



**Peekskill Business Improvement District
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes
Tuesday April 2, 2024
Peekskill City Hall First Floor Conference Room
840 Main Street, Peekskill, NY 10566**

Present: Pres. Richard Rogers; Vice Pres. Dorothy Posada; Sec. Deb Milone; Treas. Toni Tracy; Exec. Dir. Bill Powers; Councilman Brian Fassett, Board Members Matthew Rudikoff, City of Peekskill; Paddy Neville; David Kaminsky; John Sharp; David Abrevaya; Chuck Lesnick

Absent: Board Members Drew Claxton and Roger Campos.

Call April 2, 2024 Board of Directors meeting to order – Pres. Richard Rogers called the April 2, 2024 Board of Directors meeting to order at 6pm.

• **Welcoming Remarks & Introduction of 2024 Board Members** – Pres. Rogers made some welcoming remarks, presented past president Cynthia Del Rosario with flowers and certificate for her service to the BID and asked each board member to introduce themselves

• **BID Member Public Comments–**

- David Kaminsky indicated that a property owner on Bank Street had concerns over the Flea Market. David suggested they attend the May BID Board meeting.
- John Sharp expressed concerned over the BID supporting private events. He stated that funds should be spent on economic Development in the BID district.
- Chloe Wareham Gordon suggested the BID do a Social Media Audit, do a survey of BID Members for what social media outlets should be used and suggested tracking key measures.
- Steven Dillard, Fund Bunch Line Dance, is planning an event and asked what support he may expect from the BID. Exec. Dir. Bill Powers and President Rogers said they would speak with him separately and reminded him that there is an application online for support.

• **Presentation – Update on DRI Grant Projects** – City of Peekskill Planner Peter Erwin

- Pugsley Park – Pugsley Park is near completion Peekskill Arts Alliance has a separate DRI funding and will be installing murals – A Day in the Park design.
- Monument park – DRI funding to focus on lighting. Construction should start early 2025.
- Downtown Civic Hub Division & Park Street. Replacement of Gazebo and making an open space for Citizen gatherings. Construction to start in early 2025. A lot of pedestrian

improvements. New traffic signals will be put in place. Traffic study was done to improve the intersection.

- Pedestrian/Cyclist Connectivity. Focus connecting Railroad Ave. to Downtown. Shared trails for walking and biking. President Rogers asked if a Visitor information Center can be established near the train station. Further Discussion on this is needed. Exec. Dir. Powers asked if existing downtown kiosks can be changed to electronic kiosks, again further discussion is needed.
 - Fleischmann Pier - Opening in June 2024, additional dredging/planning grants are being pursued.
 - Marketing, Branding, Wayfinding - Focusing on making Peekskill easier to get around with murals and Wayfinding signs. Consultants are looking at a various signage that can be used. Should be completed by the end of 2024.
 - Downtown revitalization Fund – \$700,000 is available. Five applications from property owners are in process.
 - Public Art – Five sculptures are being planned from Railroad Ave to downtown by Hudson Valley MOCA. Murals will be added to some buildings in the downtown.
- **Discussion – Food Scraps Programs** – Kay Barthelmes, Member, Conservation Advisory Council
- Ms. Barthelmes is a member of Conservation Advisory Council. Peekskill started a program for composting food scraps, residential composting only in May 2023. Six tons of food scraps have been collected to date. Residents now take their food scraps to Louisa Street DPW garage on Saturday mornings. Would like to collect the food scraps at the Farmer’s Market, spoke to Exec. Dir. Powers on this last year. Kay asked if a trial could be considered. A commercial food scrap container would be located near the Farmers Market and food scraps dropped off at the would be picked up and taken to CRP sanitation at no charge. John Sharp spoke that he uses CRP food scrap containers and there is no smell coming from it. Kay said that there would be public compost instruction to show people how to compost correctly at the Farmer’s Market.
 - Exec. Dir. Powers asked if Kay has spoken to Regeneration Farm. She has but the site is not staffed all the time to make sure food scraps dropped off are not contaminated.
 - Exec. Dir. Powers said the vendors of the market would have to be spoken to and suggested an eight-week educational program should be done before drop-offs start. An alternate location, not directly in the Farmers Market should be considered to satisfy vendor concerns about transporting food scraps through the market, especially in containers other than those sold by the city.

- David Kaminsky asked about union and insurance concerns.
- A zero-waste plan for events is included on applications for BID-funding.

• **Approval of March 5, 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes & March 5, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes –**

- Sec. Milone asked for approval of March 5, 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes and March 5, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes. Motion made by Brian Fassett, seconded by David Kaminsky, all in favor.

• **Appoint board members to review BID's Social Media needs –**

- Pres. Rogers asked for a motion to approve his appointment of a committee to review BID's Social Media needs. Motion made by Dorothy Posada, seconded by John Sharp, all in favor. Board Members who volunteered to be on the committee: Dorothy Posada, David Abrevaya, Toni Tracy, Chuck Lesnick. Goal of the committee is to assess the BID's current social media and what needs to be improved or added. Board Member Posada will chair.

• **Appoint one or two board members to review Pedicab proposal –**

- Pres. Richard Rogers asked for a motion to allow him to appoint a committee to review a Pedicab proposal that was forwarded to the BID for review by City Manager Matt Alexander. Brian Fassett made the motion, seconded by Board Member Posada, all in favor. John Sharp and Brian Fassett volunteered to be on the committee to review the proposal.

• **City Event Fees –**

- Board Member Neville expressed concern over cost of City fees for events. City is working on better communication between City staff and event organizers to better explain the fees. Exec. Dir. Powers stated that he will add this to the agenda/meeting with the City Manager.

• **Illegal & Double Parking –**

- Board Member Paddy Neville – Expressed concern about the number of double parked and illegally parked cars downtown.

• **Signage for Parking/Inclusion on Paramount & Business websites –**

- Board Member Neville suggested restaurants should add parking options to their websites. Paramount should do the same and add to their printed tickets and receipts. Councilman Fassett noted that the Paramount added parking options to their eblasts and website and it was noted that parking directions will be part of the wayfinding signage under the DRI.

- **Historic Tours –**

- Board Member Kaminsky will host an historic tour of the downtown starting at 10am at the Chamber of Commerce on Saturday, April 6, 2024. No cost.

- **City of Peekskill Update –** Councilman Fassett provided an update on city initiatives

- **Street closures:** Approved the street closure for Cinco de Mayo – May 4th 1pm to 11:30pm for – Antonia Arts – Oz Festival – August 17th 11am to 8pm – pending Westchester County Approval.
- **Restore NY Grant funding:** City issued an RFP for another round of Restore NY Grant funding –The city received interest and are looking to work with two developers at this time (1) The Broad Howard Project and (2) 201 North Division Street project.
- **Peekskill Bay Dredging:** Con Ed is preparing for further remediation dredging in Peekskill Bay. The former site of the manufactured gas plant. The first phase was completed in 2022. The Army Corp/NYSDEC Permit allows for work April 1 through November 30.
- **Archives Grant:** The city applied for a grant to assist us with city archives and storage.
- **Increase in Meter Rates and Parking Fines:** The city announced and held a public hearing on Parking Meter Rates and Increased Parking Fines – this was passed by local law and will be implemented soon. Expect the .25 cent increase in parking meter rates to be in effect in about three months.
- **DRI Artwork:** The city approved additional artwork to be installed relating to the DRI grant – one is a mural on the Fern Tree building depicting Harriet Tubman, and the other are murals by Steve Ehrenberg on the Peekskill Coffee House.
- **City-owned parking lots for possible Development:** The city has issued an RFEI (Request for Expressions of Interest) for potential development projects on four parking lots at the waterfront: next to Peekskill Brewery, Across from Peekskill Brewery, and the lot at the train station. Submissions are due May 8th.
- **Women's History Month:** The City Council recognized seven Women in our community for Women's History Month in March.
- **Boards & Commissions:** The city has openings on various boards and commissions. If interested, please apply.
- **Planning Consulting Services:** The city is Seeking a new person or entity to provide Planning Consulting Services. This would be somebody with experience providing professional services to municipalities. The purpose of this would be to review incoming projects before they head to the planning commission and help advise the commission.

- **State of the City Address:** The State of the City Address will take place Monday, April 8, 2024 at 7pm in Council Chambers – you are all invited to attend. It will also be broadcast.
- Councilman Fassett addressed the issue of city fees. Ruben Alvarez from Ruben's Mexican Cafe stated that the city fees for Cinco de Mayo were raised from \$5,000 to \$12,000. Mr. Alvarez said that if the BID does not help fund the event, it may not take place. Exec. Dir. Powers informed board that he was advised by the city's Corporation Council that the BID can only support non-profit events in the downtown and that Cinco de Mayo does not fall under that category.
- **Economic Development Update** – Economic Development Specialist Matt Rudikoff provided an update on Economic Development:
 - **RFP for Commercial boat operators:** RFP for Commercial boat operators to use Fleishmann's Pier is being developed.
 - **DRI Marketing:** The DRI Marketing Project advisory group met last week. Exec. Dir Powers serves on that advisory committee.
 - **Kitchen incubator project:** Kitchen incubator on Washington Street is progressing.
- **Request for funding – \$2,500 - Juneteenth Festival**
 - Exec. Dir. Powers noted that he had not received the formal request for Juneteenth, but also noted that time was short if the BID is to support this event. Last year the BID increased funding for Juneteenth Festival to \$2,500 to offset city fees, but later learned city covered fees associated with police, DPW, and showmobile.
 - After discussion, Board Member Lesnick made motion to provide \$1,200 in BID funds for 2024 Juneteenth celebration, seconded by Richard Rogers. Discussion on this motion.
 - Dorothy amended Motion to provide \$1,000 instead. Board Members Kaminsky and Sharp abstained; Treasurer Tracy and Councilman Fassett opposed. 8 voted in favor, 2 nay, 2 abstentions. Motion passed.
- **Request for funding - \$2,000 – Descendants of Historical African American Figures Panel Event**
 - Exec. Dir. Powers asked for \$2,000 to cover speaking fees for a descendants of Harriett Tubman and Frederick Douglass.
 - Motion to approve up to \$2,000 made by Brian Fassett, seconded by Richard Rogers, all in favor, motion approved.

Executive Director's Report – Exec. Dir. Bill Powers

- **Harriet Tubman Beacon of Hope Statue:** Arriving on May 1. Planning welcoming event on Saturday, May 9, 2024.
- **Farmers/Flea Markets:** Farmers Market to open on June 1, 2024. Flea Market opened March 17, 2024 and is drawing large crowds.
- **March activities:** Exec. Dir. Powers attended Women in Business Event/HVGCC; Whiskey River Day and Groundbreaking for Kathleen's Tea Room; DRI Marketing Meeting.

BID Member Public Comment – Mary Foster said clarity would be appreciated on what are city run events and what constitutes non-profits.

Adjournment – Pres. Richard Rogers Motion by Dorothy Posada, seconded by Paddy Neville. Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.