



Peekskill Business Improvement District
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 6, 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; Drew Claxton; Brian Fassett; John Sharp; David Kaminsky; Matt Rudikoff; David Abrevaya; Hever Palacios; Paddy Neville arrived while the meeting was in progress at approx. 6:28pm. Executive Director Bill Powers.

Absent: Deb Milone, Secretary; Board Member Chuck Lesnick.

Call May 6, 2025 Board of Directors meeting to order – Pres. Richard Rogers called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

Presentation: Civic Hub & Connectivity Project/Gazebo Area Plans – Peekskill Planning & Development Dept. Director Carol Samol, and Peter Erwin, Planner presented the DRI-funded plans for the gazebo area. Focused on renewing the space after 50 years; area is dark and visual lines of sight are obstructed; feels closed off. New elements are perforated copper, opens lines of sight, feels less closed in, still offers area for small performances and gatherings; will have electric outlets. Less structure, fits well into the environment. Increase curb areas to increase space for the sculptures and gatherings. Creates public art in an artist community. Lengthy discussion, some in favor some opposed. Suggested that the increase curb/sidewalk could reduce illegal parking around the gazebo and reduce the “pinch point” as traffic enters North Division Street. Crosswalks will have raised surfaces. Suggested to have tamper resistant power outlets to prevent people from hanging out and using the power to charge cell phones. Concerns raised about a covered structure lending itself to unlawful activities and loitering. Concerns that there needs to be either a better police presence there to prevent unwanted activity or if cameras can be installed as part of the costs to prevent illegal activity in and around the new structure. More openness will help prevent illegal or unwanted activities. Suggested that the area be designated a park to prevent smoking.

BID Member Public Comment regarding this meeting’s agenda topics. Several BID members shared their input and feelings about the new design to replace the gazebo, echoing the noted concerns above.

Approval of April 1, 2025 BID Board of Director's Meeting Minutes – Secretary Deb Milone asked for a motion to accept the May 2025 minutes as presented. Motion made by Vice Pres. Campos, seconded by Board Member Fassett, all in favor except Board Member Palacios who abstained because he was absent from that meeting.

Request for Funding – Ozland Festival \$500 – Scarlett Antonia asked for \$500 for her annual Ozland Festival, scheduled for August 16, 2025 on South Street. She noted that she's working with the city to offer the Wizard of Oz and Wicked to be shown in Pugsley Park that same weekend to enhance the festival. Vice Pres. Campos made a motion to fund the Ozland Festival for \$500, seconded by Board Member Abrevaya, all in favor.

Re-establish Social Media Committee –

- Pres. Richard Rogers asked for a motion to reestablish the social media committee, motion made by Board Member Claxton, seconded by Vice Pres, Campos, all in favor.
- Committee Members: Richard Rogers, Chair; Board Members Abrevaya, Claxton, Rudikoff, and Sharp. Former Board Member Posada also requested to serve on the committee.

Vice President Campos had to leave the meeting.

Artist District Report –

- Board Member David Abrevaya gave an update on the activities of the artist community: PAA is still looking for sponsorships for Open Studios ranging from \$150 to \$500. Still working with the city to have the shuttle run up to the Hat Factory and MOCA over open studios weekend.
- Opens Studios is being promoted on WHUD and the Peak as part of the BID's radio buy for May/June.
- The Drink & Draw event brought about 30 people to the Lofts on Main, mostly from outside Peekskill.
- Planning to do a fundraiser in association with Open Studios at some of the restaurants.

City of Peekskill Update – Councilman Brian Fassett gave his city report.

- Council passed a local law for a moratorium on large-scale Battery Energy Storage Systems over 80kw – for a six-month period.
- Council passed a local law updating fines and penalties for Commercial Property Maintenance, Fire Safety and Property Maintenance, Property and Building Nuisances, Snow and Ice Removal – primarily affecting commercial properties and allowing for graduated fines.
- Council approved the street closure and the move of the Flea Market.
- Council approved a street closure for the Mothers Yay market May 10 on Railroad Avenue between 9am and 5pm – rain date of May 11
- Council Approved Street Closure for RunPB Run Club – Got Pride Run June 8 - 9a to 1p
- Council approved street closures and permits for the Cinco De Mayo festival this past weekend.
- Council approved a landscaping contract with Manzer Landscaping to plant and maintain public areas throughout the city.
- City amended and moved forward with a license agreement with Rivertown Management Services – to provide the Emerald Princess a home at Fleischmann Pier – to operate cruises from April to December and coordinate operations and updates at the pier.
- City is working with three chosen developers to develop plans for city-owned lots on Railroad Ave and Water Street. City has retained an SEQR Consultant and an Urban Design Consultant to assist in project planning.
- Council has approved a resolution to move forward with Red Light Cameras in the city. This starts with a request for home rule legislation to authorize the city of Peekskill to establish this program working in conjunction with State and County approval and regulations.
- Council approved the ability to add to a property tax levy, unpaid and recycling fees.

- City is again moving forward with Sustainable Westchester and continuing participation in a community choice aggregate program for 2026 – existing agreement ends in December 2025.
- Council has approved a local law amending Chapter 408-3 – which dealt primarily with no smoking in parks. We have added no smoking within 100 feet of outdoor dining, within the BID district, and no smoking in city parking garages at Nelson and James.
- City will host the Juneteenth Parade and Festival in downtown on June 21st, 10am till 7:30pm
- Council approved the street closure for the Farmers Market.
- Council approved street closures for the July 4 Parade, on Friday July 4 from 10am to 12pm – Crompond Road ending on Broad Street at Fire Station.
- Council approved street closure of N. Division Street from Main to Park – for outdoor dining and entertainment – Thursdays from 5pm to 10pm, Fridays from 5pm to 11pm, Saturdays from 3:30pm to 11pm, and Sundays from 12pm to 10pm starting May 9 through December 31, 2025. A calendar of events is to be provided and posted to the City Clerk by May 1st, - but not yet received as of 4pm today.
- City is entering into a partnership with Peekskill Racquet Association regarding the use of the tennis courts in Depew Park and to conduct group tennis lessons from May 1 through December 31, 2025.
- Council referred a special use application to the planning commission for a new vehicular repair garage and retail store in an existing building at 612-614 South Street.
- Council referred a special use application to the planning commission for recommendation and to schedule a public hearing on May 27 for a new Go Cart facility at 7 John Walsh Blvd (the former Bertalini building)
- City is soliciting bids for repairs and improvements to the Fleischman's Pier, pilings, and floating docks. Repairs should commence soon to be ready for this season.
- Council approved the Mayor's pledge to support Monarch Butterflies
- Council approved an extension of an agreement with Ecological Citizens Project to determine feasibility and develop a community-based floating solar project at our reservoir and water treatment plant.
- Council approved raising of fares for taxi services, \$8.00 midnight to 5am in city, \$9.00 from midnight to 5am - \$2.00 for additional passenger. Senior citizens will be \$6.00 and \$7.00 after midnight within the city, but including the hospital.
- Last evening, Council received a presentation from the Chief of Police – regarding a recap of the 2024 policing activities, calls and situations issued. I would encourage you to watch.
- Council had a lengthy discussion of upcoming bonds for the city to match and an existing grant of 10m, with a 10m match, capital purchases for the DPW of vehicles, equipment, and various repairs such as the elevator in the neighborhood center and the garage at James St.
- Last evening, the Council started a discussion of Good Cause Eviction, and we have requested a public hearing session before further consideration.
- City hosted a ribbon cutting for a new café at 8 John Walsh Blvd called CCCafe.
- Our planning department has hosted one information session, and will host another this

weekend at the Mother's Yay market 11am-2pm and Gazebo 4pm-6pm on May 10 to collect feedback from the public on City Logo and Branding campaign, Waterfront Development projects, and Civic Hub improvements including the shade structure. There is also a link on the city website and social media to a survey on the branding campaign.

- City held a ribbon cutting for our new food scraps containers at the DPW garage – you may now drop off food scraps 24/7.
- City is accepting nominations for LGBTQIA+ Pride Month – and should be received by Friday, May 23
- Some discussion and concerns about the number of marijuana dispensaries that are already in Peekskill, with more to open.

History Tour Plans/Reprint Brochure –

- Board Member Kaminsky is planning to construct a history tour on 5/17/25 at 10am.
- Board also agreed to have Exec. Dir. Powers reprint the history brochures since we are running low. Motion by Board Member Neville, seconded by Board Member Claxton, all in favor.

Economic Development Report –

- Economic Development Specialist Matt Rudikoff reported that the City is engaging West Point to attract cadets, families and staff to Peekskill.
- The Emerald Princess is launching full time at the Fleischmann's Pier and the city is exploring alternative uses for the dock.
- There's a new GoCart business coming to John Walsh Blvd.
- Work is being done on a Digital Arts Guide.
- Improvement to James Street garage is under review.
- Still proceeding with finding funding for feasibility study on dredging the channel at Fleischmann's Pier.

Bank Street Parking Lot Issues –

- Exec. Dir. Bill Powers reported that he and Pres. Rogers would like to send a letter to the City Manager Alexander about the increased number of reserved private spaces in the Bank Street lot. There are 11 reserved spaces. One of the top issues Bank Street businesses raised was about parking. Board approved.

Executive Director's Report –

- Exec. Dir. Bill Powers reported that he attended the statewide BID Directors Conference in Syracuse. Issues facing BIDs: housing, ground floor vacancies, use of AI in BIDs.
- NYC BIDs lobbied state officials on Discovery Reform and Confined Care for individuals with mental health issues.
- Met with sign fabricator regarding parking garage signage; awaiting pricing.
- Attended Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce Spring Show at the JV Mall. Lots of positive feedback about Peekskill.
- Shuttle starts 5/10/25.

- Farmers Market starts 6/7/25.
- Flea market is doing well.
- Attended Historic Hudson Rivertowns conference.
- Attending Branding Advisory Meeting at City Hall on Monday evening.

BID Member Public Comment regarding **any BID-related matter.**

- Compliments to Ruben Alvarez of Ruben's Mexican Cafe for a “fantastic” and “incredible job” on Cinco De Mayo Event.

Adjournment –

- Pres. Richard Rogers adjourned the meeting after a motion was made and seconded, all in favor.