



Peekskill Business Improvement District
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes - Draft
Tuesday, September 14, 2021 @ 6pm
Via ZOOM

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

Call September 14, 2021 Board of Directors meeting to order – Pres. Fassett called the meeting to order at 6:04pm. And noted the meeting is being held via ZOOM. He noted that there were two additions to the agenda, one a presentation by Brian Orsi for One to Heart U, a music event accompanied by a request for funding, and a request from Scarlett Antonia for an additional \$300 to cover additional City of Peekskill OT fees for the Oz Festival.

BID Member Public Comment – There were no BID Member comments.

Brian Orsi was admitted to the meeting but due to the lack of quorum, Executive Director Powers started to give his report.

Executive Director's Report – Bill Powers

BID Renewal – Exec. Dir. Powers noted that the BID was renewed for another five years by the City Council at last night's council meeting; the vote was unanimous; he thanked everyone who supported the renewal. He further noted that we achieved our goals of extending the BID for five years, not three as in the past; and extending the management agreement for the same term. The renewal was completed with the old bylaws, and the BID will have to schedule a vote on the new bylaws, and forward them to the city council for approval; the Board agreed to add the vote to the October Board meeting for a vote.

Request Approval of August 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes – LaFern Joseph made a motion to accept the August 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Board Member Fairchild, all in favor, Matt Rudikoff abstained.

One to Heart U Music Festival Request for Funding – BID Member Brian Orsi made a request to the BID Board for \$3,000 to cover two days of sound system for a Music Festival he has planned for October 9 on Division Street. There are local and national bands booked. After questions from the Board about COVID-prevention plans, crowd control, overall budget, fairness to other requests, the lateness of the request, and how much of the proposed budget would the \$3K cover (it would cover about 1/3 of the expenditures), the board felt \$1,500 would be more appropriate as long as some of the details could be worked out. Board Member Fairchild made a motion to contribute \$1,500 to the event, seconded by Secretary Joseph, all in favor.

Request from Oz Festival for an additional \$300 to cover city overtime fees - Exec. Dir. Powers noted the extra fees are due to the police requirement to have trucks block off Division Street to prevent cars from driving through. Vice Pres. Del Rosario made a motion to provide the additional \$300 for the Oz Festival, seconded by Sec. Joseph, all in favor.

Harvest Festival Cancellation/Plans for 2022 – Vice Pres. Del Rosario explained the rationale behind canceling the Harvest Festival in October because of COVID concerns.

COVID Update – Vice Pres. Del Rosario asked how do we promote safety and continuing to live our lives. Pres. Fassett said we could update our earlier signage, or reprint what we had done previously. Sec. Joseph asked if there could be a table with hand sanitizer and free masks at the Flea Market. Exec. Dir. Powers said he would notify the Flea Market manager to place tables with those items at both ends of the market. The Flea Market should also solicit volunteers to help manage the tables. Exec. Dir. Powers was asked to speak with the graphics firm we use about updating a new sign.

Temporary Art/Tree of Life – Board Member D'Amico stated that he had taken photos of the Tree of Life, and he has reached out to artist Wilfredo Morel for a description of the sculpture so that he can put together a proposal to the city council to place the sculpture at Jan Peek Square for a temporary period of time. We also need specs as well.

Art Installations at Jan Peek Square 2022 – Monique Michaels was not able to attend tonight's meeting due to a work commitment, so this item will be tabled until next month.

Bollards on Bank Street Update – Pres. Fassett noted that the BID will split the cost of the bollards on Bank Street; he thought the process was further along, but the city still has to go out to bid on the bollards.

Overflowing Trash Cans – Complaints are coming into the City about overflowing trash cans, and we have received complaints from the Flea Market manager that the trash cans on Sunday morning are overflowing on Bank Street. Exec. Dir. Powers stated that the main causes are residential trash and commercial trash being placed in the city's receptacles. Exec. Dir. Powers stated that there is a three-pronged approach being researched: 1. How much would it cost to place a DPW crew on OT on Sunday mornings to collect the trash from the city receptacles, 2. Placing warning stickers/stencils on the lids of the city receptacles, and 3. Having the BID send a letter to commercial tenants and property owners alerting them to the problem and that it is illegal to place commercial trash in the city's trash cans. Sec. Joseph stated that the garbage might be coming from the Farmers market, but Exec. Dir. Powers stated unequivocally that the vendors from the Farmers Market are not using the city's trash receptacles for trash generated from the market.

Appointment of Budget Committee – Pres. Fassett appointed Board Members Alexander, Vasquez, and Fairchild to the Budget (Finance) Committee to help Exec. Dir. Powers prepare the 2022 budget for presentation to the board in November.

Executive Director's Report Continued – Bill Powers

October Events – Guess the Weight of the Giant Pumpkin will be held at the Peekskill Farmers Market on Saturday, October 30, 2021 and in cooperation with the City of Peekskill Parks & Recreation, there will be Pumpkin Decorating @ Pugsley Park for kids, at no cost. There is a COVID safe plan that was developed and implemented last year that will be used again this year. Exec. Dir. Powers stated that Rotarian Mary Foster offered to drop off corn stalks that the Rotary will be used at their event at the Riverfront Green on October 2 for our use. The BID Board stated that there was no one available from the BID to install them in downtown, but that if the Rotary wanted to volunteer to do that, they could and the BID could take them down.

Holiday Plans/Tree Lighting/Peekskill Makes Me Merry – The board asked to have adult and kids masks made again this year. Do more masks and get them out to other areas. Mr. Powers said that he plans to do the same social media campaign as last year with photos in front of businesses with Frosty the Snowman and our Elf on the Loose. Mr. Powers also stated that we are planning to do an in-person tree lighting, not virtual.

Job Board added to BID Website – After a discussion about adding a job board to the BID website, it was felt that the expense was not worth it; instead, Mr. Powers will work with the Chamber of Commerce to see if BID members could place job listings on the chamber website, or at least provide a link to the chamber job board. Mr. Powers will look into options.

Brightr Travel Update/Public Art Tours – Exec. Dir. Powers noted that he held the press release announcing Brightr Travel app, but plans to send that out after meeting the Brightr folks this week. He noted that the work on the public art tour is almost completed. He is also working with Peter and Kelly McKinley to create a wrap-around marketing plan for Brightr.

Move November BID BOD Meeting to November 9, 2021 due to Election Day – Motion by Vice Pres. Del Rosario to move the November 2, 2021 Board meeting to Tuesday November 9, 2021 because of Election Day. Seconded by Board Member Rudikoff, all in favor.

Sidewalk Cafe Permits – Pres. Fassett noted that the City Council scheduled a public hearing for September 27, 2021 to consider changes to the outdoor cafe permits that will allow businesses to have outdoor heaters on a permanent basis as it was during the COVID emergency; if approved, it will be in the local law.

New DPW Head – Pres Fassett noted that there is a new head of DPW, Chris Gross; he's not new to the city, just the position; Dave Rambo has returned to his position in the Water Dept.

BID Member Public Comment – There were no BID Member comments.

Job Fair – Board Member Del Rosario asked if we could sponsor a job fair. Exec. Dir. Powers was asked to consult with the chamber on doing a job fair.

Loitering on South Street – Board Member D'Amico stated that several people are hanging out on his front steps who seem to be high on drugs or homeless. This is a new development in the past year and he has been in Peekskill for 30 years. He is looking into placing a gate to prevent people from congregating on his front steps. The BID will advise the police chief about the concerns. Exec. Dir. Powers will reach out to Cynthia Knox at CHHOP to see if they can offer assistance to some of the homeless people in downtown.

Development & Construction Projects – Vice Pres. Del Rosario asked Board Member Rudikoff to supply the BID Board with a progress report on the current construction and development projects going on.

Adjournment – Sec. Joseph made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Board Member D'Amico, all in favor, at 7:31 pm.