



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

Present: Richard Rogers, President; Dorothy Posada, Vice President; Toni Tracy, Treasurer; Councilman Brian Fassett; Board Members Roger Campos; Matthew Rudikoff; Paddy Neville; John Sharp; Chuck Lesnick; Exec. Dir. Bill Powers

Guest: Peekskill Police Chief Leo Dylewski

Absent: Sec. Deb Milone, Board Members David Kaminsky, Drew Claxton, Chuck Lesnick and David Abrevaya.

Call August 7, 2024 Board of Directors meeting to order – Pres. Richard Rogers called the August 7, 2024 Board of Directors meeting to order at 6:07pm.

BID Member Public Comment – There were no public comments.

Guest: Peekskill Police Chief Leo Dylewski

- The Chief provided an update on the police activity along Main Street involving the two recent violent crimes. One perpetrator has been identified and is still being sought, while the other has been captured. Neither were random crimes.
- He stated quality of life arrests are up, having made 170 arrests for urinating in public, open containers, disorderly conduct and 28 for drug use and 100 for DWI.
- He stated the city has added 2 officers for weekends in downtown.
- There is increased enforcement (foot patrol) on weekends as well and officers are encouraged to walk and talk.
- The chief further noted that the city has 56 officers now, and he plans to ask for 2 more officers in next budget year.
- His department also coordinates visits with multiple departments ex. Fire dept., etc. on code enforcement issues.
- Discussion ensued with Board Member Neville stating that business was down because the sense of security is down and because there is a lot of double and triple parking. He also requested that the Peekskill Police issue a police blotter like other communities do.
- Board Member Sharp expressed concern about the lack of police presence on 7/4 in downtown, with the chief stating that he had to use many resources at the waterfront for the fireworks.
- By comparison, the chief noted that Peekskill's crime rate is better than other comparable communities.
- Exec. Dir. Powers asked about enforcement of marijuana smoking at Esther Street and when signs might be put in place to curb it since New ERA will be opening on that block soon (with lots of kids).
- Vice President Posada thanked the police chief as did Board Member Sharp and Exec. Dir. Powers for the department's efforts.

Approval of July 2, 2024 BID Board of Director's Meeting Minutes – Pres. Rogers asked for a motion to accept the July 2, 2024 BID Board of Director's Meeting Minutes; motion made by Councilman Fassett, seconded by Board Member Sharp, all in favor, motion passed.

Shuttle Update – Board Member Sharp

- Van/bus which was parked outside before the meeting for board members to see, holds 24 people
- Pick ups and drop offs have to be matched with the Train Schedule
- Commitment for a funding match from the Lanza Foundation
- Magnetized Advertisements can be used to generate more advertising revenue
- M.O.U. pending with the city
- Other Funding Sources (example: Chamber foundation for tourism)
- To keep the process moving forward, Board Member Sharp made a motion to have the BID fund the shuttle for September and October with matching fund from Lanza Foundation for up to \$3,000, seconded by Board Member Neville. All in favor, no abstentions.

BID Profiles – Vice Pres. Posada

- First Article launched - Stark Vintage
- Second Article will feature 222Much Swag and scheduled for week of 8/12
- Third Article features long-time Peekskill Artist – Wendie Garber and Flat Iron Gallery
- Fourth Article: Peekskill Artist David Abrevaya
- Articles will be featured bi-weekly

City Proposal for 2AM Bar Closure – Pres. Rogers

- Pres. Rogers asked for comments about the proposed 2am closure for bars/restaurants.
- Some discussion about impacts on business, specifically diners
- Some discussion on SLA regs and requirements
- The questions was asked, Can there be special permits issued for special events/circumstances if a business wants to go past 2am?
- Public hearing was scheduled for this month, but may be put off until September due to a notice error.

City of Peekskill Update – Councilman Fassett

Councilman Fassett reported the city:

- On July 15, a public hearing was held on Community Development Block Grant funding – this was to discuss submitting for grants to achieve (1) Replacement of the Elevator Electrical Panel in the Neighborhood Center (2) Intersection / Pedestrian improvements (3) Restroom Upgrades at Riverfront Green (4) Soccer Minipitch – these projects have matching funds needed if the CBBG funding is approved.
- Recently agreed to purchase an 80-acre parcel of undeveloped land to further protect the City's watershed. City is working with Hudson Highlands Land Trust, and the cost of the project is \$175,000.

- Is applying for a Consolidated Funding Grant to replace the HVAC at the Paramount – we are requesting \$1.2 million with a city match of \$240,000.
- Is holding a public hearing on August 12 at the Neighborhood Center – 9:30 am on Monday, August 12 to hear community feedback on 2am closures of restaurants. (although this may change due to a noticing error). Will keep BID updated.
- Applied for a SWIMS grant from the state – this would be for the Depew Park pool renovation. Requested \$6 million, with a match from the City of \$1.5 million.
- Just reviewed the 2023 financial audit with PKF O’Connor Davies this past Monday – City received a favorable review. Encourage you to watch the presentation online.
- Will publish the draft of the city's Climate Action Plan to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions soon – presentation was made last Monday. See online video.
- Started to discuss a “Payment in Lieu” structure for working with developers on parking space waivers – these waivers would now come with a cost and allow the City to start putting direct funding into our parking structures and new parking developments.
- Halted work with Weinrib & Connor on the DRI marketing and branding strategy. Now issuing an RFP for a Logo and Brand consultant only; will return to marketing after this is completed.
- Will have a public hearing on September 9 – regarding amendments to the city code regarding Special Temporary Operating Permits... more info will be coming at the August 12th meeting.
- Initiated discussion about businesses that have events in spaces not having proper Certificates of Occupancy, or in spaces that are not properly zoned, or that do not meet proper safety codes.

Economic Development Update – Economic Development Specialist Matt Rudikoff

- Fleischman Pier – RFP to attract boat operators to be reissued in September; officials toured the pier and were excited by the art displays as part of the DRI project
- Logo & Branding – The city is ending its relationship with the current contractor and is splitting Logo & Branding from marketing. A new RFP currently being written.
- RFEI for Water Street City Owned Properties is progressing
- City is seeking additional funding for the Kitchen Incubator project on Washington Street.

Executive Director's Report –

- Exec. Dir. Bill Powers reported that he and Pres. Rogers signed off on four letters of grant support: (1) Dredging design feasibility study grant at Fleishman's Pier; (2) Safe Streets grant; Paramount Hudson Valley's HVAC grant (third time in three years); Bee Line EV Bus on demand service grant.
- Reminder: Slainte One Year Anniversary is Saturday, August 17, 2024 at 4pm, and the Oz Festival same day.
- New ERA Grand Opening scheduled for 9/5/24 has been canceled, no new date has been set.
- Exec. Dir. Bill Powers advised the board that he will be offering intern/writer Josh Anderson a stipend of between \$75 and \$100 per article that he writes. Exec. Dir. Powers was asked if we

could get the articles published in The Herald and he stated that the Herald wanted to charge the BID \$125 per article; Mr. Powers stated that he had offered the articles for free, but The Herald wanted to publish the articles as advertorials and charge the BID.

- He reported that the CAC tried to switch responsibility for the food scraps collection to the farmer market management team and the BID, which we stopped. They will have to figure out a way to proceed with the program.
- He also reported that he and the farmers market management team are monitoring the weather for the weekend because of the storm and will make adjustments to the schedule if necessary.
- Flea Market is going well and is bringing in additional income.
- He pointed out that the BID received reports from the PRIDE event and the Film Festival and they were distributed to the board prior to the meeting.
- He also noted that he had received a report from David Abrevaya (absent, on vacation) indicating that he was trying to organize a “drink and draw” in September at the Lofts on Main, and is hoping to curate a gallery exhibit in the gallery space as well in October.

BID Member Public Comment –

- Scarlett Antonia reminded the board about the upcoming Oz Festival and invited board members to attend the Pre-Oz reception at the BeanRunner Thursday night. One free drink per board member.
- She also questioned the Certificates of Occupancy (COs) for event spaces and how it might impact her Artist Spot space. Lengthy discussion ensued and Councilman Fassett said he would get back to the Board and provide an update to Ms. Antonia when he gets more information.
- Mary Foster said the Peekskill Film Festival was a success, many good films were shown, the panel discussion was good, and the film in Pugsley Park was well attended.

Adjournment – Pres. Rogers asked for a motion to adjourn; motion made by Vice Pres. Posada, seconded by Board Member Sharp. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.