



**Peekskill Business Improvement District
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2025 @ 6pm
Peekskill City Hall First Floor Conference Room
840 Main Street, Peekskill, NY 10566**

Present: Pres. Richard Rogers; Vice Pres. Roger Campos; Secretary Deb Milone; Treasurer Toni Tracey; Board members: Councilman Brian Fassett; Wilson Narvaez, Jr.; Paddy Neville; David Kaminsky; Drew Claxton; Chuck Lesnick and Executive Director Bill Powers.

Absent: John Sharp; Matthew Rudikoff; David Abrevaya

Call November 5, 2025 Board of Directors meeting to order – Pres. Richard Rogers called the board meeting to order at 6pm.

Introduction of new board member Wilson Narvaez, Jr. - President Rogers introduced new board member Wilson Narvaez, Jr. and asked him to tell the board about himself. Board Member Narvaez spoke about his education, family and business ventures including the new health club in the Crossroads Shopping Center. He stated he was looking forward to working with the BID and that this was his first foray into participating on a Board of Directors.

BID Member Public Comment – There were no public comments.

Approval October 7, 2025, BID Board of Director's Meeting Minutes – Secretary Deb Milone Motion to approve October 7, 2025, BID Board of Director's Meeting Minutes as written by Board Member Fassett, seconded by Board Member Neville; Board Member Narvaez abstained. Motion carried.

Request for funding – PAA Holiday Boutique - \$500 – Exec. Dir. Powers presented the PAA's request for \$500 for the Holiday Boutique/BIG Art Show at the Ford Piano Building. He noted the BID had funded the same event last year and is eligible for funding this year. Motion by: Vice Pres. Campos, seconded by Pres. Rogers, motion carried.

Request for funding – Peekskill New Year's Eve - \$500 – Exec. Dir. Powers alerted the board that he anticipates receiving a request from the NYE Committee for funding again this year; he has not received a formal request yet. Board Member Fassett said he would speak with the City since the funding goes through the city. Motion will be brought to the December meeting if the request is received by the meeting date.

Social Media Report – Pres. Richard Rogers

- The BID received a proposed contract from Enormous Creative for our social media for the remainder of this year and all of 2026 and we are looking to add deliverables. We

are going to meet with Enormous Creative next week to finalize contract and send to our attorney for review and approval.

- Since there has been a bit of a delay, Bill has worked out an extension of Evan's services until 11/15 so that there is no lapse in social media content.
- In October, Bill shared 52 posts from BID businesses, events and City of Peekskill information.
- In October, the BID posted 15 reels/posts focusing on the fall leaf peeping season, shuttle, farmers and flea markets, and music in the downtown.
- Posted Josh Anderson's article on Azteca Deli to our website and to social media, and to date it has 10,216 views, the most ever for an article, and seen by 94% non-followers, with 386 link clicks.
- We have three articles in the pipeline: the Grand Opening of Nexora, Lily of the Valley Florist and Gauchos. He was also at the Ribbon Cutting of the new Peekskill Diner today.
- There was an issue with the BIDs website page SSL. Bill is addressing with our website consultant.

Artist District Report – Board Member Abrevaya was excused, attending the PAA's quarterly meeting, as such, no report was provided.

City of Peekskill Update – Councilman Brian Fassett provided his city report:

- Council had additional COW meetings in October for the 2026 budget review.
- Council passed a local law establishing a Tree Advisory Board as part of Chapter 530 entitled Tree Preservation.
- Council adopted the 2026 Section 8 Annual Plan and Cost Allocation Plan.
- Council approved acceptance of grants for the Police, including \$15,000 for K9 support and \$75,000 for Police.
- Tactical Emergency Services from NY State Homeland Security, \$13,500 for Traffic Service Programs, and \$1,300 for Child Passenger Safety Programs from the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee.
- Council approved the burial of a time capsule at the Lincoln Exedra as part of the Centennial celebration, to be opened in 100 years.

- City acknowledged four individuals with proclamations in honor of Italian Heritage Month.
- Council adopted the 2026 MTA parking management plan.
- City approved street closures for the Turkey Trot – November 22 from 8 am to 10 am.
- Council approved the BID's request for free holiday parking in the garages from November 28 to January 2, 2026.
- City approved street closures for the Holiday Tree Lighting between hours of 8 am and 9 pm, Saturday, December 6.
- Council scheduled a public hearing to override the NYS Tax Cap for 2026 – November 10 @ 7 pm.
- Council approved an upgrade to the Engineering and Control systems at the Water Treatment Plant.
- Council appointed a new Volunteer Fire Fighter – Ruben Gray.
- Council authorized acceptance of a \$688,694 grant from the Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency, for the purchase of a Fire Rescue Vessel/Boat.
- Council discussed and is expected to approve the Street Closure for the Reindeer Run on December 6 in the morning.
- Council discussed and moved forward, but did not complete the Payment in Lieu of Parking Program.
- Council approved working with donors and staff of our Nutritional Program to prepare 500 additional meals a day for distribution at three times of day, for SNAP recipients and seniors over 60. This will continue to SNAP benefits are restored at the federal level. Sec. Milone complimented the city for the publicity it received from Channel 7 and News 12 on this community/city initiative.
- Election Results of last evening – Mayor Vivian McKenzie was elected to a third term, and new council people include Darren Rigger, Beverley Chang, and Charles DiGruccio. They will be sworn in on January 1, 2026.

Economic Development Report – Economic Development Specialist Matt Rudikoff

- Due to Board Member Rudikoff's absence, no report was given, though he submitted a written report, and asked to have it included post meeting in the minutes:

- Fleischmann Pier floating docks being removed for Winter storage. RMS will operate until the end of December. and an RFP for future boat operations is being prepared for a November release.
- Logo – new design work being done to be presented to City Staff.
- Work on a West Point Marketing Pamphlet to be used at West Point Visitor’s Center Pamphlet Rack is being completed.
- Scenic Hudson post re: art and hiking opportunities being finalized.
- City wide City Business Database is being finalized and readied for first survey questions to be sent by City Manager in preparation for planning Destination Peekskill material and Peekskill Business Council discussions.
- PIDA/PFDC: PFKI bids opened and request for authorization to USEDA to award bids is being submitted. PIDA is working with City on the 901 Main Street sale, rehab and PILOT Application.
- Public Art Trail Map placement and deployment of new signs complete.
- Wayfinding signage installation begun.
- New redevelopment opportunity at 47-49 South water street (former Peekskill Brewery) being worked on with developers.

2026 Proposed Budget – Bill Powers presented the BID's 2026 Proposed Budget.

- Exec. Dir Powers noted that about 70% of the budget is allocated for must-spends.
- Exec. Dir. Powers noted the major changes: Social Media contract will be \$26,000, with funding being moved from event support and shuttle services to social media.
- Exec. Dir. Powers recommended that \$3,500 be included in the event support line item. Board Member Fassett stated that event sponsorships of \$500 (total budget \$3,500) should be first come, first served and not grandfathering previous recipients. An alert for funding should go out in January 2026, with the Board deciding who gets funded on a first come first served basis.
- BID Insurance rates have increased significantly, especially for event liability, adjusted in the 2026 budget.
- Additional funding was put into Legal Services anticipating increase in legal fees because of BID’s upcoming renewal.
- Board Member Claxton asked why there was no funding in beautification, and Exec. Dir. Powers stated that there are no current beautification plans, further noting that if an initiative comes up, the BID has a small surplus to tap into.

- Motion by Board Member Campos to approve proposed budget as presented, seconded by Sec. Milone, motion carried.

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

- Attended chamber's Fall show at the JV Mall on October 12. We had about 60 people sign up for the gift card giveaway and nearly 100 stopped to visit with us. Thanks to Board Member Rudikoff, Board Member Kaminsky, Sec. Milone, and Pres. Rogers for helping staff the booth. And to Brian Fassett for stopping by and taking photos.
- Attended the ribbon cutting for Nexora, new coffee shop on South Street, as did Vice Pres. Campos, Board Members Fassett and Lesnick. Exec. Dir. Powers brought Board Member Abrevaya over the next day to meet the store manager, but he was not there.
- Guess the Weight of the Giant Pumpkin was very successful. Over 200 people guessed, the pumpkin weighed in at 252 pounds, and one person guessed 251. Pumpkin painting at Pugsley Park the previous weekend was also well attended since it was moved from the Saturday Academy weekend.
- Flea market...Beshir is handling a family emergency, but his wife and daughter are managing the market until he returns. Ends November 23, no market on Thanksgiving weekend, and then we will decide week to week about continuing the flea market into December like last year.
- Participated in zoom call with the city manager and others about plans for the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution. Library, Peekskill Museum, Chamber, BID, City, RMS Cruises on the call. Will be adding Lincoln Depot and School District Reps to next call. Focus: launching tours of Fort Hill; creating a November event around the dates that Washington was known to be in Peekskill in 1776; Recognizing Rifle Jack Peterson, who was a war hero; Youth Bureau build-a-boat project of a replica of one of the boats used at the time to sail from the tall ships to land; investigating bringing a US Naval vessel to dock near Peekskill for tours; history lectures on board the Emerald Princes; other activities from the Peekskill Museum and Field Library.
- PMMM buttons are in... Board complimented the quality of the buttons. Free 4 hour holiday parking passed by the council; free holiday parking banners going up by Thanksgiving. Outreach from the Fire Dept to help promote the Reindeer Run and Santa at the firehouse.
- Tree lighting is scheduled for Saturday, December 6 at 4pm, all are invited. Performer: Peekskill City Singers; Just the Place Dancers; The Dance Conservatory Dancers; Ray Blue's Cross Cultural Connection; Jenny Roxas; Juela Carlos, opera vocalist from Ecuador;

Kiley Center All STARS; Santa Claus; NECS. Maybe the Wiz Kids. Chamber will be doing hot chocolate and cookies at the gazebo.

- Working on getting a preliminary meeting with the city manager about the BID renewal in 2026.
- Attending the Historic Hudson River Towns Board meeting tomorrow at the Octagon House in Dobbs Ferry.

BID Member Public Comment –

- Mary Foster asked if the BID budget includes the Shuttle for 2026. Exec. Dir. Powers that funds for the shuttle are not included at this time.
- Mary Foster asked about deliverables from the farmers market contract; Exec. Dir. Powers advised that the Board would be discussing 2026 in Executive Session. He stated he would follow up with her.
- David Kaminsky commented on the revised M & T Bank redevelopment proposal. Discussion ensued about maintaining commercial space and not converting it to residential usage.
- Board Member Neville commented on the sewer line extension into Cortlandt. After much discussion, it was determined by Board Pres. That the issue did not directly impact the BID, and moved on to other business.

Adjournment to Executive Session to discuss contracts – Motion by: Vice Pres. Campos; seconded by Board Member Claxton, motion carried.

Motion to come out of Executive Session and adjourn meeting. Motion by Board Member Claxton, seconded by Vice Pres. Campos, motion carried. Meeting adjourned.