

**Holyoke Redevelopment Authority Meeting Minutes - September 3, 2020**  
**Virtual Meeting via Zoom - Meeting ID: 852 6862 5412**

**Members Present:** John Whelihan, Chairperson, Gladys Lebrón-Martinez, Vice Chairperson, Thomas Creed, Treasurer, Patricia Duffy, Asst. Treasurer, Carl Eger, Jr., Member

**Staff Present:** Marcos Marrero, Executive Director, John Dyjach, Asst. Director, Benjamin Murphy, Development Specialist

\*Held concurrent with City Council Development and Government Relations Committee (DGR)

1. **Call to order:** John Whelihan called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and stated that the meeting was being recorded via a zoom video conference call. A roll call followed:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Yes</u>
Carl Eger, Jr.	X
John Whelihan	X
Patricia Duffy	X
Thomas Creed	X
Gladys Lebrón-Martinez	X

2. **Presentation to Development and Government Relations Committee Public Hearing on Proposed Amendment to Urban Renewal Plan:** John Whelihan said this proposal is to amend the plan that was initially approved by the City Council in 2012. He said that three members of the HRA, Carl Eger, Patricia Duffy and Thomas Creed were also on the Board when the plan was originally approved. Mr. Whelihan said that HRA Board Members may have comments but at this time he would like to request that Marcos Marrero start the presentation. Mr. Marrero then provided background on the urban renewal plan, described the proposed amendments, and answered questions of the DGR Committee and City Councilors before comments for the HRA members. Thomas Creed thanked the Council for their consideration and commented that he is especially excited about the work happening and proposed in South Holyoke. He offered to be available to the Council for any follow-up questions. Carl Eger commented that this is the largest plan in the State that has evolved over ten years and is a very transparent process. He noted that at times there are sensitive issues such as land transactions and this process is to bring maximum benefit for the City. Patricia Duffy said that it is important to remember that the HRA is a tool for the entire City and only gets involved when the private market is not working in the City's best interest. She added that the HRA thinks this is a good plan but this input from the Council and the public is a very important part of the process. Gladys Lebrón-Martinez said she has been involved with the HRA whether as a Councilor or a member for about ten years and was glad to see the many projects that have resulted from the HRA plans especially the progress being made in South Holyoke. The DGR committee then proceeded with the remainder of the Public Hearing and continued the hearing to October 5<sup>th</sup>.
3. **Adjournment:** With no other business, a motion was made at 8:20 p.m. by Carl Eger and seconded by Thomas Creed to adjourn the meeting. All members approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
John Whelihan, Chairperson  
Holyoke Redevelopment Authority

Documents presented at meeting: Presentation on proposed URP Plan Amendment

Note: The minutes of the DGR Public Hearing are available through the City Council

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