



## MINUTES OF THE DOWNTOWN MEMPHIS COMMISSION

Friday, August 25, 2022, 9 AM  
114 North Main Street

**Board Members Present:** Benjamin Orgel (Chair), Demar Roberts (Vice Chair), Julie Ellis, Elizabeth Low (Secretary), Williams Brack (Treasurer), Ed Stephans III, Cheryl Pesce, and Senator Raumesh Akbari

**Board Members Not Present:** Ashley Cash (for Mayor Strickland), Deni Reilly, John Zeanah (for Mayor Harris), John Pontius, Commissioner Mickell Lowery, Victoria Young, Representative Barbara Cooper, and Councilwoman Cheyenne Johnson

**Staff Present:** Paul Young, Brett Roler, Christine Taylor, Penelope Springer, Penelope Huston, Halle Novarese, Abram Lueders, Lauren Bermudez, Lawrence Green, Sara Barrera and Sam Caldwell

**Guests:** Cheryl Hearn, and Member of the Public

Benjamin Orgel called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM. Christine Taylor called roll for board members present. Because quorum is not confirmed, approval of minutes will be moved to the end on the agenda.

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

Chairman Orgel gave a shoutout to staff members Brett Roler, Christine Taylor, and Penelope Huston and their teams on the work with the HipHop Architecture Camp in July. DMC collaborated with Material Bank to bring the HipHop Architecture Camp to Memphis. 32 students attended to learn about HipHop, Architecture, and Downtown Memphis. Paul Young will update the board on the CCRFC Policy Review later in the President's report.

### **Chairman Benjamin Orgel called for agenda item IV: Financial Update**

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

### **Chairman Benjamin Orgel called for agenda item V: Communications Update**

Penelope Huston and Halle Novarese presented the DMC Communications update. The board was updated on key data points, trends, key messages, and message strategy. Also presented social media highlights.

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

Paul Young gave brief updates on Downtown Projects, we now have a lot of construction Downtown. Ongoing Mobility Center, demolition of the fire station is in process making way for the Brooks Museum, the new DEI position has been filled by Tori Haliburton, and she will start next month. The PILOT Policy is being held by the CCRFC board to review PILOT. Shoutout to Abe Lueders, who is leading the effort on behalf of the DMC staff with the Policy Review Committee.

### **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.