Peekskill Business Improvement District
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 5, 2026 @ 6pm
Peekskill City Hall First Floor Conference Room
840 Main Street, Peekskill, NY 10566

Present: Pres. Richard Rogers; Vice Pres. Roger Campos; Treasurer Toni Tracy; Councilman Brian Fassett; Board Members: Matthew Rudikoff; Chuck Lesnick; David Abrevaya; Ram Bathija; Paddy Neville. **Guest:** Peekskill Police Officer Gary Jackman **Excused:** Board Member Drew Claxton; Secretary Deborah Milone; Marcel Dimnuci;. **Absent:** Board Member Wilson Narvaez, Jr.

Call August 5, 2026 Board of Directors meeting to order – Pres. Richard Rogers called the meeting to order at 6pm.

Guest: Peekskill Police Officer Gary Jackman – Board Member Neville brought several quality of life issues to Officer Jackman's attention including several incidents involving two individuals who have had the police called on them for erratic behavior. He suggested that mental health holds should have been placed on them.

Some other quality of life issues:

- Can the city add no smoking signs at library plaza?
- Nelson Avenue garage still has sign with old parking fee prices and asked to have it removed.
- Signage at James Street garage is confusing as to where people should park.
- There is a cluster of signs across from the fire house at Main and Broad—they should be spread out so drivers can see them; it was pointed out that some of the signs are for drivers while others are for pedestrians.
- Can the city install cameras to help control double and illegal parking?
- Maybe Peekskill could offer financial incentives for people who turn in people who do illegal dumping or place trash out on the wrong days. NYC does it and it seems to have been successful.

BID Member Public Comment – Scarlett Antonia gave an updated schedule of her Oz Festival, noting that she will have multiple events across multiple locations on several days, ending with a cruise aboard the Emerald Princess.

Approval of July Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – Will be placed on next month's agenda due to Secretary Deb Milone's excused absence.

Economic Development Report – Economic Development Specialist Matt Rudikoff

- Mr. Rudikoff stated that in light of the recent restaurant closures, the city is using a multiprong approach to track openings and closures of businesses.
- Will be reaching out to key property owners to get updates on rentals/leases and progress on renovations.

- Trying to track expansions, retention, and new openings.
- City is updating its business registry so it can be used to gather survey information. List has 975 in the database now.
- City plans to do more positive communications and dialogue.
- City to stay in touch with stake holders.
- Identify what else city could do, encourage voluntary and cooperative use, encourage pop up store, place artwork in windows and review and address ordinaces for both enforcement and encouragement of cooperation.
- Mr. Rudikoff gave an update on several vacant properties after having spoken with th e property owners.
- Activate Destination Peekskill.

David Abrevaya arrived.

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

- City Council is on summer schedule, so the last council meeting was July 13, with a special meeting on July 29.
- Council approved city property space to be used by Arts10566 for a program called Rhythm of Resiliency for 2026-2027.
- Council approved a street closure and street fair celebrating the final day of the World Cup, and the Paramount hosted a viewing party on July 19.
- Council approved the purchase of (9) new parking kiosks. This will allow the transition to pay-by-plate parking downtown.
- Council approved the Fire Department's purchase of a LUCAS chest compression device to assist with first-response efforts.
- Council set a public hearing for the project at 418 North Division while it is going through the planning process. That public hearing will be September 14.
- Council approved a special permit for an automotive repair at 301 Division Street – in the C-3 district.
- Council approved a contract amendment for additional design services related to enhancements at Riverfront Green Park.
- City issued an RFP for construction administration services for construction of the southern waterfront trail and shoreline stabilization project. Council set a public hearing date for a proposed amendment to Chapter 182 of the City Code entitled "Bicycles and In-Line Skates" – this amendment focuses on electric bikes, scooters, and other electric modes of transport. Hearing will be August 17th. Council approved an application for a grant to support trail expansion and maintenance in Fort Hill Park.
- The next council meeting will be August 10 at the normal time, and the August 17th meeting will be a morning meeting held in the Senior Center.

Litter Committee Report – Pres. Richard Rogers gave the litter committee report:

- Purpose of committee is to discuss and explore solutions to the litter problem in Downtown Peekskill

- The Committee discussed the topic of litter as well as trash in general at the meeting
- Started with the premise that when a City is clean, people are less likely to litter.
- These factors influence behavior: Keeping spaces clean; Making disposal easy, and maintaining visible upkeep so residents see the area as cared for.
- Understand the responsibility of the parties involved: DPW, property owners, commercial and residential tenants, pedestrians.
- Property boundary extends to the curb, therefore the property owner has the responsibility to keep that area clean.
- We would need to discuss any plans concerning litter clean up on the sidewalks with DPW and the City to make sure everyone is on board and to avoid and potential conflicts.
- Recommendation: The BID is not set up to handle the bookkeeping, accounting, payroll taxes and filing of same with the taxing authorities, so we should hire a company to handle this project or ask the city to hire or dedicate appropriate staff.
- Drew suggested we look into the Peekskill Youth Bureau.
- Bill also mentioned the committee contact WinWaste and have them underwite the program if the BID hires the company, or pay for the central collection stations.
- Other no-cost/low-cost suggestions included: Promoting and managing a Community pick-up-the-trash day; public relations campaign; involving the schools through education; adding trash cans on every corner of intersections in downtown, rather than just one.
- The other topic discussed was garbage pickup in general as trash cans always seem to be overflowing.
- It was noted that DPW collects garbage daily at 8 AM but we generally agreed that that system leaves something to be desired as anyone throwing out garbage either business or residential then doesn't get picked up until the following day, which means garbage sits out the whole day.
- It was suggested that the law prohibiting putting garbage out at night be looked at or either work with DPW to change the pick up time to a later time on the morning, or arrange with DPW to have a second, mini-truck pick at around noon.
- Committee also looked at the idea of placing dumpsters at strategic community location points for residents to throw out their garbage in a container, rather than in an overflowing trash can. Richard distributed photos of nice looking central collection options.
- After discussion, Bill suggested he write a letter to the city manager asking to add or dedicate staff for litter pick up.
- Discussion about litter and urination in and around the clock next to the M&T Bank building.

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

- Made comments to the Herald on the two restaurant closures.
- Peekskill Herald wrote a nice article on the farm and flea markets.
- BID posted “if your business needs help, contact the BID”--posts on social media were in English and Spanish; BID received no responses.
- BID posted “if you are looking to locate your business in downtown Peekskill” in English and Spanish. BID received one response spent $40 to boost the post 4K views
- “Jerk Fest” is this Saturday at the Kimbari booth at the farmers market. Bringing in a DJ at their expense.

- Posted that the BID's promotion rack card is in the rack outside the station manager's office at Grand Central Station. Placement is free and stems from the BID's participation in the MTAs Staycation event. Rack card promotes Farmers Market, Flea Market and downtown QR code. So far we have had 4K views and 59 likes.
- Josh is working on business profile about Empire Beauty School.
- Bill and Enormous Creative are working on three trash PSAs
- Still working on Mile Marker repair or replacement.
- National Night Out is scheduled for Tuesday August 4 at Peekskill Riverfront Green Park.
- In response to Marcel's emailed questions about replacement of the crosswalk signals at the corner of Park/Central and Division. New pedestrian crosswalk signals will be installed at the four corners at Park/Central and Division. There will also be new signals at all of the crossings on South Division at South Street and Brown Street up to the Coffee House.
- The city is getting cost estimates to complete the DRI sign bases.
- Planning to attend the Chamber's JV Mall Show on Sunday October 11.

Artist District Report – Board Member David Abrevaya

- **Brown Street Plaza Murals:** excited to report that all three murals are complete and ready for installation. Currently waiting on the grand opening date so we can coordinate the reveal with city officials. Any insight into the expected completion timeline for the plaza would be greatly appreciated.
- **Drink & Draw:** We will host two events this month. August 14th and August 28th. We've also ordered starter kits for newcomers to create a more welcoming environment for first-timers (Sketchbooks & Tools). We now have two bands are confirmed to perform at the events.
- **Figure Drawing Workshop:** David will be putting a public poll out shortly to gauge interest in launching a local figure drawing class. If enough people sign up for the workshop, David will personally run it for 10 weeks, during the fall college Semester.
- **Artist Certification Workshop:** This year's workshop is confirmed for Saturday, August 22nd, 12:00–4:00 pm at 921 Diven Street (community room). David will walk participants through the application process, resumes, portfolios, and letters of intent. The fee is $45. Artists working in any of the disciplines listed on the City's website are welcome.
- **Peekskill Arts Alliance:** planning PAA Quarterly Meeting for September and will be inviting our Open Studios sponsors. The meeting will include updates and a look at projects currently in development. David strongly encourage business owners and city officials to attend and share ideas.
- **The PAA Holiday Boutique** (held every year right after the tree lighting) is seeking a location. Have scouted the WCC Extension Center and the Red Door (run by Naheem and Asia Gross). Both are strong prospects. Wanted to update the board that we are actively working on securing a venue after last year's last minute change of venue.
- **Westchester Community College:** The Illustration & 2D Animation Certificate Workforce Program begins September 10th at the Center for Digital Arts. This program dives into the core principles of illustration and 2D animation, preparing students for both self-publishing and professional industry work.

- **BID Member Public Comment** – Scarlett Antonia stated that her forced move cost her $5,000.
- **Adjournment** – Board Member Lesnick made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Board Member Bathija, all in favor.