



MINUTES OF THE DOWNTOWN MEMPHIS COMMISSION

**Thursday, May 24, 2024, 9 AM
114 North Main Street**

Board Members Present: Benjamin Orgel (Chair), Williams Brack (Treasurer), Ray Brown, Janice Banks, Elizabeth Low (Secretary), Lauren Stimac, Surayyah Hasan, Victoria Young, Commissioner Mickell Lowery, and Councilman JB Smiley

Board Members Not Present: John Zeanah (for Mayor Harris), Senator Raumesh Akbari, Ashley Cash (for Mayor Strickland), and Ed Stephans III

Staff Present: Chandell Ryan, Christine Taylor, Penelope Springer, Milton Howery, Tori Haliburton, Lawrence Green, Sam Caldwell, and Brian Mykulyn.

Guests: Neil Strebog, Stephanie Wade, and Member of Public

Chairman Benjamin Orgel called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. Christine Taylor called roll to confirm quorum. Due to an unconfirmed quorum the minutes will be moved to the end of the meeting.

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

Chairman Orgel noted that Brett Roler was out of the office today because he is attending CPTED training. Chandell Ryan explained that CPTED is Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design. It is a strategy that brings together community members to examine how an area's physical design can influence human behavior, reduce crime, fear of crime, and improve quality of life.

Chairman Benjamin Orgel called for agenda item IV: FY 25 Budget Operating Budget

Chandell Ryan kicked off the budget overview presentation. Penelope Springer presented the FY25 operating budget line by line, including actuals and variances. Slides included Budget by focus areas for FY25, 46% Safety & Hospitality, 21% Beautification & Clean, Green, 17% Community Building, Development & Diversity. And 16% Marketing, Events & Activation.

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

Chandell Ryan updated the board on upcoming Downtown events. Next week will be busy starting on Thursday with Hot Rods on Beale, Lionel Richie concert, Megan Thee Stallion concert, Comedy show, and Pride Parade.

Before preceding to the next item, Chairman Orgel welcomed new board member, City Council representative JB Smiley.

Chairman Orgel called for approval of the April 26, 2024, meeting minutes. Lauren Stimac and Elizabeth Low noted a correction in attendance of minutes. Lauren was present at April's meeting and Elizabeth was

not. After noted corrections, Williams Brack motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Ray Brown seconded the motion, after roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

Seeing no other business, the meeting was adjourned.