



**Peekskill Business Improvement District  
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, July 1, 2025 @ 6pm  
Peekskill City Hall First Floor Conference Room  
840 Main Street, Peekskill, NY 10566**

**Present:** Richard Rogers, President; Deb Milone, Secretary; Brian Fassett; David Kaminsky; Chuck Lesnick; David Abrevaya; Paddy Neville; Executive Director Bill Powers.

**Absent:** Roger Campos, Vice President; Toni Tracy, Treasurer; Drew Claxton; John Sharp; Matt Rudikoff.

**Call July 1, 2025, Board of Directors meeting to order** – Pres. Richard Rogers called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

**BID Member Public Comment** – There were no public comments.

**Approval of May 6, 2025, and June 3, 2025 BID Board of Director's Meeting Minutes** – Secretary Deb Milone.

- Motion by Board Member Fassett; seconded by Board Member Lesnick to approve the May 6, 2025 minutes as written but with the inclusion of Councilman Fassett's City Report; motion carried, all in favor, except Board Member Neville who abstained because he was absent from that meeting.
- June minutes – Motion by Board Member Fassett; seconded by David Kaminsky to approve the May 6, 2025 minutes as written; motion carried, all in favor, except Board Member Lesnick who abstained because he was absent from that meeting.

**Social Media Committee/Social Media RFP** – Pres. Richard Rogers

- Pres. Richard Rogers reported that had been a couple of productive meetings of the social media committee; they have agreed on the theme for the BIDs summer social media posts: Movies, Music & Markets
- A separate social media push will promote the Shuttle
- A separate social media push will be on 4th of July parade.
- Supplemental social media assistance will be provided to the Ozland Festival
- BID may launch a campaign this fall looking for influencers
- Motion to issue the RFP for Social Media campaign from September to December with possibility of extending the campaign for 2026, pending board re-approval during the budget process. Motion made by David Kaminsky, seconded by Paddy Neville, all in favor, motion carried.

**Artist District Report** – Board Member David Abrevaya reported:

- Open Studios was a great success
- Drink and Draw sold out for the first time
- David is pitching two ideas to activate and energize the artist community for the Lofts on Main - Courtyard Royale and a Paint Night which will be open to all residents

**City of Peekskill Update** – Councilman Brian Fassett gave the City Update:

- Council held a public hearing for a project at 898 Washington Street – regarding a special permit for a new woodworking shop. Nobody spoke for or against.
- City accepted a public art donation for 960 and 980 Main Street – murals for the sides of the buildings.
- City accepted a public art donation at 28 S. Water Street – the former and fading arches of Peter Bynam.
- City accepted a public art sculpture that may go in the library plaza once it is refurbished.
- City awarded the bid approval for enhancements to Monument Park, including electrical service and lighting.
- City has agreed to fund DRI projects on behalf of the PAA until the reimbursement funding arrives from the state.
- City approved a “Guns to Gardens” event that took place at Lepore Park on Saturday.
- City will host the first-ever Mothapalooza evening on July 21 at 8:30 pm at Depew Park in conjunction with the Conservation Advisory Committee.
- Council received an in-depth presentation from Dave Rambo of the water department discussing existing projects such as damn repair and rerouting of waste pipes – if interested can see that presentation on the June 16 committee of the whole meeting.
- Council is continuing discussions on legislation allowing food trucks in certain zones, specifically not to affect any BID business or existing restaurants.
- Council adopted a Local Law repealing chapter 106 of the City Code and adopting an updated Procurement Policy that adds best value bidding as a procurement option.
- Council approved funding grants for the Youth Bureau for Grampas United programs and Summer Youth Employment programs.
- Council reappointed three people to the Peekskill Arts Council. Larry D’Amico, Deborah Liljegren, Bre Pettis.
- Council approved a special permit for an Auto Repair shop at 614 South Street in the C-3 zoning district.
- Council approved a special use permit for 7 John Walsh Blvd. for an indoor/outdoor Go-Kart Racetrack with supporting operational space.
- Council scheduled a public hearing for a new Cannabis Microbusiness at 710 Washington Street – That hearing will be July 14, at 7 pm.
- Council referred a special use permit evaluation for an indoor soccer training facility at 1 Highland Industrial Park. That public hearing will come back on July 14, at 7 pm.

- Peekskill City Police responded to an assault on June 10 at 3:40 am on the 900 Block of Main Street – discovered a male victim who sustained severe lacerations that led to his death. Working with federal authorities in Puebla City, Mexico (and many local agencies), Walter Bustos-Solis was extradited to the US and into the custody of the Peekskill Police and the FBI.
- Council issued proclamations to seven community members in recognition of Pride Month.
- City has started family movie nights in Pugsley Park – this Thursday at 8 pm is The Lion King. A schedule is available through Parks and Recreation.
- The City will be hosting a 4th of July Parade on Friday at 10:30 am, followed later in the day by a concert at the waterfront and fireworks at approximately 9:15 pm.
- City will be hosting a family fun series, they kicked off last night with Mark Rust, the Bubble show will be on the 14th, and the schedule is available at Parks and Rec.
- City will host a summer concert series at the Riverfront – next will be on July 4 – Ladies of the 80's, then on July 9 – schedule available on Parks and Rec.
- City is again hosting the third Peekskill Community Kitchen program – an 8-week food training program for youth ages 18-24 – starting July 8. If people are interested, reach out to Jonathan Zamora.
- City Hall is on Summer Hours Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 4 pm, through Labor Day.

#### **History Tour Report –**

- David Kaminsky conducted a tour on June 14. Next guided tour will be in the Fall.

#### **Economic Development Report –**

- No report since Mr. Rudikoff is not present.

#### **Executive Director's Report –**

- Exec. Dir. Bill Powers reported that he staffed the BID welcome booth at the Pride Festival and distributed a lot of literature on City events including the Shuttle, Ozland, the Flea Market, Farmers Market and Movie Nights in Pugsley as well as speaking with attendees from Yorktown, Katonah, Croton and Peekskill. Compliments to the Pride group on running a great event. 1,000+ people attended.
- Attended the branding advisory committee meeting. Process is moving forward.
- Received price quotes on lighted parking signs. Signage is in the color scheme of Wayfinding signage.
- Farmers & Flea Markets are doing well.
- Working with City Manager on the number of reserved spaces in the Bank Street Lot.
- Shuttle rack cards have been printed and distributed.

- Scheduled meeting with City Manager on possibly videotaping BID meetings. Present meeting room is not set up for videotaping or streaming meetings.
- Checked with other BIDs and no other uses an app like Deposit, citing management issues, time constraints by staff, document retention, and security concerns.
- Been in contact with the new owner of M & T Bank Building.

#### **BID Member Public Comment –**

- Chloe Wareham-Gordon spoke, and was given 6 minutes by Pres. Rogers since she missed the first opportunity to be heard. Said she was glad to see there is a social media plan under consideration. Recommended Enormous Creative for the RFP. She wants to see clear protocol for public input; representation of Spanish-owned business, etc. Stated that she does not intend to respond to the RFP. Stated that she is not happy in Peekskill and is thinking about leaving. Mr. Powers asked Ms. Wareham-Gordon to send him her comments, which she read from her phone, so that he could include them in their entirety in the minutes.

#### **Adjournment –**

- Pres. Richard Rogers asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Brian Fassett; seconded by David Kaminsky. All in favor. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.