



**Peekskill Business Improvement District
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes
IN PERSON ONLY - NO ZOOM Availability
Rescheduled Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 6PM
Peekskill City Hall First Floor Conference Room
840 Main Street, Peekskill, NY 10566**

Present: Sec. Drew Claxton, Board Members Larry D'Amico, Brian Fassett, Matthew Rudikoff, Dorothy Posada, Roger Campos and Exec. Dir. Bill Powers. Richard Rogers arrived at 6:15pm to make a quorum.

Absent: Pres. Cynthia Del Rosario, Board Members Monique Brideau, Chuck Lesnick, Toni Tracy, David Kaminsky, Ivy Fairchild.

Others present: Sue Sheridan and Fiona Brennan from the St. Patrick's Committee; Scarlet Antonia, Antonia Arts; Mary Foster, Property Owner & Library Board; Jennifer Brown Field Library/Peekskill Film Festival; Sergio Scott, Property Owner.

- **Call January 17, 2024 Board of Directors meeting to order** – The meeting was called to order By Sec. Claxton at 6:02pm.
- **BID Member Public Comment** – There were no public comments.
- **Presentation/Request for Funding** – Celebrating Women In Business - \$2,000 – Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Carole Voisey – This request was postponed until the next meeting.
- **Presentation/Request for Funding** – 35th Annual Peekskill St. Patrick's Parade – \$2,270 – Peekskill St. Patrick's Chairperson Sue Sheridan made a presentation to have the BID fund the annual Peekskill St. Patrick's Parade. The parade is on Saturday, March 9 at 3pm with a flag raising ceremony at 10AM at City Hall and Mass at Assumption at 1pm. After discussion, Councilman Fassett made a motion and seconded by Board Member Claxton, all in favor to support the parade with a \$2,270 sponsorship package \$2,500 less \$230 journal ad already paid in 2023). BID logo will appear on banner.
- **Request for Funding** – \$5,000 – Jennifer Brown – Peekskill Film Festival After lengthy discussion, Board Member D'Amico made a motion to fund the Peekskill Film Festival for \$2,500, seconded by Roger Campos, all in favor. There was an offer to have BID members be sponsors, and Roger Campos from MHVFCU and Dorothy Posada offered to connect Ms. Brown with other funding sources; Board Member Rudikoff also offered to put the Film Festival folks and the DRI marketing consultants in touch with each other.
- **Request for Funding** – \$1,500 – Daisy Jopling Foundation/Hudson Valley Irish Festival – After discussion about where the proceeds would go this year (half to Daisy Jopling Foundation and half to Hudson Valley Irish Festive which is held at the Riverfront), Councilman Fassett after hearing board comments, made a motion to deny the request because we have a number of new applications this year and because the Festival is not in the downtown, seconded by Sec. Claxton, all in favor of not giving financial support to the Foundation this year.

- **Approval of November 14, 2023 and December 5, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes** – Sec. Claxton presented the board minutes for November 14, 2023 and December 5, 2023, and Roger Campos made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Richard Rogers, all in favor.
- **Appointment Additional Election Committee Member** – Councilman Fassett made a motion to allow Pres. Del Rosario to appoint a fifth member to the elections & Nominations Committee in accordance with the bylaws, seconded by Sec. Claxton, all in favor.
- **Timetable for 2024 BID Board of Directors Elections** – Board Member Kaminsky provided a written timetable for the 2024 BID Elections.
- **Vacant Storefronts Project Update** – Board Member Rogers gave a brief update, including having had his first call with a property owner looking for a commercial tenant at 117 Division Street. Mr. Scott was in the audience and stated that he wanted a tenant other than a hair care or smoke shop.
- **City of Peekskill Update** – Councilman Fassett gave his city report, including art donations accepted for Central Avenue, Esther Street closure extension approved, parking meter and software updates are coming, ongoing quality of life enforcement, a \$5.2 Million grant to relocate the pump station, funds to replace a 4” water main on Main Street, \$800K in funding for new sewer pipes, \$500K in additional funding for Pugsley and Monument Parks, Videographer Mike Miner is leaving 1/31/24, etc.
- **Board Member Campos had to leave the meeting.**
- **Economic Development Update** – Board Member Rudikoff gave his report on the Peekskill Food Incubator project, a merger at Bantam, interest in the former Peekskill Brewery building, new Planning Director Carol Samol joined the team, will be presenting an update on the DRI marketing plans at Gleason's on February 2 at the chamber luncheon. He noted that Cathy Lockwood is retiring.
- **Executive Director's Report** – Bill Powers
 - Preliminary 2023 Budget Review – Exec. Dir. Powers gave a preliminary view of the budget, noting that the Flea market brought in double the income over last year and that helped to pay for the entire Holiday Banner/Artist Engagement project without having to dip into reserves.
 - Harriet Tubman Beacon of Hope Statue Update – Everything is a go for the statue to arrive here in Peekskill on May 1 and stay until June 30.
 - Approval of Expenditures for Annual Meeting @ Dramatic Hall – Councilman Fassett made a motion to allow Exec. Dir. Powers to sign a contract for the annual meeting at an expenditure of about \$2,800 all inclusive, seconded by Board Member Posada, all in favor, with Councilman Fassett utilizing Pres. Del Rosario's proxy to carry the vote since Board Member Campos had to leave the meeting before the vote.
 - Farm/Flea Markets Both are on track, with an anticipated start date for the Flea market in March, and first Saturday in June for the start of the farmers market.
 - 2024 Event Policy Changes – Exec. Dir. Powers stated that he had updated the Request for Funding Application for 2024, including the recommendation from the City's Corporation

Counsel, that funding only be given to non-profit groups that are actually presenting the event. The board expressed support for the changes.

- **BID Member Public Comment** – There were a few public comments about issues facing the downtown.

Mr. Scott stated that he was looking for a tenant for his 900 SF, \$2,200 a month ground floor office space.

In light of the comments about the downtown, Exec. Dir. Powers was asked to invite the City's Quality of Life Committee led by City Manager Matt Alexander to present at the next Board Meeting.

- **Adjournment** – Board Member Rogers made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Board Member Posada, all in favor, including the use of Pres. Del Rosario's proxy. Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.