



**Peekskill Business Improvement District
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes
Tuesday June 4, 2024
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; Paddy Neville, Drew Claxton; Exec. Dir. Bill Powers

Absent: Roger Campos, David Abrevaya; Chuck Lesnick

Call June 4, 2024, Board of Directors meeting to order – Pres. Richard Rogers. Meeting was called to order at 6:00PM

BID Member Public Comment – No comments

CAC Presentation - City Survey on Collection of data on greenhouse gas emissions (Kay Barthlemes)

City has been involved to determine how greenhouse levels are affecting people who live and work here. The City has created a survey, called Peekskill Climate Vulnerability survey both in English and Spanish, which will be available digitally and will also be mailed.

The City has attained Bronze level, a system which was designed by NYSERTA and money they get from NYSERTA can be used to decrease greenhouse levels. This survey will help the City to understand the needs and concerns and how the city can use the information to help in developing its Mater Plan.

BID just received survey link, Exec. Dir. Powers will send link to board.

Approval of May 7, 2024, BID Board of Directors Meeting Minutes -

- Motion to approve May minutes by Councilman Fassett, seconded David Kaminsky. All in favor, motion passes unanimously.

Economic Development Update – Economic Development Specialist Matt Rudikoff

- City working on the next round of CFA grants in the process of identifying projects.
- City wants an Economic Development plan as part of the Master Plan.

Shuttle Update - John Sharp

- Proposal back in the City's hands to determine insurance, driver availability, and budget. City still working on MOU.

Electronic Newsletter – Dorothy Posada

- Interview with “reporter” Josh Henderson went well, and he will be interning for the BID writing business profiles on for the electronic newsletter. First assignment was Open Studios. His first deadline is June 21 with the first newsletter available after July 4.

City of Peekskill Update – Councilman Brian Fassett

- In order to help push the art portion of the DRI and PAA installations, the City agreed to pay the money the costs upfront and be re-paid by the PAA once the grant money is disbursed at 100%. Artwork has now been installed at Pugsley Park, and the Wind Farm installation is almost completed on Central Ave – the first lighted artwork.
- The City has accepted donations of new artwork at three locations: 657 Central Ave, 10 South Water Street, and Pugsley Park.
- The City has issued a special permit for the Peekskill Firehouse Incubator at 701 Washington Street.
- The City issued a letter of support of the municipal consortium of historic Hudson River Towns urging the NY State Public Service Commission to deny the Champlain Hudson Power Express Properties and the Environmental Management and Construction plan. Construction plan – regarding the power cable installation in the Hudson River as it was recently amended and presented.
- On May 20, Dave Rambo, water superintendent – presented the Annual Water Quality Report – View on the website.
- On May 20, Sustainable Westchester presented the upcoming request to sign onto the Westchester Power program new MLA. There was a lengthy presentation and discussion, and it will be returned to the council for discussion and possible public hearing.
- The City has been working with the Section 8 department to find a new location and move them out of city hall so that the City can reclaim that space for archive storage. They will be moving to John Walsh Blvd.
- City Comptroller Toni Tracy has been working on updating the building department fines and code violations. She brought new municipal comparisons to present at the May 20 meeting. There will now be a public hearing on June 24 before the updated law.
- The City is working to develop a community-based solar project to help provide low-cost, sustainable electricity to Peekskill residents. The City put this out for RFP and will be working with Ecological Citizens Project and Working Power LLC. There are about 10 locations that are being considered for this installation.
- The City issued a change order to add a fence around the newly replaced field at Depew Park to protect the lawn from motorized vehicles.

- The City is working on expanding the No Smoking ordinance. This will specifically be rolled out in the BID district. We are looking at a buffer ordinance that would allow smoking outside a 100-foot radius of an outdoor dining location. There will be a public hearing on June 10.
- The City appointed three new volunteer firefighters to the fire department.
- The City of Peekskill received a \$10 million dollar grant through the mid-Hudson Momentum fund. The fund is focused on addressing the housing crisis. This will allow for necessary infrastructure-type upgrades to support additional housing in Peekskill. City will have a press conference on Tuesday at 2 pm at Pugsley Park to announce the grant and show off the new park.
- There will be a Peekskill Pride flag raising to celebrate PRIDE month this Friday, June 7, at 6:30 pm on the steps of City Hall; Judge Reginald Johnson will speak.
- Juneteenth Parade and celebration will be held June 15 – starting at 12 pm and going through 7 pm downtown.
- Peekskill Pride, Family Pride in the Park will take place on Saturday, June 29 from 1pm to 5pm in Pugsley Park.
- The City will be hosting the July 4th Parade on Thursday, July 4, followed by a concert at Riverfront Green at 7 pm and Fireworks at 9 pm

Executive Director's Report –Exec. Dir. Powers

- First day of the Farmers Market went well with a great turnout
- Thank you to all who attended the descendant's event which had a good turnout President Rogers said that it was a good turnout, and the panelists were very informative. It was a very unifying event.
- BID will not march in the Juneteenth parade. BID will have a table at the Pride festival, need board members to staff.
- Exec. Dir. Powers was interviewed regarding the smoking ban on News 12. BID has not taken a position.
- The City and DPW are working on trash issues. Working on a design for a sticker, English and Spanish, alerting residents to trash rules that will be placed on trash cans.
- Motion to renew lease for BID Office rental and Brighter Travel contract. Motion by Board Member Claxton, second by Board Member Neville. Board Member Kaminsky abstained. All in favor, motion passed.

BID Member Public Comment

- Scarlett Antonia expressed concerns regarding trash outside her store.

- June 6th Off the Beaten Path exhibit at WCC.

Adjournment – Pres. Richard Rogers asked for Motion to adjourn. Treasurer Tracy made the motion to adjourn, seconded Board Member Claxton. Meeting adjourned at 7:01PM