



**Peekskill Business Improvement District
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 3, 2025 @ 6pm
Peekskill City Hall First Floor Conference Room
840 Main Street, Peekskill, NY 10566**

Present: Richard Rogers, President; Roger Campos, Vice President; Toni Tracy, Treasurer; Deb Milone, Secretary; Drew Claxton; Brian Fassett; John Sharp; David Kaminsky; Matt Rudikoff; Chuck Lesnick; David Abrevaya; Paddy Neville arrived while the meeting was in progress at approx. 6:28pm. Executive Director Bill Powers. **Absent:** Hever Palacios

Call June 3, 2025 Board of Directors meeting to order – Pres. Richard Rogers called the June 3, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting to order at 6pm.

BID Member Public Comment regarding this meeting's agenda topics. There were none.

Approval of May 6, 2025 BID Board of Director's Meeting Minutes – Secretary Deb Milone stated that the approval of the May Minutes is tabled until the July meeting.

Request for Funding – Peekskill PRIDE in the Park \$500 – Charles DiGruccio of Peekskill PRIDE requested \$500, in keeping with the Board's 2025 Event Funding policy, for Peekskill PRIDE in the Park. Motion by John Sharp, seconded by Roger Campos; Brian Fassett abstained. All others in favor. Motion carried.

Videotaping BID Meetings – Pres. Richard Rogers Executive Director Bill Powers will look into the legal obligations, availability, costs for equipment, and personnel, for videotaping and/or livestreaming and report at the July meeting. John Sharp brought up an additional messaging application (Discord) which will be reviewed as well.

Social Media Committee – Pres. Richard Rogers Pres. Richard Rogers noted that the next committee meeting will be June 4 at 6:30pm.

Artist District Report – Board Member David Abrevaya reported that:

- Open Studios is this weekend, June 7-8, 2025.
- Drink and Draw event at the Lofts on Main attracted 25 artists, mostly from outside Peekskill. Last month's Fundraiser for PAA raised some funds, but was not as successful as they had hoped. David in working alone and with our social media consultant, has been creating a lot of Open Studios promotions on social media.
- The Open Studios tent site originally sited for the K Lot will now be in the Ford Piano building.

- President Rogers suggested that future signage/promotions for Open Studios be more descriptive of the event, such as Open Artist Studios.

City of Peekskill Update – Councilman Brian Fassett gave his report:

- City approved a resolution to remove certain zoning regulations requiring a special use permit for Family Day Care and Group Family Homes in all zoning districts.
- Council approved a serial bond for \$3,276,000 for the purchase of vehicles, equipment, and the completion of small capital projects, including parking garage lighting improvements, garage repairs at Nelson and James, a 40-passenger city bus, AI Cameras, Elevator Improvements in James St. Garage and Storm Water Improvements.
- City has hired a firm and has begun an environmental review of three waterfront/transit-oriented development sites.
- City has hired a firm to begin the development of an Urban Design plan for the waterfront district with respect to the waterfront transit-oriented development projects.
- City adopted the Peekskill Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan, which sets goals through prioritized initiatives and addresses vulnerabilities related to the changing climate in our region.
- Youth Bureau will be working with Environmental Leaders of Color to conduct a 2025 Summer Student Energy and Environmental program for teens at the youth bureau.
- City accepted new mobile radios from the County of Westchester for use by the City Police Department pursuant to terms of an inter-municipal agreement between the city and the county of Westchester.
- Council received a report from the planning department on Downtown Revitalization Fund recipients.
- Council approved a street closure for the Ozland Festival to take place on August 16 on South Street between Union Ave and South Division.
- City has reported on pothole repairs and is moving forward with the 2025 paving contracts for city streets. The list can be found in Resolution J-2 on the May 27 agenda.
- Council approved funding the July 4th Fireworks on July 4, 2025 – as well as a concert at the riverfront.
- Council approved bicycle Sundays at Depew Park – closure from 7am to 12pm for family biking activities.
- Council referred a special use permit for a new woodworking shop at 898 Washington Street to the planning commission for review and recommendation.
- Council is moving forward with our Home Rule Request to the New York State Senate to allow us to move forward with a red light camera program.

- Mayor has signed a letter from NYCOM in support of the opposition to proposed 2026 budget cuts from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- Council has approved a request to allow the Paramount Hudson Valley Arts to proceed with renovations at the Paramount Theater.
- Council held a public hearing on 614 South Street – a garage that will allow for vehicle repairs, new parking on surface lots, and a grandfathered apartment above the existing structure. No one spoke on this hearing.
- Council held a public hearing on 7 John Walsh Blvd. for a new Go Kart Racing Track in the former beer distribution warehouse. One person spoke in favor of the project.
- Council held a public hearing on a local law repealing Chapter 106 – the city’s current procurement policy and creating a new Chapter 10 with best-value procurement options. A few people spoke and offered concerns.
- This is now back in the hands of the Council for further development.
- Council received a presentation from Nicholas Cecere regarding year-to-date statistics on building department procedures and fines, including new fire inspection and violations – which can be seen in the 6/2 Council meeting video.
- Council received a presentation on statistics, equipment, training, and overall updates within the fire department from Fire Chief James Seymour – this can also be seen in 6/2 Council video.
- Council received a very comprehensive presentation from the Stagg group regarding a new development being proposed for the former White Plains Linen complex at Highland and Division. This includes 130 affordable units and commercial spaces, along with 200 onsite parking spaces – this is also in the 6/2 Council video.
- Council received an update on public art donations from the Peekskill Arts Commission and the PAA, also in the 6/2 Council video.

History Tour – David Kaminsky announced that the next tour he will be conducting is June 14, 2025 at 10am, weather permitting.

Economic Development Report – Economic Development Specialist Matt Rudikoff reported:

- DRI project Logo and branding first meeting completed, second one in June. Completed a survey and received good feedback.
- City Manager has spearheaded reaching out to West Point to participate in West Point community day and building stronger relationships with West Point.
- Printed an additional 1,000 of public art postcards. Given to boat operators who have distributed them to passengers.

- Division St. Performing Arts Center is in discussion (Ford Piano Building).
- IDA and PFPC has provided \$45,000 to the City to use for city economic development projects.
- Kitchen incubator on Washington Street is moving forward.
- Bidding on Fleishman's Pier floating docks repairs.
- Working on coordinating cruises with other activities.
- James Street garage upgrades now under review.
- Waterfront development, all three parcels, will be under one environmental review.
- Consolidated funding application has bundled 8-10 packages.

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

- The passing of jazz saxophonist and Peekskill resident Ray Blue who performed at a number of BID events over the years, and noted he will be missed.
- The 35th season of the Peekskill Farmers Market Opening, and ribbon cutting, is scheduled for Saturday at 11am. Board is invited.
- Peekskill Flea Market is running smoothly, revenue is back up to 2024 levels.
- Letter sent to City Manager regarding Bank Street parking lot reserved parking spaces; awaiting a response.

Other:

- Board Member Paddy Neville asked if the momentum grant includes funds could be used for additional cameras in the downtown.
- Board Member Paddy Neville also noted that posting posters on the green light poles and other city property is illegal. Many poles are in poor condition because of posters being placed and torn down, or being left in place long after the date.
- Board Member Kaminsky asked if the City could make an extra effort to have the city cleaned on the day of the History Tour, June 14, 2025. He noted that he will be conducting the South Tour that day.

BID Member Public Comment – Arne Paglia spoke about lack of transparency regarding not videotaping BID Board meetings. Suggested the meetings should be by zoom. Exec. Dir. Powers took exception and stated that the BID is transparent.

Executive Session: Motion to go into Executive Session regarding legal matters and/or contracts. Motion by Vice Pres. Roger Campos, seconded by Board Member Kaminsky, motion carried, all in favor.

Exit Executive Session: Motion made by Board Member Lesnick, seconded by Board Member Abrevaya, motion carried, all in favor to exit Executive Session.

Extend social media contract with Solcard Productions by three months for continued social media: Motion by Board Member Abrevaya, seconded by Vice Pres. Campos, motion carried, all in favor.

Adjournment: Motion by Board Member Sharp, seconded by Vice Pres. Campos, motion carried, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.