a later date for review by the Council.

- Board Member Agudelo asked an additional question but it was difficult to hear her. Mr. Powers stated that he thought that the BID would be renewed with the existing By Laws, then the BID board would review and vote on the bylaws changes at a later date after the BID is renewed and that the new bylaws would be forwarded to the City Council. That was the recommendation made by the city's Corporation Counsel because of the tight time line.

BID Member Comment -

- Pres. Fassett opened the meeting to BID member public comment.
- Mr. D'Amico notified the board that the PAA Open Studios are scheduled for October 16 and 17 and have secured the Elks Club for artists who do not have artists studios in downtown.

Adjournment -

- Motion made by Board Member Claxton and seconded by Board Member Michaels to adjourn, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:44pm.