Holyoke Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2017

Attendance: Richard Ahlstrom (Chairperson), Paola Ferrario, Olivia Mausel, Ali Puffer (6:33pm), Frances Welson, Dan Fitzgerald, James Sheehan, Chris Gauthier, Joe Paul
Absent: Jean Jonker, Price Armstrong, Nancy Howard
Municipal Staff: Debbie Oppermann (OPED), Barbara Bou (OPED)
Other Present: Stephen Huntley (VOC), Jeff Morga, Brian Leve

1. Call to Order- Richard Ahlstrom called the meeting to order at 6:30pm and stated that this meeting is being recorded.

2. Review of November 11, 2017 Minutes- A motion was made by Paola Ferrario and seconded by Alexandra Puffer to approve the minutes for November 11, 2017, as amended. The decision was unanimous.

3. Church Tours Final Report-Bob Comeau- Mr. Comeau updated the board on the four Church tours that occurred this past fall and winter 2017. He is hoping to do similar tours early next year.

4. 348 Chestnut/ 48-52 Franklin Street- Letter of Support NR Listing/Tax Credits
Mr. Stephen Huntley who is representing Valley Opportunity Council asked the board for a letter of support and a Certified Local Government Opinion so that they may apply for Historic Tax Credits. A motion was made by Olivia Mausel and seconded by Paola Ferrario to write a letter of support and an Eligibility Opinion letter for VOC.

5. Old Business
a. Community Preservation Committee Update- Marco Crescentini sent a letter to the commissioners to update them on the Community Preservation Committee meetings.

b. 71 Maple –MHC Survey & Planning Grant- Debbie Opperman stated that Marcos Marrero asked Debbie to apply for a Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey and Planning grant for a Redevelopment plan to reactivate Mater Dolorosa. The grant is use specific and if not used for Mater Dolorosa than the money needs to be returned. The request if for $15,000 and will be matched with $15,000 from the City of Holyoke, for a total of $30,000 to revitalize Mater Dolorosa.

c. Follow up 207 Elm Street - Richard Ahlstrom spoke regarding the public hearing for the Demolition Delay for 207 Elm Street. The commission is looking to update the Demo delay application process. One question that arose from the commissioners was how we insure that applicants are working with us in regards to a demo delay. Joe Paul stated that we need a stronger ordinance and a longer delay. Richard Ahlstrom will create a subcommittee to work on the ordinance delay. The members for the subcommittee will be Richard Ahlstrom, Frances Welson and James Sheehan and will meet once a month for one hour. The subcommittee will update the commissioners on the results of their meetings.
d. 1864-66, 1850 Northampton St. - set hearing date- These properties are part of the Yankee Pedlar Properties. The Public hearings are for the determination of a demolition delay and are proposed for January 16, 2018 and January 24, 2018. Mrs. Opperman will confirm the scheduling of these hearings.

e. Follow-up on Archeological Accountability Policy - Olivia Mausel updated the board on the Archeological Accountability Policy. Debbie Opperman will email the policy to the Commissioners for their review. Mrs. Mausel would like the Historical Commissioners to eventually approve it and bring it in front of the City Council for Final approval. The Commissioners would like to have a conversation with the group that Mrs. Mausel has been working with. Mrs. Mausel will be coordinating an update with someone in Deerfield that has been a part of the Archeological group to speak to the commission.

f. Follow-up on Letter to Nueva Esperanza - Debbie Opperman stated that the letter to Nueva Esperanza has been mailed. The letter was sent to praise them for making their buildings at 401 and 413 Main Street representative of the heart of South Holyoke and for all of their efforts to offer space to the community for meetings and programming for children.

g. Historic Preservation Plan Update - Debbie Opperman stated that the Historical Preservation Plan has to be mailed to the Massachusetts Historical Commission by this Friday, December 15, 2017.

h. RFQ-City Hall Restoration Project - Debbie Opperman stated that in the next week and a half we will have a Request for Quotes for the City Hall Restoration Project. Michael McManus, Director of Public Works, has been asked to develop a request for qualifications for the City Hall Restoration project. This work will be paid for with a Cynthia Woods Mitchell Grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

6. New Business
a. Update on 120 Walnut Street - Debbie provided an update on 120 Walnut Street saying that the Planning Board has contacted the developer to clarify his intent in terms of how the property will be used as it relates to the Court House Project. The Office of Planning & Economic Development (OPED) maintains that the 120 Walnut property should have been included in the initial site plan where it would have been reviewed as part of a larger project. Additionally, given that the Historical Commission exercised its power under the law to identify the property as historically significant, OPED, in the best interest of the City has called for the property to be considered for receivership and redeveloped for residential use. Debbie will provide another update after the City Solicitor’s office and the property owner have met.

7. Next Meeting- January 8, 2017
8. **Adjourn**- With no other business in Regular Session, a motion was made to adjourn at 8:12 p.m. The decision was unanimous.

Submitted by,

Barbara Bou