



MINUTES OF THE DOWNTOWN MEMPHIS COMMISSION

Friday, May 21, 2021, 9:00 A.M.
114 North Main Street

Board Members Present:

In-Person: John Zeanah (for Mayor Harris), Deni Reilly, Demar Roberts (Vice Chair), and Williams Brack (Treasurer) **Virtual (ZOOM):** Benjamin Orgel (Chairman), Joann Massey (for Mayor Strickland), Victoria Young, Julie Ellis, Cheryl Pesce, Elizabeth Low (Secretary), Commissioner Mickell Lowery, Councilwoman Cheyenne Johnson, Senator Raumesh Akbari, and Representative Barbara Cooper

Board Members Not Present: John Pontius

Staff Present: Paul Young, Christine Taylor, Penelope Springer, Penelope Huston, Abram Lueders, Katie Flynn, Lauren Bermudez, and Debra Streeter

Guests: (Virtual) Cheryl Hearn, Mike Humes and 2 unidentified guest.

Benjamin Orgel determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Christine Taylor called roll for board members to confirm quorum. After reviewing meeting protocols, Chairman Orgel called for approval of the minutes from April 23, 2021 meeting. Williams Brack motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Demar Roberts seconded the motion, after roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

Chairman Orgel reviewed a few highlights from the monthly board updates and expressed the excitement of seeing people return to Downtown. Cheryl Pesce mentioned that she is not receiving meeting notices for sister boards and would like to be added to the email list. Before proceeding to the next agenda item, Chairman Orgel thanked Penelope Springer for all her hard work on the DMC budget.

Chairman Orgel called for agenda item IV: Financial Update

Penelope Springer presented monthly financial report, reviewed FY 21 financial highlights and also FY22 Budget. The FY22 budget has been presented and accepted by all DMC affiliated boards. Penelope Springer answered board members questions. Julie Ellis requested that the DMC board members are updated on the activity of the 100 North Main project.

Chairman Orgel called for agenda item V: President's Report

Paul Young presented several updates, including 100 North Main building, DMA Electric Vehicle strategy, Retail RX (a new incentive program), Diversity Inclusion and Downtown events. We are excited to see Downtown vibrancy picking up and small businesses are opening for business. The RFP for 100 North Main will be released on June 1st and we are hopefully that we will receive a few proposals to save the building.

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

Chairman Orgel made brief closing remarks, seeing no other business, the meeting was adjourned.