



Peekskill Business Improvement District
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 3, 2022 @ 6:00pm
Via ZOOM

Present: President Cynthia Del Rosario, Vice Pres. LaFern Joseph; Board Members Monique Brideau, Brian Fassett, Matt Rudikoff, David Kaminsky, Monique Michaels, Matthew Alexander. **Absent:** Drew Claxton, Larry D'Amico, Frank Vasquez, and Ivy Fairchild. Executive Director Bill Powers joined the meeting in progress. Board Member Fassett had to leave the meeting early, but left Pres. Del Rosario with his proxy.

BID Members present: Mary Foster, Brian Orsi, Dorothy Posada. **Guest:** Lauren Gardner

Call August 3, 2022 Board of Directors meeting to order – Pres. Del Rosario called the meeting to order at 6:05pm after there was a slight delay when Executive Director Powers was unable to launch the Zoom meeting from his location.

BID Member Public Comment – There were no public comments.

Approval of May 3, 2022 and June 7, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes – In the absence of Sec. Claxton, Pres. Del Rosario asked for a motion to approve the May 3 and June 7 Board of Director's meeting minutes. Motion was made by Board Member Fassett, seconded by Board Member Matt Rudikoff. All in favor.

• **City of Peekskill Update** – Councilman Fassett gave his report:

- The Citizens Complaint Review Board was approved and is now active.
- DRI: Contracts have been approved and executed for the connectivity and civic hub area around the gazebo—for pedestrians and cyclists between the waterfront and the downtown. First phase is for design and construction documents and construction inspection services only. Contract also issued for enhancements for Pugsley Park and Monument Park. First phase is for design and construction documents and construction inspection services only.
- Bid also awarded for streetscape improvements to north side of Main Street between Nelson Avenue and Division Street.
- City, Police and Westchester County Dept. of Mental Health are working together to create a 24/7 mobile crisis response team. Team will assist police officers when there is nonviolent crime.
- Military Tribute Banner program is active; order through the city website by August 15, 2022.
- Saturday, August 6, 2022 at 1pm to honor Staff Sergeant Melvin Morris at the Central Fire House. First African American from New York State to receive the Medal of Honor (from Pres. Obama).
- Next Work Session for the City Council will be August 8, 2022. Next Common Council Meeting is August 15, 2022.

• **Request for funding from Brian Orsi and Lauren Gardner for October 8-9, 2022 12HeartU event** – Brian Orsi and Lauren Gardner presented their plans to the BID Board for their October 8-9, 2022 12HeartU event. Mr. Orsi stated that they have a new fiscal host with streamlined and

transparent fundraising/expenses. Last year's event was one day, this year will be two days in October along with monthly dates in July, August and September. For October, there will be live music made up of local, regional and national performers/bands. Here to request \$4,900 funds from the BID to cover the professional audio costs of Empire AV who the BID uses for its events. Also asking for additional \$3,100 in funds to pay for the talent and to bring up the baseline for the talent since they perform for a fraction of what they normally charge. Ms. Gardner stated that they have raised \$4,428 so far. Total budget is \$13,000-\$15,000 for the October event.

Executive Director Powers joined the meeting.

Board Member Kaminsky asked if they could charge or ask for a small donation from people who come for the music and the answer was yes. Board Member Michaels questioned the number of bands which will total 20-22 over two days and asked if the event will correspond to the BID's Harvest Festival and the answer was no. She also asked about sponsors and Mr. Orsi said they have sponsors and he has reached out to 200 local businesses. Pres. Del Rosario stated that the BID will post the information including ways to donate to the BID's website. Board Member Rudikoff asked what the funding level from the BID was in the past and whether there will be a summary report submitted to the BID. The BID provided \$2,000 for last year's event and there is a requirement that Mr. Orsi provide a summary if they get funding from the BID. Vice Pres. Joseph questioned how they plan to handle the crowds in such a small area. Bands will be positioned at the top of Esther and loading and unloading will happen on Brown Street. Volunteers will be handling crowd management. Any conflict with Paramount and what about closing part of Brown Street? There is no show on Saturday, one show on Sunday and no need at this time for additional street closures. They hope to expand the event next year on additional streets. Exec. Dir. Powers noted that the BID paid \$2,250 directly to the AV company for last year's event. After additional discussion, Vice Pres. Joseph made a motion to pay for the AV Company for the two days for a total of \$4,840. Seconded by Board Member Kaminsky. All in favor except Board Member Michaels who abstained.

• **Executive Director's Report** – Bill Powers

- **NYCOM Report** – Exec. Dir. Powers attended the annual NYCOM meeting in Syracuse they held informative sessions; he moderated a round table on Farmers Markets and special events; he brought back some good ideas and best practices. He also mentioned he did a tour of downtown Syracuse and its DRI grant projects. He toured a high tech incubator space and a food incubator space. He also mentioned a gift card program that could be used for the holidays.
- **Resolution adjusting funding for PAA events** – Exec. Dir. Powers asked the board to reconfigure the funds we gave to the PAA. The BID gave \$1,000 towards the Art, Music & Poetry series and \$1,500 towards the Open Studios weekend; the PAA asked if we could swap the dollar amounts for accounting purposes. Pres. Del Rosario made the motion, seconded by Vice Pres. Joseph, all in favor. Pres. Del Rosario has Board Member Fassett's proxy and she votes in favor on his behalf.
- **National Night Out August 2 2022** - Exec. Dir. Powers noted that he and Pres. Del Rosario had a presence at the National Night Out event at Pugsley Park. There was a good turnout and it was a well done event. The BID gave out a case of bubbles and glow sticks.

- **Peekskill Music Festival/October Harvest Festival** – Pres. Del Rosario recognized Board Members Claxton, Joseph, Kaminsky, Fassett, D'Amico, and Fairchild for their help. Also thanked Exec. Dir. Bill Powers and Cynthia's assistant Karen. The vibe was good. Bands were great. Event was well done. She did say that we need more volunteers. Events committee will be meeting to discuss the October Harvest Festival.

- **City Manager Report** - City Manager Alexander reported that he, the police chief, DPW and code enforcement are meeting weekly on quality of life issues. Extra police patrols will be happening on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, 8pm to 4am.

- **BID Member Public Comment** –

- Dorothy Posada, representing Sherry Mayo from the WCC Extension asked to be informed of events.

- **Adjournment** - Vice Pres. Joseph made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:01pm, seconded by Board Member Brideau, all in favor.