



MINUTES OF THE DOWNTOWN MEMPHIS COMMISSION

Thursday, September 24, 2020

9:00 A.M.

114 North Main Street

Due to the declarations of a State of Emergency by the President of the United States, the Governor of Tennessee, and the Mayor of Memphis relating to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Downtown Memphis Commission (DMC) has determined that it is necessary that the meeting be conducted by electronic or other means of communication in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public, DMC staff, and DMC board members. This meeting of the DMC was held via Zoom virtual meeting. Board members participated by phone with all materials made available to them as well as the public in advance. Procedures were in place to identify all participants on the call including members of the public and allow for questions and public comment.

Board Members Present: Deni Reilly, John Pontius, Benjamin Orgel, Mauricio Calvo, Cheyenne Johnson, Demar Roberts Williams Brack, Commissioner Mickell Lowery, Joann Massey (for Mayor Strickland), Terry Woodard, Julie Ellis, Cheryl Pesce, Elizabeth Low and Representative Barbara Cooper

Board Members Not Present: John Zeanah (for Mayor Harris), and Senator Raumesh Akbari

Staff Present: Jennifer Oswald, Christine Taylor, Brett Roler, Penelope Springer, Penelope Huston, Jaske Goff, Erik Stevenson, Katie Flynn, Abram Lueders, and Debra Streeter

Guests: James McLaren (Counsel), James Stokes, Diven Pernia, Sylvia Crum, Tom Bailey and Member of Public

Deni Reilly determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Christine Taylor called roll for board members, staff and attending guest. After reviewing meeting protocols, Chairman Reilly called for approval of the minutes from July 23, 2020 meeting. Joann Massey motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Demar Roberts seconded the motion, after roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously

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

Chairman Reilly updated board on DMC activities

Chairman Reilly called for agenda item IV: Financial Update

Penelope Springer presented financial report for DMC and all sister boards (CCDC, CCRFC & DMA)

Chairman Reilly called for agenda item V: Conflict of Interest Policy

Jennifer Oswald presented the updated Conflict of Interest Policy. Board Counsel was available to answer questions from board members. Deni Reilly recused herself from the vote. Joann Massey motioned to approve the updated policy, Demar Roberts seconded the motion, after roll call vote, the motion passed.

Chairman Reilly called for agenda item VI: Marketing Grant Update

Penelope Huston presented an update on the Marketing Grant activity and answered questions from board members. Joann Massey commented that the program was innovating and forward thinking, she applauded Jennifer Oswalt and the Marketing team and would like to create a similar program at the City of Memphis.

Chairman Reilly called for agenda item VII: Diversity Report

Penelope Springer presented the quarterly Diversity report, Brief comments were made by Jennifer Oswalt and Jaske Goff. The current policy and procedure for EBO are being reviewed by staff.

Chairman Reilly called for agenda item VIII: President's Report

Jennifer Oswalt updated board on Downtown projects and announced that Planning and Development, Abe Lueders title changed to Urban Planner. Penelope Huston gave an update on upcoming October activities – Dinner and Music series, safe Halloween activities and Downtown Dining week has expanded to a month,.

Chairman Reilly called for agenda item IX: New Business/ Adjournment

After a few board announcements, the meeting was adjourned.