



**Peekskill Business Improvement District
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes
Tuesday July 2, 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 David Kaminsky; David Abrevaya; John Sharp; Roger Campos, Chuck Lesnick; Exec. Dir. Bill Powers. **Guest:** Josh Anderson, Intern

Absent: Board Members Drew Claxton; Matt Rudikoff; Paddy Neville; Toni Tracy

Call July 2, 2024 Board of Directors meeting to order – Pres. Richard Rogers called the July 2, 2024 Board of Directors meeting to order at 6:02.

BID Member Public Comment – There were no public comments.

Approval of June 2024 BID Board of Director's Meeting Minutes – Secretary Deb Milone asked for approval of the June 2024 BID Board of Director's Meeting Minutes; motion by Councilman Fassett, seconded by Board Member Sharp, motion approved.

Shuttle Update – John Sharp

- City passed a resolution to continue to discuss the project. Board Member Sharp, Exec. Dir. Powers and downtown property owner Louie Lanza went to see Stella the Trolley.
- Some concerns arose with the taxi drivers but there were many social media complaints about the lack of taxi availability when people needed them.
- Budget and insurance needs to be figured out and an MOU needs to be signed by the City and the BID.

Electronic Newsletter – Dorothy Posada

- Josh Anderson, our intern journalist, was introduced by Board Member Posada.
- Articles featuring Stark Vintage, 222 MuchSwag Illustrator David Abrevaya and Artist/Businesswoman Wendie Garber have been written.
- “Newsletter” is scheduled for mid-July. There will be a Spanish version. Josh spoke on his personal goals and writing experience.

Artist District Update – David Abrevaya

- Participated in Open Studios which was a great experience.
- Sold the Harriet Tubman Poster at the Farmers Market in June.

- Board Member Abrevaya will speak to PAA about getting more foot traffic during Open studios at the Lofts on Main, 922 Main Street.

City of Peekskill Update – Councilman Brian Fassett

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.
- Held a press conference and ribbon cutting for Pugsley Park on June 11 to announce a New York State \$10 million housing infrastructure grant.
- Is purchasing a passenger van for the Youth Bureau.
- Is in discussions to move the shuttle service forward in collaboration with the BID.
- Held a public hearing on the implementation of updated fines for the building department.
- Received a grant for \$100,000 to help build proper locker rooms at the Police Station.
- Received a grant from the Division of Criminal Justice Services for \$316K for the purchase of equipment and technological improvements.
- Honored five individuals with proclamations for LGBTQIA+ Pride month for their service to our community.
- Approved additional funds to help move forward with the design services for Monument Park and the shade structure at the gazebo location.
- Created a Peekskill Council on the Arts. This council consists of 9 individuals chosen by the common council to help set up this commission with the focus on advising the common council on art selection and maintenance, overseeing collaborations with public agencies and private parties, and overseeing the certification of local artists.
- Presented the 2025-2032 capital expenditures plan. It is available for review in the Clerk's Office.
- Worked with the State to shut down illegal cannabis sales on June 26. Three stores were visited. The smoke shop at 988 Main Street and the deli at 900 South Street were ordered to stop selling cannabis and tagged their business. 988 Main was padlocked and told to cease all business. Papi's Secret Stash was visited but not issued any violations. Previously, in March, the State visited shops, seized illegal merchandise, and tagged those locations.
- Voted to continue the Sustainable Westchester green energy program. Details of the program can be found on both the City's and Sustainable Westchester's website. This is where the City agrees to opt-in all businesses and residents (who have not opted out in the past) to a green energy ESCO to assist in cutting greenhouse emissions. As with the last program, you can opt-out at any time.
- Announced its summer schedule: Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. City Council will meet twice during July on the 8th and 15th and twice during August on the 5th and 12th at the Neighborhood Center and will focus on Seniors.

Economic Development Update – Economic Development Specialist Matt Rudikoff

- Due to Mr. Rudikoff's absence there was no report this month.

Appointment of Board Committee to review legacy documents, bylaws and BID Plan – Pres. Richard Rogers

- Richard Rogers appointed three members of the Board to a committee to review the BID's legacy documents, bylaws and BID Plan.
- Final documents need to be submitted to and approved by the City Council by September 2026 to renew the BID.
- Appointed were Board Members Kaminsky, Lesnick and Tracy.
- Motion by Chuck Lesnick, seconded by David Abrevaya, all in favor, motion passed unanimously.

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

- Exec. Dir. Powers thanked Pres Rogers and Vice Pres Posada for attending the Pugsley Park ribbon cutting and press conference.
- Exec. Dir. Powers thanked Deb for helping to staff the BID booth at the PRIDE Festival and also thanked Chamber Exec. Dir. Voisey for helping out as well.
- Tubman statue was removed and on its way to Lake Placid NY. City and BID looking at a new piece of temporary art for that location.
- Working on designing parking banners for the James Street lot.
- Working on English and Spanish tent card for restaurants on Bank Street on parking.
- Brown Plaza needs is overgrown and needs to be tended to. Will ask City Manager to handle.

BID Member Public Comment –

- Scarlett Antonia voiced support to for the Shuttle project
- Scarlett Antonia thanked BID board members for their support
- Scarlett Antonia spoke about the Oz Festival and is looking for additional sponsorship support.

Adjournment – Pres. Richard Rogers

- Motion to adjourn at 6:59 made by Brian Fassett seconded by David Abrevaya, motion passed unanimously.