



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

Present: Richard Rogers, President; Brian Fassett; David Kaminsky; Paddy Neville; Drew Claxton; David Abrevaya and Chuck Lesnick arrived after the meeting started. Executive Director Bill Powers.

Absent: Roger Campos, Vice President; Toni Tracy, Treasurer; Deb Milone, Secretary; Board Members Hever Palacios; John Sharp; Matt Rudikoff.

Call August 6, 2025, Board of Directors meeting to order – Pres. Richard Rogers called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

BID Member Public Comment – There were no public comments.

Approval of July 1, 2025 BID Board of Director's Meeting Minutes – Moved to later in the meeting when a quorum is present.

Social Media Committee Report – Pres. Richard Rogers reported:

- Twice a week social media posts about our agreed upon theme for the summer: Music, Movies & Markets, focused on all three elements; movies in Pugsley Park; music in downtown and elsewhere, focused on patronizing restaurants; promoting shop/dine in downtown before/after visits to one of our markets.
- Created new shuttle social media posts.
- Created separate special media posts on Ozland Festival.
- Bill posted a nice short video produced by Scarlett promoting the Ozland Festival.
- We have received 10 responses so far for the Social Media RFP. Will send all responses to our social media committee and will accept comments from the committee. Next step is to have the Executive Committee review the responses and select an appropriate number of respondents to interview in person or by Zoom, followed by a recommendation to the full board for approval to move forward with a contract.

Artist District Report – Board Member David Abrevaya will give his report later.

City of Peekskill Report – Councilman Brian Fassett gave his city report:

- Council held a public hearing for a project at 710 Washington St. This is for a micro business related to growing and packaging cannabis products. One person spoke, we kept the hearing open till August when the owners of the business can present to the public. There will be additional time to comment.

- August 18, Council held a public hearing on an indoor sports facility proposed for 1 Highland Ave. Owners gave a presentation on their plans. No one spoke on this project.
- City awarded engineering consultant contract for flood mitigation study. This will concentrate on McGregory Brook, Peekskill Hollow Creek Basin, and Peekskill Riverfront.
- City has entered into two service contracts for Structural Improvement Designs for the two city-owned garages – Nelson Avenue and James Street garages. The proposed scope of work includes brick and façade work, reinforced concrete deck and wall repairs, painting, staircase rehabilitation, elevator tower improvements, drainage upgrades, guardrail replacements, steel canopy and railing work, and bid development assistance.
- City adopted a Refrigerant Management Plan in an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Council approved a street closure for the Assumption Church street fair – First Street from Union Avenue to the border of 911 First Street, August 13 through 16, 2025 between 2 pm and 10 pm, and Sunday August 17 from 10am to 10pm.
- Council approved a special use permit for a woodworking shop at 898 Washington Street.
- Council extended the professional services agreement for engineering services to provide project implementation analysis, review, and oversight for Momentum Infrastructure Projects.
- Council approved several grant applications related to energy efficiency equipment improvements at the Neighborhood Center and Police Station. Infrastructure and HVAC improvements at the Paramount Theater, and to incorporate sustainability elements into the city of Peekskill's comprehensive plan.
- Council approved a grant application to complete an economic feasibility analysis of a retail incubator and emporium concept.
- Council declared its intent to act as lead agency under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act for the coordinated environmental review of the Civic Hub and Connectivity Project related to the DRI grant.
- Council approved a contract for the repair, modification, and reinstallation of the two floating docks, pilings repairs, and kayak dock modifications and reinstallation at Fleischmann Pier.
- Council authorized a grant application to the Pro Housing Supply Fund for the Lower South Street Sewer Project.
- Police Officers have been active on foot patrols in the downtown area, various times, and shifts from 4 pm through 4 am.
- Next Council Meeting will be Committee of the Whole on August 11, 2025 @ 6:30 pm in council chambers.
- The following public Council Meeting will be on August 18, 2025. It will take place downstairs in the senior center, in the neighborhood center. Committee of the Whole starts at 9:30 am, and the Council Meeting starts approximately 10 am.

Board Member Neville complimented the city on the additional police patrols, saying it is making a “massive difference.” He did note that there were liquor bottles in the upper K lot that had to be picked up; some were smashed.

Board Member Claxton asked about when we can expect the placement of no smoking signs in certain down areas since the no smoking ban had been passed. Councilman Fassett stated he would look into the matter.

Economic Development Report – Economic Development Specialist Matt Rudikoff was absent and no report was given.

Approval of July 1, 2025 BID Board of Director's Meeting Minutes – Motion by Chuck Lesnick, seconded by Councilman Fassett, all in favor.

Artist District Report – David Abrevaya gave his report:

- Offering workshops on artist certification. Exec. Dir. Powers asked who had done these before, and he stated that they were not being done. The next one is on August 16, 2025.
- Scholarships from the Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce are being offered for an Illustration & 2D Animation Certificate at WCC/SUNY Peekskill.
- Hosting another Paint & Sip at the Lofts on Main, with more to follow.
- Hosting a Drink & Draw, invited the whole board, any skill level, August 22 @ 630pm @ the Lofts on Main.
- Will be the interim PAA President from September to November.
- Will be recognized by the City of Mt. Vernon (previous employer), during the installation of the Gold Star Mother's Statue on Sept. 26, 2025 at 1:30pm at Hartley Park in Mt. Vernon. David is being recognized for his artistic and creative guidance on the statue and his name will be etched on the monument. Board members are invited to attend.

Executive Director's Report – Exec. Dir. Bill Powers presented his report, noting that August has been very busy.

- Worked with City's Parks & Rec to update the top 100 fun things to do in Peekskill.
- Met with Ram Bathijia, new owner of the M&T Bank Building, and referred him to other business owners and key stakeholders.
- Attended 50th Anniversary event for SunRiver Health Center.
- Oversaw and approved placement of summer themed posts on social media, and shared 30 others from BID Members.
- Farmers Market and Flea Markets are doing well, but the reports of ICE activity in Peekskill are impacting attendance at the Flea Market.
- Pawsafe: adopted out 8 dogs over two weeks at the Farmers Market.
- There was a great video posted from a flea market influencer who came to the Peekskill Flea Market. At last check the video had 17,000 views.
- Placed new shuttle signage at all 3 shuttle stop locations, thanks to Paddy Neville.

- Attended quarterly HHRT meeting via Zoom.
- Connected Historic Hudson River Towns with Peekskill Parks & Rec and RMS Cruises to join in HHRT's Music Across the Hudson event on Sat. Sept 6 at Fleischmann's Pier, rain date Sun. Sept. 7.
- Connected Brighter Travel with the City of Peekskill for possible future collaboration.
- Issued 3 letters of support, one for a grant for HVAC for the Paramount Hudson Valley. One for a grant for advising on the kitchen incubator/makers market location. One for support for a grant associated with the city's comprehensive plan.
- Separate note HHRT issued a letter to encourage the State DEC to permit and expedite dredging projects throughout the Hudson Valley--that impacts the dredging of the channel at Fleishmann's Pier and potentially Riverfront Green.
- My Innovation Studio, a new social media/marketing company, ribbon-cutting is scheduled for Sat. August 23, 8 North Division, FL 2 @ 10:30am.
- Chris Gross, head of DPW, is leaving. Bill thanked Chris for his work in Peekskill.
- History Tour maps and shuttle schedules have been placed on RMS Cruises. Also available at the chamber of commerce if anyone wants bulk copies. Also, copies available tonight.
- Exec. Dir. Powers received a request from Scarlett for additional funding for events related to, but separate from her Ozland Festival. Richard informed her, based on the board's 2025 policy regarding funding of events, that she would not be receiving any additional funding.

BID Member Public Comment –

- Question about the DRI Gazebo project, and Councilman Fassett noted that the project is out to BID. There is some concern that the bids may come back too high.
- Concern was raised about mopeds, scooters and motorized dirt bikes being driven on sidewalks. Councilman Fassett stated he would bring it to the police chief's attention.
- Concern raised about a health and safety issue at a location in Peekskill; matter will be referred to code enforcement.
- Concern raised about whether a recent protest had the proper permit to demonstrate and march, disrupting the downtown.
- Dorothy Posada from WCC Peekskill SUNY provided the board with an update on programs and services being offered this fall at the Peekskill location.
- Alex Torres introduced himself.
- Ram Bathijia introduced himself.

Adjournment – Pres. Richard Rogers asked for a motion to adjourn without going into Executive Session. Councilman Fassett made the motion, seconded by Board Member Kaminsky, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:08pm.