



Peekskill Business Improvement District
Board of Director's Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, February 6, 2024 @ 6pm
Peekskill City Hall First Floor Conference Room
840 Main Street, Peekskill, NY 10566

Present: Pres. Cynthia Del Rosario, Sec. Drew Claxton, Board Members Dorothy Posada, Matthew Rudikoff, Brian Fassett, Roger Campos, Toni Tracy, Richard Rogers, Monique Brideau, Chuck Lesnick, Larry D'Amico and Exec. Dir. Bill Powers.

Absent: Board Members David Kaminsky, Ivy Fairchild.

Others present: Scarlet Antonia, Antonia Arts; Mary Foster, Property Owner & Field Library Board; Karen Kelly PAA and Carol Bash PAA.

- **Call February 6, 2024 Board of Directors meeting to order** – Pres. Del Rosario opened the meeting at 6:01pm.
- **BID Member Public Comment** – We reserve this time so BID members have the opportunity to bring to the Board's attention concerns regarding this meeting's agenda topics. Please limit your comments to 3 minutes or less.
- **Presentation – City of Peekskill Quality of Life Committee** – Peekskill City Manager Matt Alexander that the committee which meets 2 x a week is handling quality of life issues in a team format; he stated that See. Click Fix., a self reporting app, is helping identify problem areas. Director of Public Works Chris Gross says the app is providing information on potholes, snowy sidewalks, and burnt out street lights; See, Click, Fix has had 140 complaints reported to the city. Jessica Spitzer, Code Enforcement/Building Dept. were invited to discuss the city's efforts on quality of life issues. Jessica Spitzer, Code Enforcement/Building Dept. discussed trash and litter are a big part of her focus in the downtown; Peekskill Police Chief Leo Dylewski discussed that he is filling unfilled positions due to retirements and attrition; and that some staff are out on medical leave and spots have to be held open for them until they return to duty. He also stated that they are dealing with double parking and illegal parking in the downtown—ticket revenue is up quite a bit. Exec. Dir. Powers thanked the DPW for handling the watering of the flower baskets and complimented the city on how well maintained they are. City Manager Alexander noted that fines have increased from \$14K to \$200K. The committee members urged BID businesses and property owners to reach out if they have a code enforcement issue.
- **Informational Presentation** – Broad & Howard Street Housing Development – Board Member Lesnick gave a presentation on his Howard Street apartment development project which is partially in the BID district. The presentation was informational only, no action was taken by the board.
- **Presentation/Request for Funding** – Celebrating Women In Business – \$2,000 – Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Carole Voisey – After discussion, the BID board voted to provide \$1,000 and ask for co-sponsorship of this new event. Councilman Fassett made the motion to provide \$1,000 (not \$2,000) citing competing and funding

requests, seconded by Board member Rogers, all in favor, except Roger Campos who serves on the chamber board and therefore abstained.

- **Presentation/Request for Funding** – Antonia Arts/Oz Festival – \$5,000 – Scarlet Antonia presented her request to the board. After consideration and discussion, the board wanted to see more of focus on marketing and promotion, limit the event to South Street, and offer more things to do for tweens. Board Member Lesnick made a motion to provide \$2,500 in funding for the Oz Festival, seconded by Councilman Fassett, all in favor.
- **Request for Funding** – PAA Open Studio Tours – \$2,500 Robin Kline or her designee Carol Bash and Karen Kelly requested \$2,500 in funding for the 25th Annual Open Studio Tours weekend; they expect a big turnout for the 25th. Sec. Claxton stated that the Open Studios weekend is their best weekend from a business perspective. She made a motion to fund the Open Studios weekend with \$2,500, seconded by Board Member Rogers, all in favor, except Board Member D'Amico who abstained since he is active with the PAA.
- **Approval of January 17, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes** – Sec. Claxton asked to move this to the next agenda since the minutes were not ready.
- **2024 BID Board of Directors Elections Committee Report**– Board Member Kaminsky was not present, but Exec. Dir. Powers noted that the election process is proceeding as planned.
- **Vacant Storefronts Project Update** – Richard Rogers
- **City of Peekskill Update** – Councilman Fassett reported that Peekskill is now Bronze Level Climate Smart City as reported by the CAC, the city received \$1.7 million in grant funding for playgrounds, including McKinley's, there will be fireworks on July 4th at 930pm, and the city is accepting bids for snow removal. He also reported that the city received \$500K in supplemental funding to do additional improvements in Pugsley Park, and that the city will be getting 32 new charging stations.
- **Economic Development Update** – Board Member Rudikoff gave his economic development report including an update on the kitchen incubator project, the DRI project and that he supplied the Westchester County Film Office with data on film/video projects done in Peekskill.
- **Executive Director's Report** – Bill Powers
 - Harriet Tubman Beacon of Hope Statue Update – Exec. Dir. Powers alerted the board to a request from the Village of West Haverstraw to move the Tubman Statue out of Peekskill before June 19 2024 since they are having a permanent version of the Tubman Beacon of Hope Statue installed at the same time as the visiting version is here in Peekskill. To keep good relations, Exec. Dir. Powers recommended that we agree to shorten the statue's stay by about 10 days so as not to interfere with their celebration. The traveling statue will arrive in Peekskill on May 1 and will be removed on June 17, 2024.
 - Farm/Flea Markets – Exec. Dir. Powers stated that the applications for the farmers and flea market were available on the BID website.
 - He also reported that he had a meeting with the new planning director, Carol Samol, a separate meeting with the DRI marketing team, and will be attending the Historic Hudson River Towns meeting in Rockland later this month.
- **BID Member Public Comment** – Chloe Wareham-Gordon asked if we could share information about raising funds and donations for the recent fire victims since they are relatives of Eddie's

from the Copy Shop.

- **Adjournment - Sec. Claxton made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Councilman Fassett seconded it, all in favor.**