



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

Present: Pres. Cynthia Del Rosario, Vice Pres. LaFern Joseph, Sec. Drew Claxton and Board Members David Kaminsky, Frank Vasquez, Larry D'Amico, and Monique Brideau. Also present: Executive Director Bill Powers.

Absent: Board Members Brian Fassett, Monique Michaels, Matthew Rudikoff, and Treasurer Matthew Alexander.

BID Members: Carole Voisey and Mary Foster Scarlett Antonia joined in progress. **Guests:** Daisy Jopling

Call December, 6 2022 Board of Directors meeting to order – Pres. Del Rosario called the December 6, 2022 Board Meeting to order at 6:00pm and thanked Sec. Claxton for running last month's meeting.

BID Member Public Comment – There were no comments.

Moment of Silence for Peekskill Farmers Market Vendor Noel Rodriguez and Peekskill Police Officer Greg Jones – Pres. Del Rosario held a moment of silence for Peekskill Farmers Market Vendor Noel Rodriguez, who she said was “an absolute gem” and Peekskill Police Officer Greg Jones who she said was “well loved in the community.”

Approval of September 13, 2022, October 4, 2022 and November Board Meeting Minutes – Vice Pres. Joseph made a motion to accept the September 13, 2022, October 4, 2022 and November 1, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Sec. Claxton, all in favor.

Request for funding from Daisy Jopling Foundation for March 25 2023 concert at the Paramount in the amount of \$1,500 – Daisy Jopling announced that she is planning to re-create the concert she recently did in Egypt at the pyramids at Paramount in March. The event will also showcase the choirs in the Peekskill Schools. In exchange for BID sponsorship, Daisy's Foundation will place the BID logo on all materials, and market the concert to bring people to the Paramount and into the restaurants. Tickets will be on sale. The funds raised pay the music mentors, and to present music workshops leading up the concert where students will interact with professional performers, rental of the Paramount, marketing, etc. Exec. Dir. Powers stated that Daisy had agreed to place the BID's QR Code on the Paramount screen before the show so that attendees can see other places to go. Daisy also asked the board if there were ways to cooperate with the restaurants. When asked Daisy stated that since 2010 she had done a concert at the paramount every year except during the pandemic and she stated that they have had between 600 and 1100 people attend. She stated that they also give out between 100 and 200 free tickets to underserved populations. She also said she would provide a free link to the concert at the pyramids for board members. Sec. Joseph made a motion seconded by Board

Member D'Amico, all in favor including Board Member Fassett's proxy held by Pres. Del Rosario, to approve \$1,500 in support for the concert. Daisy thanked everyone for their support.

Candlelight Tour of Downtown Retailers – Sec. Claxton reported that the promotional flyer has been distributed and that 21 businesses are participating and that the tour is this Saturday at 5pm. Deputy Mayor Patricia Riley and her sister Anita Salvate are leading one tour and Carole Voisey from the chamber is leading the other tour. Participants will receive a battery-operated flameless candle and 200 luminaries that will be placed in front of participating businesses. Scarlett is providing carolers. Sec. Claxton stated she needs help with mapping out the tours, and Exec. Dir. Powers said he would do that and that he made the executive decision to have both tours leave from the Chamber office and wind up at the PAA Holiday Boutique.

Appoint 2022-2023 Election Committee – Pres. Del Rosario reminded the board that Frank Vasquez, Monique Michaels, Drew Claxton and LaFern Joseph's terms are up. The Election Committee consists of David Kaminsky as chair, Matthew Rudikoff, Monique Brideau, Larry D'Amico, and Ivy Fairchild. There is still the seat that was not filled from the previous election open as well. Pres. Del Rosario asked Board Member Kaminsky to reach out to Exec. Dir. Powers about setting up a meeting soon of the committee to establish the timeline for elections. It was noted that Chereese's team had added 35 new BID Members to the data base and that they were planning on going out again to collect more from the businesses that were not open the first time around.

2023 Special Events Committee – Pres. Del Rosario discussed plans for 2023 and would like to have more board participation as well as focusing on events that are unique to Peekskill like the Oz Festival. Wants to pin down dates as soon as possible. She also addressed costs associated with large events, noting that city fees for the showmobile, DPW and Police run about \$7,500, about \$7,500 for sound and bands, and about \$7,000 for other expenses like marketing, printing, banners, portojohns, supplies, etc. Chamber Executive Director Carole Voisey said she would send an email out to determine a date to discuss ideas and dates. Pres. Del Rosario will send Ms. Voisey a list of emails of people interested in serving on the committee. Frank Vasquez suggested doing a BID mixer in March of 2023 and that we should followup on that. Board Member Kaminsky is working on a architectural history tour of buildings downtown and would like to have a monthly chess night and some sort of food event.

Harriet Tubman Statue Committee Report – Sec. Claxton reported that the committee has not met this month and therefore there is no update. Board Member D'Amico reported that he done some research and discovered that Vinnie Bagwell is a sculptor and she lives in Yonkers and has done monumental sculptures. She has done Frederick Douglas and Harriet Tubman statues. For a full sized sculpture, we are looking at a cost of about \$100,000. She has a website if anyone wants to ckeck it out.

Historical Tours Update – Board Member Kaminsky said the historical buildings tour is moving forward with help from Jean Friedman and a commitment from architect Joe Thompson and he has also reached out to historian John Curran, and he stated that he is confident that he will be ready by the spring. He said once he has a close to final draft, he will share it with the board for input. Exec. Dir. Powers asked if they had access to the original photos or if new ones had to be taken. Board Member Kaminsky stated that he thought they would get new photos.

City of Peekskill Update – Councilman Fassett was not able to make the meeting, and indicated to Pres. Del Rosario that he had no updates to share on anything pressing.

Economic Development Update – Board Member Rudikoff was not able to attend and thus, there is no report.

Artist Update – Board Member Brideau noted that the PAA Boutique will be open this weekend at the Artist Spot and noted that the Candlelight Tour is happening from 5pm to 7pm and winds up at the Boutique. There is also an event at the Field Library Gallery from 2pm-4pm on Saturday. Peekskill looks very merry with the lights and decorations. Scarlett Antonia said that since the PAA Boutique is in her space, that she would be willing to stay open later and have the carolers sing there as well. There are 13 artist vendors.

Executive Director's Report – Prior to introducing the Executive Directors Report, Pres. Del Rosario wanted to publicly thank Mr. Powers for keeping the BID moving forward. She thanked Mr. Powers “from the bottom of my heart” for all he does for the Board, the Executive Committee and all of Peekskill. She stated that the tree lighting was amazing, that it was a joyous occasion to see the happiness on the faces of the kids who got free coloring books and how their eyes lit up when they saw Santa. She ended by saying, “I appreciate you, thank you, and great job on Saturday.” Mr. Powers said he had been receiving many positive comments about the tree lighting and he said he would put them altogether into an email and send them to the board. He also thanked Pres. Del Rosario for her support, and the efforts of the DPW, Police and Parks and Rec under the direction of Cathy Montaldo. Exec. Dir. Powers noted the Peekskill Makes Me Merry campaign is in full swing, print ads are appearing, the PMMM buttons and stickers were distributed to downtown businesses. He also noted that there will be a NYE Ball Drop, and that we had received a request to help fund the event after the last Board Meeting, but Exec. Dir. Powers noted that the BID had given \$1,000 to last year's Ball Drop, which was canceled and that those funds were still in the NYE Ball drop account. Lastly, he noted that he had attended the Business Council of Westchester's WIN event in Tarrytown involving innovation and he did a tabletop display for the BID/City of Peekskill. He reported that many people stopped by the booth to compliment the City of Peekskill for its efforts with the DRI grant, that they visit Peekskill for its restaurants and music, etc. he said he had interacted with Marsha Gordon from the Business Council of Westchester and the team at Westchester County Office of Economic Development.

BID Member Public Comment –

Ms. Voisey relayed a story about a child who came over to get hot chocolate at the tree lighting and asked how much it cost, and she said it's free, and there are free cookies as well, to which he said, “best day of my life ever!”

Sec. Claxton said she had heard a lot of positive feedback about the tree lighting, noting that one person said it was the best tree lighting because of the warmth of the community and performances of the kids. Sec. Claxton also said that she had been giving out the PMMM buttons to her patrons and everyone likes them. Pres. Del Rosario said she had similar reactions from people at the tree lighting when she gave the PMMM buttons out.

BID Member Antonia thanked the BID for allowing Amy Reyes to perform again; last year's performance was the first time she had performed in public and that she was delighted to perform

again this year.

CAC's Marie Inserra stated that the CAC is presenting an environmental film series; she asked if the BID could distribute any information and Exec. Dir. Powers said he would be happy to distribute any information and reminded her that she can post the CAC events to the BID calendar free of charge.

Adjournment and Executive Session to discuss contracts and personnel. Vice Pres. Joseph made a motion to adjourn and go into executive session to discuss contracts and personnel, seconded by Board Member Vasquez, all in favor, including Councilman Fassett's proxy. Meeting adjourned 6:58pm.