



Peekskill Business Improvement District  
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday May 7, 2024 @ 6pm  
Peekskill City Hall First Floor Conference Room  
840 Main Street, Peekskill, NY 10566

**Present:** Richard Rogers, President; Dorothy Posada, Vice President; Deb Milone, Secretary; Toni Tracy, Treasurer; Councilman Brian Fassett; Board Members Matthew Rudikoff, City of Peekskill; David Kaminsky; John Sharp; David Abrevaya; Chuck Lesnick; Exec. Dir. Bill Powers;

**Absent:** Drew Claxton, Roger Campos, Paddy Neville

**Call May 7, 2024 Board of Directors meeting to order** – Pres. Richard Rogers called the May 7, 2024, Board of Directors meeting to order at 6:03.

**BID Member Public Comment** – There were no comments.

**Approval of April 2024 BID Board of Director's Meeting** – Councilman Fassett made motion to approve April minutes as presented, Board Member Sharp seconded, all in favor. Motion passed.

**Request for funding and presentation – \$2,500** – Peekskill PRIDE

Charles DiGruccio spoke on behalf on Peekskill PRIDE. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> annual event – Family Pride in the Park at Pugsley Park. The \$2,500 requested will cover the fees and possible Police overtime and is the same amount given to Peekskill Pride last year. Looking for vendors. Would appreciate the continued support of the BID. John Sharp asked about Food vendors. No food vendors allowed in Pugsley Park; a food truck may be present on the street. Motion to approve by Board Member Kaminsky, seconded by Board Member Rudikoff, Councilman Fassett abstained. Motion approved.

**Request for approval for Board Development** – Geranda Projects was contacted and sent a letter they would facilitate would do the Board Development session for \$600. Councilman Fassett suggested maybe this could be a BID event, Exec. Dir. Powers said that the Chamber already offers this to businesses. Deb Milone suggested that Bill reach out to a couple more facilitators with specific concerns that the board would needs to address. Deb will supply Bill with companies to call. Richard will call with Geranda Projects to discuss BID board particular issues and how that would be addressed in her presentation. Motion by Councilman Fassett to table for June Board meeting, seconded by Board Member Posada, all in favor. Motion approved.

**Electronic Newsletter** – Board Member Posada discussed doing an electronic newsletter and what it could include. Newsletter frequency TBD. There is a college student from Purchase College who would be interested in doing this as a volunteer. The student sent resume and writing samples to Dorothy. The student may also be interested in helping with social media.

Social media/newsletter committee will meet with the student to discuss particulars of the job. Board Member Posada will forward writing samples and arrange for a meeting with the student.

**Historic Tours** – Board Member Kaminsky stated that the April 6 tour went well approximately 12 people attended. Another tour is scheduled for Saturday, May 18 at 10am. Board Member Kaminsky invited board members to attend.

**City of Peekskill Update** – Councilman Brian Fassett:

- Mayor Vivian McKenzie gave the State of the City Address on April 8, 2024; available on city website for viewing.
- Dave Rambo, Water superintendent, gave a water and sewer update on April 15, 2024 – this covered large projects, grant updates, damn and infrastructure improvements, etc.
- The city approved the street closures for the Farmers Market, Harriet Tubman Arrival and Departure, the North Division street restaurant closures for dining and entertainment, and a market on Railroad Ave for Mother's Day on May 11 , 2024.
- City is in process of updating parking fines and violations and reviewing building code violations/fines; City Council has asked for more information prior to scheduling a public hearing.
- The city selected the development project at 201 North Division Street to go forward with a Restore NY Grant. There will be public hearing on May 13.
- City working on outdoor smoking ordinance – 25 feet from dining space - there will be a public hearing.
- Peekskill Arts Alliance presented public art works at the May 7, Council Meeting
- PAA presented additional artwork proposed for locations within Pugsley Park, near the Lincoln Depot Museum, and on a wall on Central Avenue. All are part of the DRI project.
- City working on instituting “A Cleaner Peekskill: Our City, Our Responsibility initiative to inform residents on what has been done to improve quality of life issues as well as share tips that can be done to improve our city.
- City has opening on boards and commissions – Artist Certification, Conservation advisory, Historic & Landmark Preservation, Human Relations, Park Advisory, Peekskill IDA
- On June 7, 2024 at 6:30pm – the city will host an LGBTQIA+ Pride Flag raising in conjunction with Peekskill Pride; keynote speaker will be Judge Reggie Johnson.
- Peekskill Pride will host the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Pride in the Park on June 29, 2024 from 1pm to 5pm at Pugsley Park.
- The City Juneteenth Parade and Celebration will be held June 15, 2024 from 1 pm in our downtown.

- The city newsletter released May 1, 2024 highlights ribbon cuttings, events, and programs – if you are not receiving this, you can sign up through the city website

**Economic Development Update** – Economic Development Specialist Matt Rudikoff:

- Restore NY application deadline May 22.
- Fleishman Pier is coming along and looks great. Pier scheduled to open in June. City reaching out to commercial boat operators and still pursuing dredging which will allow larger boats.
- RFEI (Request for Expressions of Interest – For commuter parking lots on Water Street Lot F; Lot C and Railroad Ave lot. Deadline for submissions, June 22.
- Speak to DOT about improving aesthetic look (public art) of all overpasses.

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

- Harriet Tubman statue has arrived.
- Decedents event is May 11 at Peekskill Firehouse 11-1:30
- David Abrevaya has created an illustration of Harriet Tubman – Harriett Tubman “Superhero” – posters will be created and sold.
- Black and White version will be created and distributed to schools
- Bill attended Westchester County Film & Tourism Meeting about bringing more TV and film projects to the area. Meeting with Carol Samuel about hosting a seminar in relation to Peekskill Film Festival.

**BID Member Public Comment** – There were no public comments, but Board Member Sharp reported that he met with City Manager regarding shuttle service program from train station to downtown and back with a half day Friday, full day Saturday. City would need to provide shuttle, pay drivers and insurance; City Manager approved idea. Initiative has private funding. John asked the BID to be partner and be conduit for financial accounting, payments and receipts. Motion to add to May agenda, motion made by Board Member Lesnick, seconded by Councilman Fassett. Motion passed. Motion by Board Member Lesnick to authorize the board to direct the BID Exec. Dir. Powers to work with the corporation council to create an MOU. Seconded by Brian Fassett, John Sharp abstained, motion carried.

Secretary Milone asked that the BID includes the Childcare Council of Westchester information on its Facebook page. CCCW provides Childcare Services and Scholarships to families.

**Request to enter Executive Session to discuss contracts and/or personnel** – Pres. Richard Rogers. Asked for a motion to recess and go into Executive Session. Motion made by Councilman Fassett and seconded by Board Member Posada. Motion carried.

Motion to resume BID Board Meeting: Board Member Rudikoff made a motion to resume BID Board Meeting; seconded by Councilman Fassett, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion to continue the action items discussed at Executive session: Motion by Board Member Kaminsky, seconded by Board Member Lesnick to continue flea market and work on issues brought up by a petition received by the City to shut down the flea market. Executive Committee will meet to discuss further, including exploring the creation of a survey of BID businesses on the flea market and explore other ways to manager this matter.

- Adjournment at 8:25PM.