



MINUTES OF THE DOWNTOWN MEMPHIS COMMISSION

**Thursday, August 24, 2023, 9 AM
114 North Main Street**

Board Members Present: Benjamin Orgel (Chair), Demar Roberts (Vice Chair), Elizabeth Low (Secretary), Williams Brack (Treasurer), Ashley Cash (for Mayor Strickland), Ed Stephans III, Commissioner Mickell Lowery, Ray Brown, Janice Banks, and Surayyah Hasan

Board Members Not Present: Deni Reilly, Victoria Young, Cheryl Pesce, John Zeanah (for Mayor Harris), and Senator Raumesh Akbari, Councilwoman Cheyenne Johnson, and Lauren Stimac

Staff Present: Paul Young, Christine Taylor, Penelope Springer, Penelope Huston, Lawrence Green, Tori Haliburton, and Nesha Cotton

Guests: James Stokes, RM, and a Member of the Public

Chairman Benjamin Orgel called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM. Christine Taylor called roll for board members present to confirm quorum. Chairman Orgel called for approval of the July 27, 2023, minutes. Ed Stephans motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Demar Roberts seconded the motion, after roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

Chairman Orgel congratulated the DMC team on the opening of the new Mobility Center. We should all be very proud of all the new addition and all the work that was done. We will soon find out in the next few weeks if Paul is selected to be the next Mayor. If so, we will have 3 months to transition, and he has committed to helping with the transition and a fair process in selected the next President.

Chairman Benjamin Orgel called for agenda item IV: Financial Update

Penelope Springer reported that the July financial will not be presented today, and she is preparing for the upcoming audit, which will start late summer or early fall.

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

Paul Young updated the board on recent Downtown incidents and a new traffic plan put in place by MPD. He has addressed several concerns from business owners about the new traffic plan that has a negative effect on business. We will continue to work with MPD to have a better plan. Kudos to the Marketing & Clean & Green team has a new Neighborhood Pledge that businesses and residents agree to keep their area clean. We have had earlier commitments from several major stakeholders. The Clean & Green team are working hard to address weed abatement. Downtown will have several 901 events over the weekend, including the grand opening of Tom Lee Park.

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.