Holyoke Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 26, 2017

Attendance:
**Historical Commission**- Richard Ahlstrom (Chairperson), Paola Ferrario, Olivia Mausel, Joe Paul, Frances Welson, Jean Jonker (Associate)
Absent: Christopher Gauthier, Dan Fitzgerald, Alexandra Puffer, James Sheehan

**Historic District Commission** – Marco Crescentini (Chairperson), Olivia Mausel, Peter Papineau, Sandy Parent, Beth Strycharz, Wendy Weiss

**Municipal Staff**: Debbie Oppermann (OPED)

1) **Call to order**: Richard Ahlstrom called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

2) **Review of 7-10-17 minutes**: Joe Paul made a motion to approve the July 10th meeting minutes, Olivia Mausel seconded the motion – motion passed unanimously.

3) **Single building historic district discussion**: Mr. Crescentini stated that he and members of the Historic District Commission supported efforts to establish a single building historic district for the former Mater Dolorosa Church. The Historic District Commission is also the Local Historic District Study Committee. The Study Committee is required under MGL Chapter 40C to conduct an investigation of the desirability of establishing a local historic district. Both Commissions reviewed the process that Historic District Commission would be required to undertake, including mailing a survey to all abutters, holding a public hearing for abutters to learn about the MD District and ultimately a City Council vote required to pass the Study Committee’s recommendation to establish the district. There was a sense of urgency about the matter given that the demolition delay imposed on the former Mater Dolorosa Church expires at the end of September and it is unlikely that a historic district can be established in the remaining time. All agreed that it was important to generate as much support as possible for the project.

Some questions that arose for staff: 1) Can the Historical Commission help the Local Historic District Commission with this work?, 2) Is there any way to forego the sixty day waiting period from the time the report is submitted to MHC and accepted as complete and the day the Commission can hold a public hearing prior to the City Council vote? and 3) Does the Building Commissioner have any discretion as to when he can issue the permit for demolition?

4) *(added to agenda) Community Preservation Committee appointment*: This item was added to the agenda because Marco Crescentini, who had earlier submitted a letter of interest in serving on the CPC, was present and able to provide an overview of his background and interest in being appointed to the committee. Mr. Crescentini is a registered architect, lives on Fairfield Avenue, and is the Chairperson of the Historic District Commission. Motion to appoint Mr. Crescentini made by Paola Ferrerio, seconded by Joe Paul, was no discussion -unanimous vote to appoint.

5) **Next Meeting- Aug. 14, 2017**

6) **Adjourn**: a motion was made by Frances Wilson to adjourn the meeting at 7:40, seconded by Joe Paul – passed unanimously.