



City of Holyoke

Parks & Recreation Department
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Holyoke City Clerk's
Holyoke, MA

Holyoke Parks & Recreation - Commission Meeting
Thursday, December 2, 2021, at 5:00 pm
City Hall 536 Dwight Street Holyoke – Parks Office
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chairman Israel Rivera called the meeting to Order at 5:02 pm. Commissioner Helene Busby, Commissioner Jose Bayron, Assistant Director Maureen Tisdell, Chris DeLeon and Mayor Joshua Garcia were present.

2. Acceptance of Minutes from the September 30, 2021 meeting

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

4. Mayor Joshua Garcia introduced himself to the Parks Commission. Mayor Garcia reviewed expectations of Board members. Discussion was held regarding offering training for new board members, being involved in daily operations, budget responsibilities and the possibility of increasing the number of Parks and Recreation Commissioners to five. Also discussed hiring process of new Parks Director.

5. Old Business

- **Mayer Field Renovation Project Status – playground equipment ordered with a spring installation, crosswalks installed**
- **Springdale Park – Currently installing new playground equipment as it arrives. There have been several delays regarding the delivery of equipment. PIP and chips will also be installed in the spring.**

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- **Ward II/Jim Jackson Handball Court Update – Robert Peirent, City Engineer met with Will and Nancy Ortiz. Bob Peirent is working on a design for the handball courts. The Parks Dept. provided materials for Will Ortiz to fix the vandalism at the courts.**
- **Community Preservation Committee – Parks Commission will have to select a new representative for the Committee as Chairman Rivera will be serving as a City Councilor. Commissioners decided to wait until a new Park Commissioner is appointed to determine a new representative. In addition, the Commissioners voted to submit Jones Point as a project eligible for Community Preservation funds. Commissioner Busby made a motion to support the Jones Point project application for CPA funds. Commissioner Bayron seconded the motion, all were in favor.**
- **Roberts Field – Repairs were made to the track**

6. New Business

- **Personnel Updates – Director Teresa Sheppard will be retiring mid-January 2022. Beverly Smith is still out on medical leave.**
- **Tree Lighting and Parade of Lights - will be held on December 4, 2021 in front of City Hall**
- **Community Field/Ice Skating Path – The American Refrigeration Company performed an onsite inspection on the Ice-Skating Path. The Parks and Recreation Department is waiting for the final report as well as finding out the startup and closing costs. We are also waiting to see if the Ice-Skating Path meets all state and federal codes.**
- **Ely Park/Myriam Miranda Court – Parks Department received a quote from Dinn Brothers regarding the bronze tablet. Chairman Rivera will contact the family regarding what they would like to be put on the tablet.**
- **Community Development Block Grant Requests – Discussion was held regarding submitting Donahue School playground as a possible project eligible for Community Development Block Grants.**

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- 7. Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Requests – Mayor Garcia will be contacting Departments to work with them regarding the upcoming budget**

- 8. Recreation Report**
 - Basketball – Our Lady of Guadalupe will be holding a winter basketball season**
 - Suburban Basketball – Holyoke was not able to submit teams this year due to not having access to Holyoke public school gyms. However, Holyoke teams were able to participate in another basketball program, Battle of the Borders**
 - Holyoke Youth Soccer, Football & Field Hockey all had a successful fall season**

- 9. The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Maureen Tisdell
Assistant Director**