



City of Holyoke

Teresa M. Shepard

Parks & Recreation Department

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Holyoke City Clerk's
Holyoke, MA

Holyoke Parks & Recreation - Commission Meeting
Thursday, September 30, 2021, at 5:00 pm
City Hall 536 Dwight Street Holyoke – Parks Office
&
Zoom Meeting – Webinar ID 839 0606 8542 Passcode 484030
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chairman Rivera called the meeting to Order at 5:10. Commissioner Helene Busby, Director Teresa Shepard and Michael Falcetti were present.

2. Acceptance of Minutes from the July 8, 2021, was tabled until the next Parks & Recreation Commission meeting.

3. No City Council Orders had been received since the last Commission meeting.

4. Old Business

- Prior to the meeting, the Commissioners had received a proposal for a new playground area at Mayer Field from Andrew Kimball of ME O'Brien & Sons. The Commissioners approved the layout and the play equipment. The Commissioners did request that most of the color scheme be Purple and white/gray.
- Director Shepard reported that Pouliot Pool had a good inaugural summer season. The issue of whether to charge patrons for next year was discussed briefly. Director Shepard recommended that plans be developed for the summer of 2022. Based on the number of users during 2021, her concern was that the drop-in nature of the program might have to change because of the high number of users.

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- **The Master Plan for the redevelopment of Springdale Park has been completed. New playground equipment had been purchased earlier this year, with hopes of having it installed prior to July 2021. Several delays occurred regarding the delivery of product, and as of tonight's meeting, the climber still has not been delivered to the city.**
- **Director Shepard informed the Commissioners that all funded Community Development Projects have been delayed, as the city has yet to receive the funding. The projects impacted by the delay are improvements made to the Ward II/Jim Jackson Handball Court and improvements made to Ingleside Park.**
- **Following a brief discussion, the issue of who would be chosen to represent the Holyoke Parks & Recreation Department as on member of the Community Preservation Committee was tabled.**

4. New Business

- **Mr. Michael Falcetti introduced himself to the Commissioners and asked for their support regarding a Community Preservation request to assist with the restoration of Lady Liberty in Veteran's Park. Mr. Falcetti proceeded to detail the history of the restoration project. A \$25,000 award was granted by the CPA for a restoration study. The report concluded that the total amount required to restore the monument would be \$110K. Senator John Velis successfully secured \$50k for the project from the Commonwealth. The money has already been allocated to the City of Holyoke. The only requirement from the state is that the funds need to be spent prior to the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Falcetti requested that the Holyoke Parks & Recreation Department, and the Soldier's Memorial Commission, team up to co-sponsor a request for \$60K for this round of CPA funding. Commissioner Busby made a Motion to support the cooperative agreement and stressed that the Parks &**

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Recreation Department would primarily lend administrative assistance to the project. Chairman Rivera seconded the Motion, all were in favor.

- Teresa Shepard reminded the Commissioners that the skating path at Community Field did not open last year. She informed the Commissioners that she would get a quote from the American Refrigeration Company to determine the cost of operations for this year and to see if the facility meets all regulation standards.
 - Chairman Rivera requested that a Small Grants application be submitted to the Community Preservation Act Committee to obtain a bronze tablet in honor of Myriam Miranda, for whom the new basketball court is dedicated to.
 - Acting Mayor, Terence Murphy, requested that the Parks & Recreation offer some support/help for an upcoming Food Festival staging request.
 - A discussion took place regarding a request from Mr. Ernie Fitzell for the Commissioners to consider supporting of the possibility of constructing a completely handicap accessible playground at Kennedy Park. The Commissioners voiced complete support of the project.
7. The Commissioners tentatively scheduled a meeting for Thursday, November 18, 2021
 8. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Shepard
Director