



**MINUTES OF THE DOWNTOWN MEMPHIS COMMISSION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Friday, March 23, 2018

9:00 A.M.

114 North Main Street

Board Members Present: Chairman Carl Person, Mr. John Pontius, Ms. Julie Ellis, Commissioner Van Turner, Mr. John Zeanah, Representative Barbara Cooper, Mr. Michael Whaley, Mr. Demar Roberts, Ms. Deni Reilly, Ms. Terry Woodard, Ms. Joann Massey (for Mayor Strickland), Mr. Benjamin Orgel, and Ms. Cheryl Pesce

Board Members Not Present: Councilman Edmund Ford, Senator Lee Harris and Mr. Mauricio Calvo

Staff Present: Ms. Jennifer Oswald, Mr. Clint Burke, Ms. Christine Taylor, Mr. Chris Porter, Mr. Jaske Goff, Mr. Abram Lueders, Ms. Ellery Ammons, Ms. Penelope Huston, Ms. Debra Streeter, Ms. Penelope Springer, Mr. Eleslie Walker and Mr. Brett Roler

Guests: Mr. Ray Brown and Mr. Chris Jones

Call to Order

Chairman Person called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.

Chairman Person called for agenda item II: Approval of December 14, 2017 Minutes

Ms. Julie Ellis made a motion to approve the minutes and Representative Barbara Cooper seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chairman Person called for agenda item III: Chair's Report

Chairman Person reviewed the activity of the affiliated boards, events receiving event grants and other recent DMC highlights. He also thanked the DMC Staff for a successful Annual Meeting at ServiceMaster and referenced upcoming meetings for the Diversity Committee, Lighting Committee and the ongoing meetings with downtown stakeholders.

Chairman Person called for agenda item IV: Request for Approval of Parking Study

Ms. Jennifer Oswald presented the DMC's approach for the upcoming Parking Study and asked the board for their approval. Ms. Joann Massey made a motion to approve the study and Ms. Cheryl Pesce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chairman Person called for agenda item V: Financial Report

Ms. Jennifer Oswalt presented the financial report for the DMC and introduced Ms. Penelope Springer, the new CFO, who will be making the reports in the future. Ms. Terry Woodard made a motion to approve the financial report and Mr. Demar Roberts seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chairman Person called for agenda item VI: Request for Financial Year 2019 Budget Approval

Ms. Jennifer Oswalt presented the FY 2019 Budget and discussed how the DMC was structured financially, reminding board members that as a non-profit, all of the money coming into the DMC goes back into Downtown. The board discussed how they were willing to help with the DMC's presentation to City Council. Ms. Terry Woodard made a motion to approve the budget with the condition that a committee review the presentation internally before City Council, meeting with specific council members prior to the City Council Meeting, and Mr. Demar Roberts seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chairman Person called for agenda item VII: Speaker from ioby

Mr. Chris Jones spoke about ioby, what the organization's role and history was in Memphis, and also some specific projects and how their process worked. The board asked questions about potential collaborations between ioby and other local organizations, and Mr. Jones elaborated on ioby's partnerships throughout the city.

Chairman Person called for agenda item VIII: President's Report

President Oswalt discussed the upcoming move for ServiceMaster in addition to their day of service at the end of March. She also updated the board on the progress of the Stakeholder Roundtable Meetings, reviewing meetings with museums and downtown's largest employers, and mentioning the next one with restaurants and retail stakeholders. In other news, Ms. Oswalt showed the board the DMC's new construction banners, introduced the new year of Open on Main (the DMC's pop-up retail program on Main St.), and mentioned the return of the MATA trolleys in April and busking in May.

Chairman Person called for agenda item IX: New Business/ Adjournment

With no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.