



Peekskill Business Improvement District
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 9, 2025 @ 6pm
Peekskill City Hall First Floor Conference Room
840 Main Street, Peekskill, NY 10566

Present: Pres. Richard Rogers; Councilman Brian Fassett; Board Members Paddy Neville; David Kaminsky; Drew Claxton; Matthew Rudikoff; Treasurer Toni Tracy; Executive Director Bill Powers. Board Member Lesnick advised that he would be late to the meeting. Board Member David Abrevaya called to say he is running late due to traffic.

Absent: John Sharp; Deb Milone; Vice Pres. Roger Campos

Proxies: Vice Pres. Campos gave his proxy to Pres. Rogers; Board Member Sharp and Sec. Milone gave their respective proxies to Councilman Fassett.

Call September 9, 2025 Board of Directors meeting to order – Pres. Richard Rogers called the meeting to order at 6pm.

BID Member Public Comment – There were no public comments.

Approval of August 6, 2025 BID Board of Director's Meeting Minutes – With Secretary Deb Milone's absence, Pres. Rogers asked for a motion to approve the August Board of Directors Minutes; Motion by Board Member Claxton, seconded by Board Member Neville; all in favor.

Social Media Committee Report – Pres. Richard Rogers

- Twice a week social media posts about our agreed upon theme for the summer: Music, Movies & Markets.
- Additional shuttle social media posts and vendor solicitation for the Flea Market.
- Special media posts on Ozland Festival, Paramount Events, Pee Wee's big adventure.
- Bill shared approximately 65 posts from downtown businesses and informational City posts in August.
- Discussion about some of the BID social media posts: some are difficult to read, a bit cluttered, font choice is not always good.
- Discussion: Some of the posts are energetic; impressed with the amount; should be shared to other Peekskill groups.
- Starting to conduct interviews with selected respondents; hope to have a final recommendation for board's approval at next month's meeting.

Artist District Report – Board Member David Abrevaya's report was moved further down the agenda.

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

- On August 11, the Council received a presentation on the coordinated Environmental Study we are working on for the Transit-Oriented Development projects at the River Front.
- On August 18, the Council received a presentation from our Building Inspector on the efforts being put forth for fire inspections throughout the city.
- On August 18, the Planning Department gave a presentation and update on the branding and logo process.
- Trajectory presented the visual assets and explained where they are in progress. There is now a city survey available as the next step, and encourage everyone to take part in it.

- Council held a public hearing on a proposed cannabis grow and cultivation business proposed for 710 Washington Street. Hearing was held open till last night's meeting. Many residents spoke. The hearing was closed after last night to receive verbal comments; however, it remained open for written comments through October 14. Council is still requiring information on odor mitigation.
- Robert Moran was re-appointed to the position of City Assessor.
- City has entered into two professional service contracts for structural improvement designs for the Nelson and James Street Garage. Improvements will include façade work, structural steel repairs, concrete deck and wall repairs, painting, staircase rehabilitation, elevator improvements, drainage, guardrail repairs, steel canopy, and railings.
- City has applied for a grant with the Westchester County Streets Municipal Assistance Program to be earmarked primarily for Central Avenue and work on the pedestrian and cyclist connection between downtown and the waterfront.
- Council issued a special use permit for a new indoor soccer recreation center located at 1 Highland Industrial Park.
- Council authorized the filing of a grievance with the Attorney Grievance Committee for the Supreme Court of New York, Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department, against a former city employee.
- City wrote a letter of support for an environmental review of the Kiley Center – this is a step in the direction for the Peekskill Housing Authority to dispose of the non-dwelling property. This is a possible effort to move forward with the Boys and Girls Club, or another organization that will allow for the DRI-funded renovations and future programming.
- On September 2, the Council received a presentation of the 2nd Quarter budget to actuals, everyone should watch the presentation.
- Council held five public hearings on Sept. 8:
 1. Section 8- Annual Plan
 2. Local Law to Amend Chapter 530 – Tree Preservation Advisory Board
 3. Payment in Lieu of Parking
 4. Local Law to Amend Chapter 17 – Citizen Complaint Review Board
 5. 710 Washington Street – Cannabis Grow and Cultivation Facility
- Council approved a bond resolution to apply for grant funding for a significant sewer system improvement that will start at Lower South Street and end at the pump station on Water Street.
- Council approved a street closure for a centennial celebration at Lincoln Excedra on Saturday, October 25, from 9am to 3pm.
- Council approved a street closure for this Saturday, Sept. 13, for Assumption Church starting at Orchard St., proceeding South on Nelson, crossing Central, proceeding South onto Union, ending at 131 Union.
- Council approved a street closure of Brown St from Bank to South Division for a film production in front of the Paramount – Wednesday, September 10 – tomorrow – 3pm to 11pm.
- Council set a public hearing for October 14 – regarding the renewal of the Verizon franchise agreement.
- Council passed local law #10 – this is the adoption of changes and amendments to the CCRB city code.
- Council approved funding for an emergency stormwater infrastructure repair on Hamilton Avenue.
- Council approved the appointment of an outside City Engineering firm to act as City Engineer, having lost our city engineer when Chris Gross left his position.
- Mark Fetzler (former Parks Foreman) appointed as Acting Director of Public Works. There is a new job

listing for the position.

Economic Development Report – Economic Development Specialist Matt Rudikoff gave his report:

- Announced there is a logo/branding survey seeking public input on the releases logos. Encouraged all to take it and give feedback. Board Member Neville suggested getting additional logos from the artists community. Response has not been overly positive to the released logos.
- Broad and Howard housing development project is before the council.
- There is a new public art trail that's been mapped with a QR code.
- The new Peekskill Arts Council will be meeting; designed to maintain and promote art and art installations in Peekskill.
- Planner Peter Erwin has returned from paternity leave.
- City's connection to West Point is blossoming; attended community day. Well received. Reaching out to various West Point Facebook pages.
- Floating docks at Fleishmann's Pier have been put in place.
- Kitchen Incubator is moving along with interest from six contractors.
- PIDA will redo application for financial assistance.
- PIDA and PFDC can solicit sponsorships, but city cannot. Look to place adverts and information on Metro North—free and paid.

Arrival of board members: Board Members Abrevaya and Lesnick arrived during Board Member Rudikoff's report.

Executive Director's Report – Exec. Dir. Bill Powers gave his report:

- Attended My Innovation Studio Ribbon Cutting; new bilingual social media and marketing company located on North Division Street above the barber shop.
- Connected City Parks & Rec with Historic Hudson River Towns for a concert at Fleishmann's Pier. Attended same.
- Flea market was canceled on Sunday, first time this year due to weather.
- Farmers Market managed to get the market in before the rain started.
- We had NYS Unclaimed Funds at the Farmers market on Saturday and out of the 60 people who searched for funds, nearly half had money coming to them. One of the vendors was due \$1,800 from his deceased father.
- Met with new SCORE contact (Senior Corps of Retired Executives), wants to work with the BID to offer various business programs.
- Our Journalism intern, Josh, has graduated with his degree in Journalism and back from his trip abroad; Pres. Rogers is going to take over the editing of Josh's articles.
- Met with City about 2026 Tree Lighting.
- Invited Board Members to attend and help staff the BID booth at the chamber's fall show at the JV Mall on Sunday, October 12 from 11am to 4pm.

Artist District Report – Board Member David Abrevaya gave his report:

- Volunteered time and artistic expertise for the Oz Festival, collaborating with Scarlett to create a massive chalk mural at Pugsley Park's entrance and assisting DPW with pre-event cleanup. The turnout was phenomenal, especially for the Wizard of Oz movie night and it showed the real appetite for this event.
- August Drink & Draw was a smash, with over 35 attendees! We're becoming Westchester's go-to drawing event, pulling in artists from across the county. Planning to spice things up with themed sessions, long-form portraiture nights encouraging painting and watercolor. Also looking to work with local businesses for end-of-season after-parties to celebrate our growing community.
- The Paint & Sip pilot was another win, we were honored to host 12 patrons. The buzz is building, though marketing remains a challenge. Join the next ones on September 19th (Mountain View Garden, 21+) and 20th (Foxy Family Day, 4+, kids under 16 with a guardian). Sign up at davidabrevaya.com/paintandsip.
- Attended a gallery event in Bushwick for UP-Mag, a street art publication, and connected with its Peekskill-native founder, T.K. Mills. He's a key partner in spreading the word about our events and Peekskill's arts scene. Check out the Magazine at upmag.com/about to learn more.
- On September 26th, David will be honored and recognized by the City of Mount Vernon at the Gold Star Mother's Ceremony at Hartley Park for his design and creative guidance for the Statue. Invited BID and PAA members to join him to celebrate.
- David is stepping into the PAA Presidency this month alongside Karen Nelson.
- Looking to expand the Holiday Boutique.
- Artist certification sessions went well. Had 10 artists altogether come to the two sessions.
- Exec. Dir. Powers suggested the PAA reserve and own the Open Studios Tour dates in June 2026 so that may limit the competition from Beacon.

Other items:

- Board Member Neville expressed concern again about the wrong way drivers coming down North Division. Exec. Dir. Powers will write a letter to the city manager and address it at his next meeting with the City.
- Board Member Neville suggested getting artists to paint store windows and have a contest for the holidays. Board Member Abrevaya is interested but would need help in accomplishing that.
- Board Member Neville also announced plans to host a pub crawl in conjunction with the Lincoln Excedra Memorial celebration on October 25, but they usually plan a pub crawl in conjunction with Halloween.
- David Kaminsky will be hosting a History Tour of downtown Peekskill (North Tour) on Saturday, October 4, 2025 at 10am and stated that he will work with the Peekskill Museum to be open when he does the South Tour.

Adjournment to go into Executive Session to discuss contracts – Pres. Richard Rogers asked for a motion to go into Executive Session. Motion by Councilman Fassett, seconded by Board Member Lesnick, all in favor.

- Board voted to come out of Executive Session and to reconvene to vote on the following contracts:
- Authorize Exec. Dir. Powers to enter into a short term contract with Events to Remember to update the BID's database for an amount not to exceed \$1285. Motion by Board Member Claxton, seconded by Board Member Neville, all in favor.

- Authorize Exec. Dir. Powers to extend Evan's contract as necessary so there is no lapse in social media posts until we hire a social media consultant, at \$700 per month. Motion by Board Member Lesnick, seconded by Board Members Abrevaya and Kaminsky, all in favor.
- Authorize Pres. Rogers and Vice Pres. Campos to meet with Wilson Narvaez, Jr. to invite him to come on the board of directors to fill open board seat. Motion by Board Member Claxton, seconded by Board Member Lesnick, all in favor.

Adjournment – Pres. Rogers asked for motion to adjourn, motion by Councilman Fassett, seconded by Board Member Neville, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.