



Holyoke Historical Commission (HHC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Attendance: Richard Ahlstrom (Chairperson), Paola Ferrario, Joe Paul, Frances Welton, Chris Gauthier, James Sheehan, Marco Crescentini I **Municipal Staff:** Ben Murphy (OPED) **Others Present:** Denis Luzuriaga (130 Race Street), Kate Preisler (238 Cabot Street), Peni Martorell (238 Cabot Street) Christine Berge (87 Beech Street)

1. **Call to Order** – Richard Ahlstrom called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and stated that the meeting was being recorded.
2. **Review of October 7, 2019 Minutes**
A motion was made by Joe Paul and seconded by James Sheehan to accept the minutes from October 7, 2019, as amended. All were in favor.
3. **Public Participation** – No public participation
4. **Community Preservation Act (CPA)**
 - a. **Reviewing CPA Applications for Historic Significance**

Ben Murphy stated that there were several applicants for CPA historic preservation funding. The following three applicants are present to ask the Commission to determine that their project property is on the Massachusetts Register of Historic Places or is historically significant to Holyoke.

 - **Wistariahurst Museum, 238 Cabot Street** – Director Kate Preisler stated that she applied for CPA historical preservation funds to update the electrical system in the Music room and the main house. *A motion was made by Frances Welton and seconded by James Sheehan to determine that Wistariahurst Museum is a contributing historic resource listed on the Massachusetts Register of Historic Places. The motion carried.*
 - **Armour Building, 130 Race Street** – Owner Denis Luzuriaga stated that he applied for CPA historical preservation funds to restore the historic Armour building. He will also be restoring the Armour & Company sign on the building. *A motion was made by Frances Welton and seconded by James Sheehan to determine that Armour Building is a historic resource that is significant in the history, archeology, architecture or culture of Holyoke. The motion carried.*
 - **Valley Village Townhouse (One Holyoke)** – One Holyoke was not present at this meeting. *A motion was made by Joe Paul that Valley Village Town Houses are contributing historic resource listed on the Massachusetts Register of Historic Places. The motion carried.*
 - **Fairfield Avenue** – this CPA application was withdrawn.
 - **Armory, 163 Sargeant Street** – Ben Murphy stated that the HRA applied for CPA historical preservation funds for exterior work and restoration if the HRA obtains a developer for the project. *A motion was made by Joe Paul and Seconded by Paola Ferrario that the Holyoke Armory Building is a historic resource that is significant in the history, archeology, architecture or culture of Holyoke. The motion carried.*

b. CPA Grant Letters of Support

Ben Murphy stated that he is looking for Letters of Support for the Armory at 163 Sargeant Street for the CPA historic preservation funds application. *A motion was made by Joe Paul and seconded by James Sheehan to send a letter of support to the CPA for funding to restore the Armory if there is a developer identified. The motion carried.*

Ben Murphy stated that the Holyoke Department of Public works is looking for a Letters of Support to restore the Stained-Glass Windows in City Hall. *A motion was made by Joe Paul and seconded by Paola Ferrario to send a letter of support to the CPA for the restoration to the Stained-Glass Windows in City Hall. The motion carried*

c. Eligibility Determination Policy/ CPA Role & Responsibilities of the HHC / Preservation Restriction Policy

Ben Murphy provided a copy of the eligibility determination policy to the Commission. He stated that Mr. Marrero suggested that language be added to the policy to include Priority Endangered Properties listed in the Holyoke Historic Preservation Plan. The policy would allow staff to provide the determination that a building is on the State Register of Historic Places. The Commissioners felt that they needed more time to overview the eligibility determination policy before its approved. *A motion was made by Frances Welton and seconded by Joe Paul to table discussion and a vote on the documents until the next Historical Commission meeting.*

5. MHC Survey & Planning Grant

a. Main St. Corridor Survey -- Ben Murphy updated the Commissioners regarding the work on the Survey and Planning Grant. Mr. Zachary Violette has completed phase I and is now working on Phase II.

b. 2020 Grant Application -- Ben Murphy stated that the next round of MHC Survey and Planning grant is due Monday. The first step is to submit a letter of intent to the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Mr. Murphy stated that a historc survey had been completed for the Flats and South Holyoke and it recommended that the area be added to the National Register of Historic Places. He added CBDG has funds for National Register nominations so this could be the match for the MHC grant. He also indicated that he is planning on adding the Armory to the National Register.

6. Demolition Delay Ordinance

a. Presentation to Problem Properties Group -- Frances Welton will set up meetings with City department heads regarding the demolition delay ordinance changes that Commissioners would like to see happen. Richard Ahlstrom and Frances Welton will be involved in meeting with the department heads.

7. National Register Nomination Eligibility -- Ben Murphy stated that a request has been made for a letter of support for the nomination of the War Memorial Building to the National Register of Historic Places. *A motion was made by Paola Ferrario and seconded by Joe Paul to provide a letter of support for the National Register Nomination of the War Memorial Building. The motion carried.*

8. Old Business -- There was no old business to come before the Commission.

9. New Business

- **Richardson Train station** -- Richard Ahlstrom stated that he received an email regarding the sale of the Richardson Train Station, which was sold to a developer (David White, 2460 Race Street, Holyoke) for \$10,000. The HHC would like to meet with the developer to work with him regarding possible restoration of the building.
- **Local Historic District Nominations (LHDC)** -- Ben Murphy stated that the HHC can nominate two individuals as commissioners for the LHDC which currently has two vacancies.
- **Victory Theatre (Kathy McKean)** -- Ben Murphy stated that the owners of the Victory Theater plan on applying for a permit to demolish 134 Chestnut Street.
- **Commissioner Resignation-** Mr. Joe Paul stated that he will be resigning from the Historical Commission. The December meeting will be his last meeting as a commissioner.

10. Next Meeting — December 9, 2019

11. Adjourn

At 8:02 p.m., there being no further business to come before the Commission, a motion was made by Frances Welton and seconded by James Sheehan to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

Sincerely,

**Richard Ahlstrom, Chairperson
Holyoke Historical Commission**