



**Peekskill Business Improvement District  
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, September 12, 2023 @ 6pm  
Peekskill City Hall First Floor Conference Room  
840 Main Street, Peekskill, NY 10566**

**Present:** Pres. Cynthia Del Rosario, Treasurer Toni Tracy, Secretary Drew Claxton, Councilman Brian Fassett, Board Members Matthew Rudikoff, Larry D'Amico, Richard Rogers, Roger Campos, Chuck Lesnick, Monique Brideau. Executive Director Bill Powers.

**Absent:** Vice Pres. Ivy Fairchild, Board Member David Kaminsky.

**BID Member present:** Mary Foster and Scarlett Antonia.

**Call September 12, 2023 Board of Directors meeting to order** – Pres. Del Rosario called the meeting to order at 6:02pm

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

**Approval of Board Meeting Minutes** – Sec. Claxton made a motion to accept the July 11, 2023 Board of Directors Minutes. Seconded by Councilman Fassett, all in favor.

**Appointment of Dorothy Posada, Assistant Director, SUNY Westchester Peekskill, Center for the Digital Arts to fill open property owner's board of directors seat on BID Board** – Pres. Del Rosario asked for a motion to appoint Dorothy Posada to the open board seat, noting that she had notified us that she could not attend tonight. Motion was made by Councilman Fassett, seconded by Roger Campos, all in favor.

**2023 Special Events Committee** – Board Member Campos provided a spread sheet of proposed 2024 events including starting the Peekskill Flea Market earlier, the first weekend in March. In addition we want to plan pop up flea markets in the first three weekends in December, weather permitting; Harriet Tubman Beacon of Hope Statue here May and June and a panel discussion featuring descendants of prominent African Americans in May. Noted that it is difficult to do large events due to funding requirements and volunteers.

It was brought to the board's attention that we can not proceed with the Holiday Craft Fair because the Events to Remember proposal came in considerably higher than what we can afford and because the PAA artists had no interest in doing an outdoor event in December. The PAA has not decided about doing an indoor holiday boutique yet.

Pres. Del Rosario encouraged Board Members, when they attend downtown events, to post and share photos to help promote the downtown and to use hashtags when possible.

There was some concern expressed that the 12HeartU event had to be moved indoors because of the weather, and that there was not of publicity about the change. Exec. Dir. Powers was asked to followup with the event organizers.

**Artist Update/Holiday Banner Project** – Board Member Brideau shared the winning holiday banner designs from Carol Wax and John Gutierrez and thanked Exec. Dir Powers for his help and work on the project and thanked her committee including Councilman Fassett.

**City of Peekskill Update** – Councilman Fassett gave a city update.

**Economic Development Update** – Board Member Rudikoff gave his economic development report.

**Executive Director's Report** – Executive Director Powers noted that the Farm and Flea Markets are going well, that the BID and the city are co-sponsoring the annual pumpkin decorating which is being moved from Pugsley Park (because of construction) to North Division Street on Saturday, October 28, 2023. He also noted that the guided historic tours are scheduled for Saturday, September 23, 2023 at 10am and 2pm. The BID and the city are hosting Patterns for Progress at Dramatic Hall on Friday, September 22, 2023. Councilman Fassett and Exec. Dir. Powers will be conducting a roundtable on what the Peekskill BID does and both will join Planning Director Jean Friedman to give a tour of downtown DRI projects. Lastly, Exec. Dir. Powers will be attending Westchester County's annual Tourism conference on September, 27 2023 in White Plains.

**Executive Director's Contract** – Pres. Del Rosario asked for a motion, after praising Executive Director Bill Powers efforts on behalf of the BID, to authorize her to sign a contract extension to keep Mr. Powers in employment of the BID for three years, until August 1, 2026, and increase his paid weekly average number of hours from 20 to 25 hours per week, at no increase in hourly rate. Board Member Campos made the motion, seconded by Board Member Lesnick, all in favor. Pres. Del Rosario stated the contract has been provided to the BID's attorney for review and compliance and will be signed as soon as it is returned to her.

**BID Member Public Comment** –

Some concerns were expressed about loitering on Main Street and South Street. Pres. Del Rosario stated that those concerns were brought to the attention of the City Manager. Some were surprised that the loitering laws were removed from city code.

The hanging flower baskets were praised and Exec. Director Powers was directed to send a letter to the City Manager thanking the city for maintaining them so well.

BID Member Foster asked if there were any training needs among BID businesses since there is some grant money available through the Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce Foundation. Some ideas were exchanged.

Scarlet Antonia invited everyone to the Oz Land Festival on September 16, 2023 and the reception on September 14, 2023, and thanked the Board for its support.

**Adjournment** - Councilman Fassett made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Lesnick, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.