



Peekskill Business Improvement District
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 14, 2023 6PM
Peekskill City Hall First Floor Conference Room
840 Main Street, Peekskill, NY 10566

Present: Monique Brideau, Roger Campos, Vice Pres. Ivy Fairchild, Councilman Brian Fassett, David Kaminsky, Chuck Lesnick, Dorothy Posada, Matt Rudikoff, Treasurer Toni Tracy, Secretary Claxton arrived later in the meeting.

Absent: Pres, Cynthia Del Rosario, Larry D'Amico, Richard Rogers.

Audience: Alan Most, Trevor Noble, Carol Bash, Christopher Fox, Scarlett Antonia, Jennifer Brown, David Abrevaya.

- **Call November 14, 2023 Board of Directors meeting to order** – The meeting was called the meeting to order at 6:04pm.
- **BID Member Public Comment** – Representatives from the Peekskill Film Festival made an early presentation to the BID Board for funding the Film Festival in 2024 which will be centered around the Paramount and Brown Street. Their request is for \$5,000 and the festival will be held the last weekend in July 2024. They said the funds would be used to raise the visibility of the festival and for marketing and social media promotions. No action was taken since the 2024 BID budget has not be finalized yet.
- **Approval of October 3, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes** – Board Member Lesnick made a motion to accept the October 3, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting minutes, seconded by Board Member Campos, all in favor.
- **\$1,000 Request for New Year's Eve Ball Drop** – Exec. Dir. Powers stated that the BID traditionally helps to fund the New Year's Eve Ball Drop with \$1,000 and asked for a motion to approve the expenditure, which had been anticipated in the BID budget. Mr. Powers noted that the funds are transferred internally from the BID account to the New Years Eve Ball Drop account held by the City of Peekskill. Board Member Lesnick made the motion to provide \$1,000 to the NYE Ball drop, seconded by Board Member Campos, all in favor.
- **Appointment of Election Committee** – The appointments will be placed on the December agenda when Pres. Del Rosario is present.
- **Vacant Storefronts Project Update** – Due to Board Member Rogers' absence, the update will be added to the next meeting agenda.
- **Artist Update** – Board Member Brideau showed the winning Holiday Banners and they were well received. Exec. Dir. Powers noted that the banners are in the process of being installed throughout the downtown. He also noted that both winning artists will be at the Peekskill Flea Market on November 19, 2023.
- **City of Peekskill Update** – Councilman Fassett gave his monthly report which included notice that the city will be surpassing the property tax cap for the 2024 budget, planned

improvements to some downtown crosswalks, a temporary moratorium on smoke shops, the success of the culinary food prep program, the DRI marketing advisory committee is being established, the city council approved the BID's request for free parking starting November 24 through January 1, 2024 and noted the CHHOP Turkey Trot is being held on November 19, 2023.

- **Economic Development Update** – Board Member Rudikoff gave his monthly report which included information on the DRI marketing and Wayfinding Signage committee and that he participated on a retail call with Board Member Rogers and Exec. Dir. Powers with one of the downtown property owners contacted by the BID to see if can help find them tenants for their vacant storefronts.
- **Historic Walking Tours Year End Summary** – Board Member Kaminsky stated the Historic Walking Tours were very well attended, averaging about 15 people per tour and were made up of both local and out of town visitors. Quite a few of the participants stayed after and went into some of the downtown merchants like the Blondery, Bucko and the Flat Iron Gallery. He also noted that participants mentioned that the city had quite a bit of litter, weeds, and gum on the sidewalks. That feedback was provided to the city.
- **Request to approve 2024 BID Budget** – Exec. Dir. Powers provided an overview of the proposed 2024 BID Budget, noting the budget is similar to the 2023 budget, noting that he is projecting additional income from both the Flea and Farm Markets and sponsorships for the Tubman Statue. Expenditures he noted will be about the same 2023, but noted that he increased the events supported by the BID by \$2,500, to \$27,500; restored the expenses associated with the annual meeting to include the rental space and catering (now that we are meeting in person again); adjustment in salaries to cover the Executive Director's increase in the number of hours worked/paid on average each week; increase in expenses associated with Farm and Flea Markets which are related to increases in revenue. After some brief discussion, Councilman Fassett made a motion to accept the 2024 BID Budget as presented, Vice Pres. Fairchild seconded it, and all were in favor.
- **Request to authorize BID President or her designee to enter into a contract for Events to Remember to manage the 2024 Peekskill Farmers Market** – Exec. Dir. Powers asked to move the consideration of this proposed contract to the next meeting when the Board President is present.
- **Request to authorize BID President or her designee to enter into a contract for Treasures 4 Less (Beshir Zahir) to manage the 2024 Peekskill Flea Market** – Exec. Dir. Powers asked to move the consideration of this proposed contract to the next meeting when the Board President is present.
- **Executive Director's Report** – Bill Powers
Peekskill Makes Me Merry/Holiday Tree Lighting - Exec. Dir Powers noted that Carol Wax's design for the banners is also being used for the 2023 Peekskill Makes Me Merry pins; three thousand flyers promoting the tree lighting and shopping/dining downtown are going to be distributed through the schools; talent lineup includes: Amy Reyes, Doug Ferony, Bria the Artist, The Dance Conservatory, Just the Place, The Wiz Kids, Peekskill City Singers, Kiley Center STAR Dancers, and Santa.

2024 Event Support – Exec. Dir. Powers noted that he will be making some suggested changes to the event support policies, including limiting the BID's support/funding to only non-profit groups as suggested by the city's corporation counsel's office.

Barges Along the Hudson – Exec. Dir. Powers stated that this issue of “parking” barges laden with oil and other substances which if leaked could cause harm to the river, is back on the table following a decision by the Coast Guard to do a work-around that will allow them again. Mr. Powers participated in a regional conference call with the River Keeper. Other municipalities, and state elected officials to hear about the issue. The Coast Guard today reversed their decision for now. River Keeper stated that the Coast Guard did not follow proper procedures in making that decision and that the decision may be in violation of the endangered species act—sturgeon are a protected species and some of the docking areas are over the sturgeon's spawning habitat. The anchors can scrape the bottom of the riverbed, causing habitat damage.

- **BID Member Public Comment** – There were no public comments.
- **Adjournment** – Sec. Claxton made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Kaminsky, all in favor.