



MINUTES OF THE DOWNTOWN MEMPHIS COMMISSION

Friday, May 27, 2022, 9 AM
114 North Main Street

Board Members Present: Benjamin Orgel (Chair), Demar Roberts (Vice Chair), Ashley Cash (for Mayor Strickland), John Zeanah (for Mayor Harris), Victoria Young, Julie Ellis, Senator Raumesh Akbari, Elizabeth Low (Secretary), Ed Stephans III, Cheryl Pesce, and Councilwoman Cheyenne Johnson

Board Members Not Present: Deni Reilly, John Pontius, Williams Brack (Treasurer), Commissioner Mickell Lowery, and Representative Barbara Cooper,

Staff Present: Paul Young, Brett Roler, Christine Taylor, Penelope Springer, Penelope Huston, Abram Lueders, Debra Streeter, Lawrence Green, Reginald Scott, Sara Barrera and Sam Caldwell

Guests: Cheryl Hearn, James Stokes, Jayme Stokes, Neil Strebig (Daily Memphian), Stephanie Wade, and Member of the Public

Benjamin Orgel called the meeting to order at 9:08 AM. Apologized for the delayed start and announced that per bylaws that the Nominating Committee should meet to select individual nominees to serve as Board Officers for the next year. Chairman Orgel nominated the following to serve as Nominating Committee members; Ed Stephans, Elizabeth Low and Demar Roberts. The Committee meeting will be held before the next DMC meeting. While waiting to confirm quorum we moved to next agenda item – Chairs Report.

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

Chairman Orgel gave shoutouts to Penelope Huston and staff for coordinating an amazing board tour. He heard nothing but great things about the tour. He also thanked Brett Roler and his team for all they do for Downtown Memphis. He gave a shoutout to Penelope Springer and Sam Caldwell for all their work on the DMC budget. Last shoutout to Debra Streeter, this will be her last DMC meeting. We thank her for all her work with the BSB and wish her the best of luck. We are looking forward to working with Lawrence Green, who will be taking over for Debra Streeter as the new Director of Safety & Hospitality

Christine Taylor called roll for board members and confirmed that we have quorum. Chairman Orgel called for approval of the minutes from February 25, 2022, meeting. Julie Ellis 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 IV: Financial Update / FY23 Budget

Penelope Springer presented the financial report, monthly highlights, and answered board questions.

Paul Young gave brief overview on the FY23 Budget. Penelope Springer presented the FY23 Budget. After presentation, Julie Ellis motioned to approve the FY23 Budget as presented, Ashley Cash seconded the motion, after roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

Paul Young recognized Penelope Huston, for being recognized as a Memphis Business Journal Superwoman in Business. Also recognized Jon Shivers (Beale Street Manager). He recognized Debra Streeter for all the work she has done for Downtown, her work helping others will continue in San Francisco with the VA, helping female Vets. She's been working closely with Lawrence Green for his transition into the role.

Highlighted all the vibrancy and excitement in Downtown and gave brief updates. He also acknowledged our board chair Benjamin Orgel for also being one of the top 40 under 40.

Julie Ellis gave a shoutout to board counsel James McLaren. James McLaren has worked on many Downtown projects and we appreciate all of his hard work.

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

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