

**Holyoke Redevelopment Authority**  
**Meeting Minutes - February 16, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.**  
**Virtual Meeting via Zoom - Meeting ID: Meeting ID: 821 4597 7514**

**Members Present:**

Thomas Creed, Chairperson  
Carl Eger, Vice-Chairperson  
John Whelihan, Treasurer  
Daphne Board, Assistant Treasurer

**Staff Present:**

Aaron Vega, Executive Director  
John Dyjach, Assistant Director  
Marie Brazeau, Head Clerk  
Jennifer Keitt, Development Specialist

**Others Present:** Mayor Joshua Garcia

Attorney Michael Bissonnette, (Law Department), Jorge Colon (nominee to HRA pending approval), Sarah Meier-Zimbler (Holyoke Housing Authority), Janara Healy (Holyoke Housing Authority)

1. **Call to order:** Chairperson Thomas Creed called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. and stated that the meeting is being held virtually per the Governor's March 12, 2020 executive order and being recorded via a zoom video conference. A roll call followed:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Present</u>
Daphne Board	X
Thomas Creed	X
Carl Eger	X
John Whelihan	X

2. **HRA Board Business**

- a. Annual Meeting Minutes of November 17, 2021
- b. Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2021
- c. Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2022

Chairperson Creed called for a motion to approve the three sets of meeting minutes as a package. Carl Eger noted a one-word change on page two of the November 17th minutes. A Motion was then made by Carl Eger and seconded by Daphne Board to approve all three sets of minutes. Without objection the board approved the minutes of November 17, December 15, and January 19 with only one minor edit to the November 17<sup>th</sup> minutes noted by Carl Eger. Chairperson Creed then thanked staff for help with minutes and agendas and requested that if there are any executive session minutes that can be released that they be released soon.

3. **HRA welcome and discussion with Mayor Garcia**

Chairperson Creed thanked Mayor Garcia for attending the meeting and expressed his enthusiasm for the variety of projects being worked on such as the Community Garden, 123 Pine, South Holyoke Homes etc. Mayor Garcia greeted the Board and all those attending the meeting. Mayor Garcia went on to explain his appreciation for the work the Redevelopment Authority does and recognized the importance of the South Holyoke Homes project. Mayor Garcia went on to address his excitement to work with the Board and staff in this capacity and offered his continued support. Aaron Vega thanked Mayor Garcia and introduced new staff members Jennifer Keitt the Development Specialist and Marie Brazeau the Head Clerk.

**c. Community Garden**

Chairperson Creed mentioned that he believes there are no current updates as the agreement has not yet been finalized but that it is in the works. John Dyjach stated that the agreement has been drafted and expects that it will be finalized by March.

**d. 123 Pine Street**

Chairperson Creed asked about the closing date for 123 Pine Street, which John Dyjach responded is scheduled for March 8<sup>th</sup>.

**6. Other Business**

- a. Chairperson Creed noted upcoming expenses due to the Dowd insurance bill, the bulk of which is to cover 216 Appleton Street which is expected to be sold soon.
- b. Chairperson Creed then brought up the Parking Advisory Committee being formed by Mayor Garcia that will include an HRA representative. Daphne Board expressed her interest in this role to which the rest of the Board then expressed their support for Daphne to be the representative in this capacity. Mayor Garcia then explained that he is still working on the logistics of how often and when this group will meet but that he is excited about getting a solid plan to rethink parking in Holyoke.
- c. John Dyjach then mentioned that staff will be reaching out to Board members soon to sign minutes and pending checks.

**7. Adjournment:**

With no further business and no executive meeting a motion was made by Carl Eger and seconded by John Whelihan to adjourn the meeting at 6:23 PM. A roll-call vote followed.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Yes</u>
Daphne Board	X
Thomas Creed	X
Carl Eger	X
John Whelihan	X

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Thomas R. Creed, Chairperson