



**Peekskill Business Improvement District
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 3, 2024 @ 6pm
Peekskill City Hall First Floor Conference Room
840 Main Street, Peekskill, NY 10566**

Present: Pres. Richard Rogers, Councilman Brian Fassett, David Kaminsky, Roger Campos, Paddy Neville, Toni Tracy, Chuck Lesnick, Drew Claxton, John Sharp. Executive Director Bill Powers.

Absent: Deb Milone, David Abrevaya, Matthew Rudikoff, Dorothy Posada.

Call December 3, 2024 Board of Directors meeting to order – Pres. Richard Rogers called the meeting to order at 6pm.

Guest speaker: Peekskill Field Library Executive Director Dana Hysell

- Dana Hysell, Peekskill Field Library 's new Executive Director introduced herself to the BID Board and gave some background on her role at the WLS; she lives in Cortlandt.
- Her goals are to expand the STEAM lab with cooking classes; expand program services; partner with businesses; expand children's room offerings.

BID Member Public Comment –

- Scarlet Antonia advised the board that she had some issues with the city fees for Ozland Festival and was asking the city to review the expenses; Exec. Dir. Powers asked her to send him the contract with the city so he could review it. He also asked why she doesn't move the festival to Pugsley Park to reduce costs from the city like trucks. She likes it in front of her studio.
- Scarlet Antonia alerted the board that she plans to do a number of commemorative events in 2025—Antonia Arts 25th Anniversary. Oz Festival is planned for August 9, 2025.
- Expressed concern over how the move of the Peekskill Arts Alliance Craft Boutique was moved to Ford Piano after having agreed to use her space. She is soliciting vendors for her own arts and crafts boutique December 21-22.

Approval of November 6, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes –

- This agenda item will be added to the next meeting agenda.

BID Profiles/Use of Undesignated Funds for 2025 –

- This agenda item will be added to the next meeting agenda due to Vice Pres. Posada's absence.

City of Peekskill Update – Councilman Brian Fassett reported that the city has:

- Passed the 2025 budget with a 3.5% increase. This means that the average home has an increase of about \$8.38 per month.
- Entered into an agreement with Eocene Environmental Group to conduct an inventory of trees

on city streets and public property and to draft a forestry management plan. Funded by a grant from NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation.

- Formally adopted the Government Operations Climate Action Plan. Sets out to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, part of our commitment to climate-smart communities certification program.
- Had the planning dept. present the final plan for way-finding signage – this has been met with some concerns from the way-finding signage committee members and is being re-evaluated, and a mock-up presentation has been requested before producing the signs for installation.
- Passed a new local law after a public hearing regarding amendments to the city code regarding reimbursements of professional review fees and escrow accounts related to development projects.
- Passed a local law amending the charter to create a Department of Law and allowing the appointment of a Corporation Council – as has been the only option – or now a law firm to act as City Attorney. The city has moved forward with hiring Keane and Beane – a law firm to represent the city.
- Contracted for a fireworks display for New Year's Eve.
- Updated fee schedule with minor changes for the most part.
- Approved multiple bids for the water department, chemicals, and sludge removal.
- Contracted an engineering firm to review the plans for a solar project on the Campfield Reservoir.
- Accepted a donation of 10 new street trees from Manzer Landscaping.
- Extended an agreement with Morano Brothers Corp for emergency snow removal services both residential and commercial properties that do not remove snow in accordance with city code.
- Appointed a new full-time Judge, Sophia Trott – she will be sworn in on Monday, Dec 9th at the City Council Meeting.
- Working on releasing \$97K of DRI funding – part of the Downtown Revitalization Fund – funds previously allocated to private projects that are not moving forward. We will possibly be looking to specifically target business signage in the DRI footprint.
- Additionally, DPW and Parks are working on holiday décor and Thursday, should be decorating the Gazebo
- And, Saturday, Dec 7 2024 is a busy day in Peekskill: Reindeer Run @ 9am, Pearl Harbor Day Event at Library @ 10:30 am, Tree Lighting Event @ 4pm, Reception for Peekskill Arts Alliance Holiday Boutique at Ford Piano after tree lighting.
- There was some discussion about the red spray paint used on the sidewalks to direct people around town during the Small Business Saturday event. It's unlawful to deface city property and should not have been done. City is looking into it.

Economic Development Update –

- Due to Mr. Rudikoff's absence, this report was not provided.

Artist District Report/PAA Holiday Gallery –

- Due to Mr. Abrevaya's absence, this report was not provided.

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

- Farmers Market conducted a survey of vendors to decide on start and end times-some want to start later or end earlier; start and end dates—some want to start sooner or go longer; vendors universally liked the management team and specifically Patrick; they'd like to see more vendors and more promotion; when asked for more vendor referrals, we only got two; when asked what the vendors could do to increase foot traffic, no one had any ideas. Farmers Market ended November 23 with a few rogue wind gusts that blew tents and vendor product around.
- Flea market was moved to the park Street parking lot behind Sun River for the last two market dates to accommodate parking for the Paramount holiday matinees. We are looking to move the part B to that lot in 2025. There was a negative and unfair social media post about the flea market that Bill will address since we know the person who posted it.
- The annual holiday tree lighting will be held Saturday, December 7, 2024 at 4pm. All board members are welcome to come up on stage.
- There was some discussion about vacancies in the downtown, and Exec. Dir. Powers presented a list of vacant properties in the downtown and further explained the pluses and minuses of instituting a vacancy tax. It was suggested to invite Planning Director Carol Samol to the next BID meeting to give an update on vacant storefronts in the downtown.

BID Member Public Comment – There were no public comments.

Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned after a motion by Councilman Fassett, seconded by Chuck Lesnick, all in favor.