



**Peekskill Business Improvement District
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 3, 2023 6PM
Peekskill City Hall First Floor Conference Room
840 Main Street, Peekskill, NY 10566**

Present: Pres. Cynthia Del Rosario, Secretary Drew Claxton, Board Members David Kaminsky, Larry D'Amico, Richard Rogers, Roger Campos, Chuck Lesnick, Monique Brideau, Dorothy Posada and Executive Director Bill Powers.

Absent: Vice Pres. Ivy Fairchild, Treasurer Toni Tracy, Councilman Brian Fassett, Matthew Rudikoff.

BID Member present: Mary Foster and John Sharp.

- **Call October 3, 2023 Board of Directors meeting to order** – Pres. Del Rosario called the meeting to order at 6:06pm.
- **BID Member Public Comment** – There were no public comments.
- **Approval of September 12, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes** – Sec. Claxton made the motion to accept the September 12, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting minutes, seconded by Richard Rogers, all in favor.
- **Approval of 2024 Board of Directors Meeting Dates** – After review for conflicts, Sec. Claxton made a motion to accept the proposed 2024 Board of Directors Meeting dates as presented, seconded by Board Member Lesnick, all in favor.
- **Event Reports from 12HeartU event, the Oz Festival, and Open Studio Tours (September)** – Executive Dir. Powers presented the printed reports from the 12HeartU event and the September Open Studio Tours. There was no written report on the Oz Festival, but Exec. Dir. Powers and Board Members Campos and Claxton attended. Unfortunately, due to inclement weather, the 12HeartU was moved indoors and the question was posed, what happens to the BID's investment when that happens. The September Open Studio Tours also had inclement weather, but there were quality visitors to the open studios. The board asked Exec. Dir. Powers to share a few thoughts for next year. (1) There were a lot of people in town, but many were not here for the Oz Land Festival, they just happened to be here and many inquired as to what was happening. While marketing is expensive, the recommendation from the board was to do more and wider marketing and promotion. (2) The second recommendation was not to block off Brown Street in addition to South Street. The board members who attended said that they thought the event was too spread out and that confining all the vendors to South Street would have made it look fuller. In addition, there was a show at the Paramount that night and the Brown Street road closure presented some anxiety for them. Also, suggested to contact Beyond Costumes in Yonkers to rent more Oz-themed costumes.
- **Request from PAA to underwrite reception for Holiday Boutique - \$500** – Exec. Dir. Powers presented the PAA's request to underwrite the Holiday Boutique. Sec. Claxton made a motion to approve the \$500 in funding, seconded by Board Member Campos, all in favor.
- **Vacant Storefronts** – Board Member Rogers is working with Matt Rudikoff on identifying

vacant properties that could be contacted to gauge interest in having them rented and to create a database of same. It was also suggested that such properties be required to be inspected by the city once a year to avoid it from becoming a public hazard.

- **Artist Update** –Board Member Brideau gave a brief update on the holiday banner project.
- **City of Peekskill Update** – Councilman Fassett was absent.
- **Historic Walking Tours** – Board Member Kaminsky gave a brief update on the historic walking tour he conducted in late September. Those in attendance liked the tour and he noted that several people on the tour went back to Bucko and the Flat Iron building to visit the businesses upstairs. There were about 14 people on the tour.

- **Executive Director's Report**

Exec. Dir. Powers stated that the BID and the City of Peekskill will be co-sponsoring the annual Pumpkin Decorating to be held on North Division Street since Pugsley Park is under construction. He also noted that he and Councilman Fassett presented at Patterns for Progress Main Street event; about 50 municipal leaders attended at Dramatic Hall; he, Councilman Fassett and Planning Director Jean Friedman also conducted a tour of DRI projects in the downtown. Mr. Powers also noted that he had attended Revolutionary Westchester 250, a county-wide meeting to start planning for 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution. He also briefly mentioned an Iona University - Peekskill Project with the artists community and the impact the arts have on the economy. He announced the Annual Holiday Tree Lighting will be on Saturday, December 2, 2023. Lastly, he asked board members to let him know if they want to see something placed in the 2024 budget.

- **BID Member Public Comment** – Business Owner John Sharp suggested that Peekskill host its own Restaurant Week. It was suggested to get the chamber involved since the initiative would encompass the entire city, larger than just the BID.
- **Adjournment and motion to go into Executive Session to discuss contracts** – Sec. Claxton, seconded by Board Member D'Amico made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss contracts, all in favor.