



**Peekskill Business Improvement District
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 1, 2022 @ 6:00pm
Via Zoom**

Present: Sec. Drew Claxton, Board Members David Kaminsky, Brian Fassett, Frank Vasquez, Larry D'Amico, Monique Brideau, Larry D'Amico, and Ivy Fairchild, and Executive Director Bill Powers.

Absent: Pres. Cynthia Del Rosario, Vice President LaFern Joseph, Board Members Monique Michaels, Monique Brideau, Matthew Rudikoff, and Treasurer Matthew Alexander.

BID Members: Elaine Caccina, Scarlett Antonia

Call November 1, 2022 Board of Directors meeting to order – Sec. Claxton called the November 1, 2022 Board Meeting to order at 6:01pm, even though a quorum is not present yet.

BID Member Public Comment – There were no comments.

Matthew Rudikoff joined the meeting, now making it a quorum.

Approval of September 13, 2022 and October 4, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes – Sec. Claxton indicated that the minutes were not available for review an approval tonight.

2023 Board of Directors Meeting Dates – Sec. Claxton listed the meeting dates for 2023, noting that some on the second Tuesday of the month. Tuesday, January 10, 2023 VIA ZOOM, Tuesday, February 7, 2023 VIA ZOOM, Tuesday, March 7, 2023 IN PERSON, Tuesday, April 4, 2023 VIA ZOOM, Tuesday, May 2, 2023 VIA ZOOM, Tuesday, June 6, 2023 IN PERSON, Tuesday, July 11, 2023 VIA ZOOM, Tuesday, August 1, 2023 VIA ZOOM, Tuesday, September 12, 2023 IN PERSON, Tuesday, October 3, 2023 VIA ZOOM, Tuesday, November 14, 2023 VIA ZOOM, Tuesday, December 5, 2023 IN PERSON. Councilman Fassett made a motion to accept the meeting dates for 2023, seconded by Board Member Kaminsky, all in favor.

Appoint 2022-2023 Election Committee – Sec. Claxton moved past this agenda item since neither Pres. Del Rosario nor Vice Pres. Joseph are present. This will be carried over to the next agenda.

Harriet Tubman Statue Committee Report – Sec. Claxton indicated that the committee met and reviewed a local artists' art piece which she said was awesome. She indicated that the committee felt that the focus should go beyond the location on Central and Division and that there should be a broader consideration of other locations. The committee members were tasked with bringing in three names of artists, historians, longtime Peekskill residents, who might be good in serving on a committee to discuss African American history in Peekskill and how translate that into an art or sculpture trail. Planning on meeting in the next few weeks again. She added that Carla Rae Johnson's piece is interesting and has the Big Dipper integrated with the Hudson River. It is illuminated. The

committee has not communicated again with the sculptor of the original Tubman Statue yet because the committee is still determining which direction to go in. Johnson also referred the committee to another area sculptor who does sculptures of prominent African American historical figures.

City of Peekskill Update –

- **DRI Grants:** Councilman Fassett stated the city accepted the recommendations for the \$750,000 DRI grant funds to be distributed to businesses who submitted projects. Thirteen projects were submitted, eight were selected for funding. Includes: Charlie Who Cafe, a new business next to the Standard House; Peekskill Brewery to finish their outdoor space; Early Electric for windows, HVAC and roofing; 901 South Street (Larry D'Amico's building) to create an outdoor work space, etc.; Flat Iron building for window replacement, etc.; Chamber of Commerce to restore the original storefront; Whiskey River for completing their rear dining space, etc.; Terra Dulce for creating an outdoor dining area. It is along approval process for these projects so if any project falls off the list, there are others than can be funded.
- **Pugsley Park and Monument Park:** There is a public workshop for Pugsley Park and Monument Park on November 15 at the Neighborhood Center from 7pm-9pm.
- **Important public hearings:** the cannabis zoning text amendment is scheduled for November 14. The city budget is public hearing is also November 14. There is a charter amendment that will add alternate members of three city boards, Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Historic Landmarks Preservation Board. The purpose behind the change is to make sure a quorum of voting members is present so meetings don't have to be canceled.
- **City Budget:** Councilman Fassett noted the city budget brings it in under the property tax cap and the goal is to hire employees to fill vacant positions, looking to add 20-21 staff members this year.

Economic Development Update – Board Member Rudikoff said he would serve on the Election Committee as asked by Pres. Del Rosario and he suggested we needed to bring the new Comptroller onto the BID Board. He also stated that he had met with Carole Voisey, the new chamber director and she invited him to speak at the upcoming chamber breakfast. He also stated that he has been given the directive to help fill vacant storefronts/properties. He also noted that then RFPs for the marketing, branding, social media and wayfinding signage is ready to be sent out.

Artist Update – Board Member Brideau reported that the PAA is planning a Holiday Boutique at the Artist Spot December 10-11.

Executive Director's Report – Exec. Dir. Powers

- **2023 Budget** - Exec. Dir. Powers made some minor adjustments, but the budget is basically the same as last year; he rolled \$5K from the Pugsley Park Concert series into the event support line item because the park may be under construction; we kept the two signature events in; made some minor changes; include funds for banners and flower baskets for Broad Street and western Park Street.

- Sec. Claxton noted that she has Pres. Del Rosario's proxy. Board Member Kaminsky made a motion to accept the budget as presented, seconded by Councilman Fassett, all in favor including Pres. Del Rosario's proxy.
- **Tree Lighting** - He noted that the Holiday Tree Lighting is scheduled for Sat Dec 3 @ 4pm. The BID works with the city to bring up the showmobile for live performances by the School of Rock, Peekskill Youth Bureau STAR dancers; The Dance Conservatory; Peekskill City Singers; Just the Place dancers. Kacey Morabito to host. Waiting to conform two or three other performers.
- **2022 Peekskill Makes Me Merry** – The PMMM button design was approved. Buttons will be here in time to start distribution at the last farmers market. Juana will be distributing buttons to businesses. We made 2,000 buttons.

Candlelight Tour – Sec. Claxton presented the board with a new idea to conduct a candlelight tour of downtown retailers. Many are on the second floor and get overlooked and much of the focus is on restaurants. She wants to literally lead shoppers to the retailers so they can see where they are and what they have. She plans to approach Patricia Riley to lead the tour. Would like to do the tour after dark, but we would need to make sure they stay open. There was discussion about which weekend to hold the tour and it was decided to hold it on the same weekend as the PAA Holiday Boutique. Maybe we can get carolers.

Executive Director's Report continued -

- **BID Member Registration** – The BID Member registration drive by Events to Remember was successful: They visited 55 businesses, 25 added on location, 9 more added later, 5 need to be revisited; two did not want to provide info. Going out again at a different time. Overall, the response from the businesses was positive.
- **Giant Pumpkin/Pumpkin Decorating** - We had 170 entries into Guess the Weight of the Giant Pumpkin--some one from Cortlandt won and the pumpkin painting at Pugsley Park was “sold out”. The pumpkin weighed in at 248 pounds.
- **Historic Hudson River Towns** – Exec. Dir. Powers noted that his first HHRT Board meeting after having been appointed to the Board will be in December.

BID Member Public Comment – Board Member Kaminsky gave an update on what he was working on regarding the historic/architectural tour of Peekskill. He noted that he did receive the old brochure from the city. He is currently updating the material and is working with architect Joe Thompson who is going to add architectural information. He suggested we do a trial run. Board Member Rudikoff said there may be some useful overlap with the DRI marketing/wayfinding signage RFP. Board Member Kaminsky would like to see the historical plaque program reconstituted as markers for historical buildings.

Adjournment – Councilman Fassett made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Kaminsky, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at about 6:40pm.