

MINUTES OF THE DOWNTOWN MEMPHIS COMMISSION

**Friday, October 27, 2022, 9 AM
114 North Main Street**

Board Members Present: Demar Roberts (Vice Chair), Julie Ellis, Elizabeth Low (Secretary), Williams Brack (Treasurer), Ed Stephans III, Deni Reilly, John Pontius, Councilwoman Cheyenne Johnson, Commissioner Mickell Lowery, and Senator Raumesh Akbari

Board Members Not Present: Benjamin Orgel (Chair), Ashley Cash (for Mayor Strickland), John Zeanah (for Mayor Harris), Victoria Young, and Cheryl Pesce

Staff Present: Paul Young, Brett Roler, Christine Taylor, Penelope Springer, Penelope Huston, Abram Lueders, Lawrence Green, Sara Barrera, Tori Haliburton, and Sam Caldwell

Guests: Kate McGuiness, Steve Morgan, John Pankey, Corinne Kennedy, and Member of the Public

Demar Roberts called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM. Christine Taylor called roll for present board members, a quorum was not confirmed and the minutes will be moved to the end of the meeting once quorum is established.

Vice Chairman Demar Roberts called for agenda item III: Chair's Report

Vice Chairman Roberts expressed condolences to Paul Young and family for the loss of his father, Bishop William Young. Also, the board had a moment of silence to acknowledge the loss of board member, State Representative Barbara Cooper.

Vice Chairman Demar Roberts called for agenda item IV: Financial Update

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

Vice Chairman Demar Roberts called for agenda item V: I-55 Interchange Presentation

Paul Young introduced John Pankey (T-DOT) to update the board on the ongoing I-55 Interchange project. John Pankey introduced his team Kate McGuiness and Steve Morgan. The enhancements to the interchange include constructing new through travel lanes so that I-55 traffic will no longer have to use single-lane, low-speed ramps to continue on the interstate. A new multilane roundabout will replace the existing cloverleaf and provide better entry to and from I-55 and existing local roadways. The project will also include repairs to the I-55 river bridge deck. The overall project is estimated to be completed in the first quarter of 2025. After presentation, the team answer board questions concerning sharing information with Downtown employees and residents, upcoming detours and street improvement and repairs.

Vice Chair Roberts called for the approval of the minutes from August 25, 2022, meeting. Julie Ellis motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Williams Brack seconded the motion, after roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chairman Demar Roberts called for agenda item VI: President's Report

Paul Young thanked the T-DOT team for the I-55 update. Noted that we would like to present a formal resolution for Representative Barbara Cooper at the next DMC meeting. Paul Young announced to the board his upcoming campaign to run for Mayor, a letter was sent to board members in August to confirm his commitment to continue his work at DMC. The DMC staff is now temporarily working from the Epicenter while electrical work is completed at DMC office.

Tori Haliburton was introduced to board as the new Manager of DEI and the EBO program will soon transition to using B2G Now for EBO compliance.

Board members are encouraged to participate in the upcoming Dining Week.

Vice Chairman Demar Roberts called for agenda item VII: New Business/ Adjournment

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