

Regular Meeting

These minutes are for the regular meeting of the Beacon City Council, held in the Municipal Center at One Municipal Plaza on March 21, 2016. Please note that the video recording of this meeting is available at <http://vimeo.com/channels/40154>.

Council Members Present:

George Mansfield, At Large
Lee Kyriacou, At Large
Peggy Ross, Ward One
Omar Harper, Ward Two
Pamela Wetherbee, Ward Three
Ali Muhammad, Ward Four
Randy Casale, Mayor

Council Members Absent:**Also Present:**

Anthony Ruggiero, City Administrator
Nick Ward Willis, City Attorney

A moment of silence was observed for all those who have died fighting for human rights, equality and justice throughout the world.

First Opportunity for Public Comments: Each speaker may have one opportunity to speak up to three minutes on any subject matter other than those which are the topic of a public hearing tonight.

Speakers:

1. **Kelly Ellenwood, VP Beacon Arts:** Kelly gave the monthly update on Beacon Arts. (Kelly's full report can be found at the end of these minutes).
2. **Fred Antalek:** Expressed his concern about the negative impact he believes parking meters will have on the City. He has a business on Main Street and is concerned about where all of his employees will park when the parking lot is always full.
3. **Mayor Casale:** Advised Mr. Antalek that the City will be holding public forums on the proposal and will be sure that everyone has a chance to weigh in on the subject.

Public Hearing:**Proposed Local Law Amending Chapter 45 of the City Code as it Relates to Planning and Zoning Board and Chapter 223 Zoning**

4. **Nick Ward Willis:** Explained that the main purpose is to make the local law consistent with the City Charter. The language is also being modified with respect to removal of members and will reduce the number of members from 7 to 5, and will obligate the chair to report back to Mayor about member attendance and required training, and moving the responsibility of mailing notices to neighbors from the City to the applicant. The proposed local law was referred to both the county planning board and city planning board.

5. **Jim Korn:** Mr. Korn had comments on Chapter 233-55 Powers and Duties and area variances. Would like to see area variances not granted unless there is a compelling reason to grant them not the opposite way in which they are granted presently. (Jim's comments can be found at the end of these minutes).
6. **Nick Ward Willis:** Explained that the new language with regard to variances is dictated by New York State.

Council Member Reports:**7. Ali Muhammad – Ward Four:**

Thank you to everyone for coming out tonight. Advised that the next Hudson Valley Young Leaders meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 23 at Mill House Brewing at 6:30. The prison issue has been kicked down the road for a long time. There are a lot of people speaking out for it and against it. I don't think enough people are speaking to the humane side of this issue. Personally, I come from a background of an inner city school district that has a pipeline to the prison. I believe that there needs to be prison reform in our country. We have to have a prison and we have to plan for it. We need to move forward and focus on humane side of this issue. In my experience, I know how difficult it would be if loved ones are in a jail in a different county. I think that with 24 hour arraignment, and drug courts we can help keep people who don't belong there out of the jails. We need to think about alternatives to incarceration. My father's experience has help shape my thinking about this. We need to point this action in the right direction.

8. Omar Harper – Ward Two:

Council member Harper advised that he has been contacted by residents in Ward 2 about an issue and I would like to thank the City Administrator for his swift response to his questions. Career Day will be held at Beacon High School on Mary 26th. Wants to be able to give the kids at Beacon High a different perspective. City Administrator said that the Police Chief and Fire Chief will attend.

9. Lee Kyriacou – At Large:

Get up early on the weekend and saw the email about the work being done by Metro North.

10. George Mansfield – At Large:

No report tonight.

11. Pam Wetherbee – Ward Three

Advised that a constituent asked about getting rides for seniors. Reached out to Friends of Seniors in Dutchess County. Discovered that they will drive seniors to doctor appointments and shopping. It is a great program and would like them to come for a community segment. If anyone is interested, you can find them at friendsofseniors.biz

12. Peggy Ross – Ward One:

No report tonight.

13. Randy Casale, Mayor:

Mayor Casale mentioned the following topics:

- We have been named a Tree City again. Mayor Casale read the letter from the Arbor Day Foundation.
- Read the Parkinson's Disease Awareness Proclamation

- Reported on the Rombout Avenue reconstruction project
- Reminded everyone about the Weekly Recycling Pilot Project which will start in two neighborhoods on April 4
- Announced the two new firefighters
- Read the notice about the bagged leaf collection
- Would like more people and organizations to participate in the Memorial Day Parade
- Announced vacancies on the ZBA and Conservation Advisory Committee
- Announced the appointment of Peter Butros

14. Anthony Ruggiero, City Administrator:

No report.

Appointments:

15. Appointment of Peter Butros as a Police Officer: Chief Solomon gave an overview of Police Officer Butros' qualifications.

Resolution to Peter Butros as a City of Beacon Police Officer.

Motion by Council Member Muhammad, second by Council Member Ross

All in favor

7-0

Resolutions, Ordinances and Local Laws:

16. Approval of a License Agreement with Zip Car Hudson Valley

Motion by Council Member Muhammad, second by Council Member Wetherbee

All in favor

7-0

17. Scheduling a Public Hearing for April 4, 2016 to Receive Public Comment Relating to the Petition Seeking the Rezoning of Parcels Within the Linkage District

Motion by Council Member Harper, second by Council Member Mansfield

All in favor

7-0

18. Scheduling a Public Hearing for April 18, 2016 to Receive Public Comments Concerning a Local Law to Amend Chapter 223 as it Relates to the Expiration of Special Permits.

Motion by Council Member Muhammad, second by Council Member Mansfield

All in favor

7-0

Approval of Minutes:

19. Approval of Minutes of March 7, 2016

Motion by Council Member Mansfield, second by Council Member Muhammad

All in favor

7-0

Second Opportunity for Public Comments: Each speaker may have one opportunity to speak for up to three minutes on any subject matter on which the Council can take action.

20. No speakers

Next Workshop: March 28, 2016

Next Council Meeting: April 4, 2016

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Evans, Assistant to the Mayor

BeaconArts Report

3/21/2016

BeaconArts mission statement; sponsored projects:

BeaconArts (Beacon Arts Community Association/BACA) is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization that has promoted and nurtured the arts in Beacon since 2002. Our members include artists, galleries, specialty shops, restaurants, services, and supporters of the arts. Activities include Beacon Second Saturday, the BeaconArts website, the Beacon Guide, Art Along the Hudson, and events and projects such as Beacon Open Studios, ^{Manit-in}Windows on Main Street, ^{Manit}Beacon 3D, Beacon Riverfest, the Beacon Independent Film Festival and more. We are also the fiscal sponsor and support for the Beacon Arts & Education Foundation. We have over 160 individual members, and over 80 Business members; BeaconArts is an all-volunteer organization.

At our Annual Meeting on January 27, 2016, the membership voted in two new members to our Board of Directors – Pamela Dailey, architect and principal at Pamela Dailey Design, a design firm specializing in architecture-driven interiors; and Christina Jensen, principal of the classical music management and PR firm Jensen Artists. Kelly Ellenwood was re-elected as Vice President and Erica Hauser was re-elected as Secretary for another 2-year term. Dan Rigney remains as President through 2016, as does Nelson Conde as Treasurer, when both will retire from the Board due to term limits.

☐ BIFF + BOS received ~~funding~~ from the AMH Decentralized Project Grants, funded by MCA.

Marketing Plan for 2016

Received Dutchess County Partners in the Arts Funding @ \$2,000 to help offset some of our marketing and pr costs; the grant also gave us the impetus to track attendance at BeaconArts projects and events for 2015. I have the report if anyone is interested. We will re-apply for 2016 in May. Also of note is that we have retained two media sponsors: Luminary Publishing (Chronogram) and A Little Beacon Blog.

Plan for 2016:

- Dutchess County Tourism Guide (currently in production)
- WAMC – monthly spots highlighting Second Saturday, and reaching tens of thousands of targeted public radio listeners.
- Chronogram – May “Beacon” Edition
- Hudson Valley Magazine (June, September, December)
- Hudson Valley Shakespeare (Summer 2016)
- Print over 20,000 “Beacon Guide” (recently updated, updates quarterly)
- Produce large format posters for the riverfront kiosks; also maintain the smaller kiosk under the tracks.
- Participate as an ad sponsor for local arts events i.e. Beacon Players, Calico Ball and Ballet Arts

BeaconArts Website has robust analytics and there is increased back and forth traffic between the City of Beacon website and beaconarts.org. The City is one of the top referrers at 251 visits from cityofbeacon.org to beaconarts.org in the past 30 days. Conversely, just today I was able to help someone find information on facility usage for one of our city parks. It is the go to site in Beacon for information on Second Saturday, and arts and culture events in our City. It is comprehensive and updated constantly. Please send your text and a strong image to submit@beaconarts.org if you would like your event to be included.

And lastly....

As you may know BeaconArts is in the middle of our very first Annual Appeal, raising funds and friends through a series of targeted email blasts and social media, designed to educate our community and others about what BeaconArts does, and hopefully inspire them to contribute to our cause.

Please take a moment to go to the website to find out more. Your contribution is a vote of confidence in our efforts to support the arts community that lives and creates here, and to keep building on the precious synergy between Beacon’s artists and our community of business owners and entrepreneurs.

Organization Name: BeaconArts

Please estimate the numbers of attendees by zip code in the following chart.

Dutchess County:	# Attendees
Northern Dutchess: (12572, 12571, 12507, 12504, 12574, 12583, 12567, 12581, 12506)	750
Central North Dutchess: (12538, 12569, 12578, 12514, 12580, 12545)	750
Poughkeepsie (12601)	2000
Poughkeepsie (12603)	1000
Central South Dutchess: (12540, 12510, 12585, 12533, 12582, 12570)	1750
Southern Dutchess: (12537, 12590, 12524, 12508)	11000
Eastern Dutchess: (12584, 12546, 12594, 12501, 12592, 12522, 12563, 12564, 12531)	500
Other Dutchess	500
Total:	18250

Outside of Dutchess County:	# Attendees
Ulster County	1200
Orange County	1100
Westchester County	1150
NYC	1000
Connecticut	700
New Jersey	250
Massachusetts	350
Other	1000
Total:	6750

How will you track data? - List Measurement Tools below:

ZIP Codes via Brown Paper Tickets, at door for BRF, BIFF, HEFESTUS
Survey of attendees for Second Saturday, Beacon 3D, WOMS and BOS
Mailing lists, online activity and interest for all projects, especially beaconarts.org activity. Zip codes not always possible but we will do our best!

Examples may be:

- Collect Zip Codes at Door with ticket sales
- Survey of attendees during event
- Track online activity and interest

*Please note that organizations are expected to meet or exceed at least 80% of the stated outcomes in order to receive full payment under their scope of services.

Public Hearing: Proposed Local Law Amending Chapter 45 of the City Code as it Relates to Planning and Zoning Board and Chapter 223 Zoning

J.Korn notes

March 21, 2016

One

“Section 223-55. Powers and duties of Board of Appeals

C. Variances

(2) Area Variances

In making a determination the Board of Appeals shall take into consideration the benefit to the applicant if the variance is granted, as weighed against the detriment to the health, safety and welfare of the neighborhood or community by such grant. ...”

- a) This would suggest, that variances are granted unless there is an overwhelming reason not to do so, when, actually, it should be the other way around. It should be hard to obtain a variance.
- b) Arguing variances will provide more units or parking, bigger footprint, higher return on investment, etc. is not in itself sufficient. Zoning is meant to balance all the resources available to a project, including its footprint, height, parking, etc.
- c) Also it does not take into account the cumulative impact of such variances.

Today, “(1) That there are special circumstances or conditions, fully described in the findings of the Board ...” as it should be.

Two

Variances should be fully described by the:

- a) Board as required today.
- b) By the applicant. There is a scant two lines for “Reason supporting request:” on the Zoning Board of Appeals Application for Appeal today.