

Holyoke Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes 2/24/2022 (Remote via Zoom)

Conservation Commission Members Present: Bernice Bowler (Chairperson), Jeffrey Horan (Vice Chairperson), Michael Dodge, Mary Moriarty, John Perdrizet, Chelsea Gazillo

Conservation Commission Members Absent: Rosemary Arnold

Staff Present: Yoni Glogower (Holyoke Conservation and Sustainability Director)

Members of the Public Present: None

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Bowler called the public meeting to order. She went over the protocols of remote meetings. She stated that there were no members of the public present for the meeting.

2. Item No. 1 - CPA Project Updates

Director Glogower explained that both projects were approved by the CPA at their meeting the previous Wednesday. The projects would be on the agenda at the March 1 City Council Meeting, and Director Glogower would be there to answer questions. Other city projects were also approved: the Wistariahurst painting job and the City Hall stain-glass windows. Director Glogower said he would propose that they send it to the Finance Committee instead of DNGR so it could be reviewed on March 7 and sent back to the Council on March 15. He also reached out to Councilor Vacon to let her know about the project. He expressed plans to reach out to other councilors.

Chairperson Bowler asked Commissioner Moriarty if she had anything to add. Commissioner Moriarty stated that Gloutak was the first project to come up and that everyone gave it perfect scores because it was so well done. She asked if Commissioners should be present at the City Council Meeting or contact Councilors personally. Chairperson Bowler wondered aloud whether any Commissioners have a special rapport with any members of the City Council and incurred about the date of Director Glogower's deadline. Director Glogower stated he would like to speak with Councilor Vacon first and warned about drawing unnecessary attention to project deadlines. He then stated that, if Councilor McGivern is ready to put it on the Finance Committee agenda for March 7, it would only be a delay of two weeks, which would be acceptable. Chairperson Bowler asked if Director Glogower could notify the Commission if that does not work out, and he agreed to do so; this way, they could make phone calls to Councilors before the deadline. Commissioner Moriarty agreed that this sounded like a good idea.

3. Item No. 2 - Roll Call Vote to Approve Minutes from 11/18/2021

Commissioner Moriarty made a motion to accept the minutes from 11/18/2021, and Commissioner Dodge seconded the motion. Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

4. Item No. 3 - InfraWare Updates

Chairperson Bowler asked Director Glogower for an update regarding his discussions with InfraWare regarding the price. Director Glogower explained that it would cost \$125 for each hour of audio time, which Commissioners found reasonable. Chairperson Bowler asked if the Commission should send more audio files in to InfraWare to complete, and Director Glogower stated that Alex believed she could work on some of the minutes as the discussions were less complex. Chairperson Bowler stated that, if need be, Director Glogower could reach back out to InfraWare to complete them.

Commissioner Moriarty asked for clarification on whether there is any sort of rating system in place for longer meetings, as they are more expensive. Chairperson Bowler agreed, and Commissioner Moriarty suggested that the Commission should consider prorating in the future. Director Glogower stated that he would discuss the issue with InfraWare and see if there is any flexibility when it comes to cost. Commissioner Dodge pointed out that there is no requirement to produce formal minutes for every meeting, and that the cost may be offset if they do not request summaries for certain meetings. Commissioners agreed.

Chairperson Bowler asked if everyone had a chance to watch the conflict of interest video, pointing out that the submission deadline may have passed. She asked how many forms had been sent in, and Director Glogower stated that he received forms from Commissioners Dodge, Bowler, and Moriarty. Commissioner Moriarty expressed confusion in how to submit the form, and Commissioner Dodge stated that it is submitted digitally, and a certificate of completion is awarded. Chairperson Bowler stated that Commissioner Moriarty may need to redo the quiz, and Commissioner Moriarty stated that she had already downloaded her completion certificate. Director Glogower asked if she could send it to him, and she agreed. Chairperson Bowler reminded Commissioners Gazillo and Perdrizet to get their forms submitted.

5. Item No. 4 - MAC Annual Conference

Chairperson Bowler reminded the Commission about the upcoming MAC Annual Conference in case they were interested in classes. She suggested that Commissioner Gazillo look into the classes, as they are informative and paid for by the Commission.

6. Upcoming Items

Director Glogower stated there was a new Notice of Intent for repairs at the dam at Whiting Street Reservoir, as well as three Requests for Determination from the city engineer for various public works projects. Commissioner Horan expressed surprise at Holyoke having a city

engineer. Director Glogower stated that the city engineer would be there until his trip to France in June, but it was unknown whether he would continue after that.

Commissioner Moriarty asked whether Director Glogower received any updates about the upcoming project at the former Maplecrest Apartments on Cherry Street. She explained that they went before City Council and talked about expanding, but as the land borders wetlands, they may need to come before the Commission as well. Director Glogower stated that, the next morning, he had a virtual meeting scheduled with them. He then pointed out the DCAMM HCC Project, as he believed that was the project that Commissioner Moriarty referenced. In addition, he explained that there was another battery energy storage system project at Baystate. However, he told them that the deadline would be the date of this meeting, and nothing has been received.

Chairperson Bowler asked if the Commission needed any site visits before the next meeting. Director Glogower said no, unless they wanted to check out some of the RDA sites. He stated that he had already been to all of them. Chairperson Bowler and Director Glogower agreed that they would do a site visit at the NOI property after the initial meeting. They discussed the next meeting date, March 10.

Chairperson Bowler asked if anyone had anything else to add. Commissioner Moriarty said that she thought the Commission would be discussing ADA certification of the parks at this meeting. They previously discussed getting a list of the parks, creating a simplified checklist, and assigning people different parks to evaluate. Director Glogower stated that he had not yet had a chance to put together a list, so he did not have any updates for this meeting.

7. Adjourn

Commissioner Moriarty made a motion to adjourn, and the Commission adjourned the meeting.