**Holyoke Commission on Disabilities -- Meeting Minutes of Thursday, February 23, 2023.**

**Meeting was scheduled to be held in City Council Chambers at City Hall, Holyoke, MA at 6:00pm but this session was held as a fully remote meeting in accordance with current State Regulations during the Coronavirus pandemic.**

Members in virtual attendance were:  Chairperson Liana Pasialis, Vice Chairperson Carolyn “Lyn” Horan, Sarah Wedaman, and City of Holyoke ADA Compliance Officer: Personnel Administrator Kelly Curran.

Absent:   Don Welch, Elizabeth “Betty” Larivee, and Jessica Lebron-Martinez.

NOTE: Al Lehmann is on an extended medical leave of absence.

Host for this virtual meeting was Liana Pasialis.

Liana called the meeting to order at 6:07pm and completed a roll call for attendance.

Minutes from the January 26, 2023, meeting were previously sent to members. They were presented for review and no corrections were noted.  Minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

* A request was e-mailed to Don for previous minutes of these meetings. Secretary Betty completed this request to the individual as well as Sarah.
* Liana reported that she had reached out to get additional information regarding OML quorums for Taskforce versus Sub-Committee sessions. She is still working on clarifying with the Attorney General’s Division of Open Government; she expects to have this information by the next Commission meeting.
* Sarah spoke again of the need to work with the City’s website to post meeting minutes.  She has begun scanning the previous minutes to also be posted to the city website. She has spoken to Jeffrey Anderson-Burgos regarding the posting of minutes to the city website as well as increasing the Commission’s social media presence. She was referred to the Office of the Mayor to get this started and will report back at the next Commission meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:  

* Lyn made a suggestion that interested Commission members about visiting city offices and buildings to assess accessibility for individuals with limited mobility in an effort to identify the needs of disabled individuals in Holyoke. Discussion as to how best to accomplish identifying the needs of disabled individuals in Holyoke was had. Liana suggested one resource of information would be reaching out to Valley Opportunity Council to obtain the results of their most recent Community Needs Assessment as they survey Holyoke residents.
* Lyn described difficulties she had accessing the Holyoke Police Department (HPD) Headquarters recently. There are no automatic doors, and they are heavy making it difficult for many disabled individuals to access the building. She also indicated that there is just one handicapped parking space in front of the building and there is no curb-cut on the opposite side of the cross walk forcing her into the street where the parking lot is. Liana said she would work out how best to approach this issue to ensure full and safe accessibility to HPD Headquarters.

APPLICATIONS FOR HANDICAP PARKING:

* NONE

The next Commission meeting has been scheduled for April 27th, 2023, at 6:00pm.

Virtual Meeting Access link: <https://meet.google.com/thq-aryb-nyu>

Or dial: (US) +1 413-752-7090‬ PIN: 126 351 576‬

This virtual meeting adjourned per roll call approval at 6:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Liana Pasialis

 Liana Pasialis, Chairperson

 Holyoke Commission on Disabilities

NOTE: Meetings for the 2023 year are scheduled as follows:   January 26th    February 23rd    April 27th    June 22nd    September 28th    December 7th