



MINUTES OF THE DOWNTOWN MEMPHIS COMMISSION

**Thursday, July 27, 2023, 9 AM
114 North Main Street**

Board Members Present: Benjamin Orgel (Chair), Elizabeth Low (Secretary), Williams Brack (Treasurer), John Zeanah (for Mayor Harris), Julie Ellis, Ed Stephans III, Deni Reilly, Commissioner Mickell Lowery, Ray Brown, Janice Banks, Councilwoman Cheyenne Johnson, and Lauren Stimac

Board Members Not Present: Demar Roberts (Vice Chair), Cheryl Pesce, Victoria Young, Ashley Cash (for Mayor Strickland), and Senator Raumesh Akbari

Staff Present: Paul Young, Christine Taylor, Penelope Springer, Penelope Huston, Sara Barrera, Lawrence Green, Lauren Bermudez, Halle Novarese, and Nesha Cotton

Guests: Constance Brown, Stephen MacLeod (MBJ), and a Member of the Public

Chairman Benjamin Orgel called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. Christine Taylor called roll for board members present to confirm quorum. Chairman Orgel called for approval of the June 29, 2023, minutes. Julie Ellis motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Williams Brack seconded the motion, after roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

Chairman Orgel welcomes new board members, Ray Brown and Janice Banks and asked them to introduce themselves. Christine will reach out to schedule a board orientation. Chairman Orgel gave a shoutout to Penelope Huston for her work with another successful Architecture Hip Hop Camp, Pual Young will give more details on the President's Report. Before moving to the next agenda item, he thanked Abe Lueders for his 7 years at DMC and wished him well on his new position in Omaha.

Chairman Benjamin Orgel called for agenda item IV: Financial Update

Penelope Springer presented the financial update and monthly highlights. Sam Caldwell presented the DMA financials and reviewed the 12-month garage performance.

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

Paul Young welcomed the new board members before giving a brief update on Downtown events and activities. After a business forum that was held the DMC is more focused on safety and cleanliness of Downtown. A lot of time and effort has been placed on scaling up on the cleanliness of Downtown. The upcoming Grand Opening of the Mobility Center will be held on August 3rd. The Planning & Development department's Urban Planner, Abe Lueders' last day was yesterday, he is taking a great position back home in Omaha. Brett Roler is in the process of filling the vacant position.

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

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