



Holyoke Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 15, 2019

Attendance: Richard Ahlstrom (Chairperson), Paola Ferrario, Joe Paul, Frances Welson
Municipal Staff: Marcos Marrero (OPED) Ben Murphy (OPED)

1. **Call to Order-** Richard Ahlstrom called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm
2. **Review of June 10, 2019 Minutes** – A motion was made by Joe Paul and seconded by Paola Ferrario to accept the minutes from June 10, 2019, as amended. All were in favor.
3. **Public Participation** – A motion was made by Joe Paul and seconded by Frances Welson to open Public Participation. All were in favor.
There was no one forthcoming for Public Participation.
A motion was made by Joe Paul and seconded by Paola Ferrario to close Public Participation. All were in favor.
4. **Demolition Delay Ordinance Revisions** – The Commissioners reviewed and discussed the Preservation Ordinance and the following changes were agreed upon;
 - Throughout the document “*historically significant building or structure*” was changed to “*historic building or structure.*”
 - Section C3 through C6 were deleted
 - Section C3 - The first sentence was edited to state *The commission shall hold a public hearing within forty-five (45) days of receiving a copy of such application, and shall give public notice thereof by publishing notice of the time, place and purpose of the hearing in a local newspaper at least fourteen (14) days before said hearing.*
 - Section C4 - 14 days was changed to 7 days and the last sentence (*If the Commission does not receive required documentation 14 days prior to the date of the public hearing, the 45 day period restarts*) was deleted.
 - Section C5 - The first two sentences were changed to *Within fourteen (14) days after the closing of the public hearing, the Commission shall determine whether the demolition of the historic building or structure will be detrimental to the historical, cultural or architectural heritage or resources of the City and should be preferably preserved.*
 - Section C6 was changed and divided into three sections as follows:
 - C6 *If the Commission determines that the building is not preferably preserved, the Commission shall notify the Building Commissioner and applicant in writing. The Building Commissioner shall then issue the demolition permit.*
 - C7 *If the Commission determines that the building is preferably preserved, the Commission shall so advise the Building Commissioner and applicant in writing. No demolition permit may be issued for a period of 18 months from the date of the determination unless otherwise agreed to by the Commission. If the Commission does not notify the Building Commissioner within 21 days of the public hearing, the Building Commissioner may proceed to issue the demolition permit.*
 - C8 *Upon determination by the Commission that the building is preferably preserved, no building permit for new construction or alteration to the subject building shall be issued for a period of*

eighteen months from the date of the determination unless otherwise agreed to by the Commission.

Marcos Marrero indicated that City staff would now share the proposed ordinance with other city departments for comment

5. Old Business:

- a. **CPC Update # 1:** Marcos Marrero stated that the CPC made an error in the order that approved the funds for 123 Pine Street. The CPA named the developer as Voces de Esperanza when it should have been Valley Opportunity Council. Mr. Marrero stated that he may need to go to the City Council to have the name corrected.
- b. **CPC Update # 2:** Marcos Marrero stated that there is an issue with the composition of the CPA. The CPA should have representation from the Historical Commission and not the Local Historic District Commission. Mr. Marrero added he is in talks with the City Solicitor regarding this issue.
- c. **MHC Survey & Planning Grant Update:** Ben Murphy stated he had a call with MHC regarding the process to hire someone to complete the Main Street Corridor Historic Survey. He is currently working on a list of properties to be included in the survey.
- d. **Library Commons MOU:** Marcos Marrero stated that the office was copied on a letter from the Massachusetts Historical Commission stating that an MOU has been reached for the Library Commons Project.

- 6. New Business:** Marcos Marrero stated at a prior meeting he had applied for technical assistance from MassDevelopment for the Armory for the structural stability of the building. He noted that the office was just notified that \$45,000 was granted.

- 7. Next Meeting** – August 12, 2019

- 8. Adjourn** – There being no other business before the Commission, a motion was made by Joe Paul and seconded by Frances Welton to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. All were in favor.

Sincerely,

**Richard Ahlstrom, Chairperson
Holyoke Historical Commission**