



MINUTES OF THE DOWNTOWN MEMPHIS COMMISSION

Thursday, January 26, 2024, 9 AM
114 North Main Street

Board Members Present: Benjamin Orgel (Chair), Williams Brack (Treasurer), Senator Raumesh Akbari, Ray Brown, John Zeanah (for Mayor Harris), Elizabeth Low (Secretary), Demar Roberts (Vice Chair), Victoria Young, Janice Banks, Ashley Cash (for Mayor Strickland), Ed Stephans III, and Lauren Stimac

Board Members Not Present: Surayyah Hasan, Commissioner Mickell Lowery, and Councilwoman Cheyenne Johnson

Staff Present: Chandell Ryan, Christine Taylor, Brett Roler, Penelope Springer, Tori Haliburton, Lauren Bermudez, Sara Barrera, Brian Mykulyn, Eleslie Walker, Lawrence Green, Sam Caldwell, and Halle Novarese.

Guests: Stephanie Wade, Christopher Hearn, Ken Welch, and Stephen MacLeod

Chairman Benjamin Orgel called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. Christine Taylor called roll for board members present to confirm quorum. After quorum was confirmed, Chairman Orgel called for approval of the December 21st & 27th 2023 minutes. Janice Banks motioned to approve the December 21st minutes as presented, Ray Brown seconded the motion, after roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously. John Zeanah motioned to approve the December 27th minutes as presented, Janice Banks seconded the motion, after roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Benjamin Orgel called for agenda item III: Chair's Report

Chairman Orgel welcomed new DMC President Chandell Ryan. She stated that she is looking forward to working together and thanked the staff for their welcome and support.

Chairman Benjamin Orgel called for agenda item IV: Financial Update

Penelope Springer presented the financial update and highlights. Board member Janice Banks asked about the types of DEI programs offered by DMC. Brett Roler and Tori Haliburton answered and will be happy to provide more information later.

Chairman Benjamin Orgel called for agenda item V: FY23 Audit Update

Penelope Springer introduced Christopher Hearn to present the FY23 Audit Report. He reported that the DMC has a clean unmodified Audit. He thanked the finance department for their assistance, and thanked Penelope and Sam for gathering all necessary documents in a timely manner. Board member Demar Roberts commented that it is great to see DMC's financial strength. Williams Brack motioned to accept the Audit report as presented, Demar Roberts seconded the motion, after roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Benjamin Orgel called for agenda item VI: President's Report

Chandell Ryan thanked staff for the warm welcome. Also, thanks to Marius Scott & Eleslie Walker for helping navigate the walk from the garage on her first day. Shout out to Sara Barera for being nominated to 20 under 30.

Chairman Benjamin Orgel called for agenda item VII: New Business/ Adjournment

Before closing, Ray Brown acknowledged the passing of Tony Bologna. He was instrumental in many Downtown projects, including this building, 114 North Main. Seeing no other business, the meeting was adjourned.