



## MINUTES OF THE DOWNTOWN MEMPHIS COMMISSION

Friday, January 28, 2022, 9 AM  
114 North Main Street

**Board Members Present:** Benjamin Orgel (Chair), Demar Roberts (Vice Chair), Ashley Cash (for Mayor Strickland) Victoria Young, Julie Ellis, Representative Barbara Cooper, Senator Raumesh Akbari, and Cheryl Pesce

**Board Members Not Present:** Williams Brack (Treasurer), Elizabeth Low (Secretary), Deni Reilly, Ed Stephens, Councilwoman Cheyenne Johnson, Commissioner Mickell Lowery, John Pontius, and John Zeanah (for Mayor Harris)

**Staff Present:** Paul Young, Christine Taylor, Brett Roler, Penelope Springer, Penelope Huston, Reginald Scott, Abram Lueders, and Katie Koleini

**Guests:** Joann Massey, Janice Banks, and Member of Public

Benjamin Orgel called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM. Christine Taylor called roll for board members and confirmed that we did not have quorum. After reviewing meeting protocols, Chairman Orgel will move the December 16, 2021, meeting minutes to the next scheduled DMC meeting for approval because quorum has not been confirmed.

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

Chairman Orgel gave brief Chairs report, updating board on other DMC board activities. Chairman Orgel thanked the DMC CFO, Penelope Springer for all of her hard work and her success with the DMC Audit report for all 5 DMC boards. The DMC has generated \$300,000 over the original budget projection and President Young has asked staff to present a budget amendment to outline the plans to use the funds at the next DMC meeting. Next Wednesday the staff will be presenting an Annual Report of activities to the County Commission, so if you are available, please tune in. Thanks to Penelope Huston and other staff for prepping the report.

### **Chairman Orgel called for agenda item IV: Financial Update**

Penelope Springer presented the financial report and highlights for FY22 for each board. Penelope Springer announced that she has hired a new staff accountant in the Finance department. Sam Caldwell will start February 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **Chairman Orgel called for agenda item VII: President's Report**

Paul Young gave a few brief board updates. The scheduled Downtown Board tour will be rescheduled in the next couple of months. A development team led by Kevin Woods and Billy Orgel has been selected for the 100 North Main project and approved at the DMA meeting. Paul Young thank Brett Roler for all his hard work on the 100 North Main project. We are all excited to see the block become activated. Construction on the Mobility Center is expected to begin February 21<sup>st</sup> and expected to be complete by June of 2023. As

mentioned by board Chair, we will come before the board next month with a budget amendment, we will provide recommended uses and our priorities will be around Smart Cities, Clean and Green, Public safety, and maintenance. Next month the President of LeMoyne-Owen College will join us. LeMoyne-Owen would like to have a presence Downtown. Before closing he answered a few questions from board members. Board member Demar Roberts thanked Paul Young, Brett Roler and team for the process that was in place regarding 100 North Main.

**Chairman Orgel called for agenda item VI: New Business/ Adjournment**

Chairman Orgel made brief closing remarks, thanked Paul Young and staff for keeping the momentum of Downtown, seeing no other business, the meeting was adjourned.