



MINUTES OF THE DOWNTOWN MEMPHIS COMMISSION

Thursday, October 28, 2021, 9AM
114 North Main Street

Board Members Present: Benjamin Orgel (Chair), Williams Brack (Treasurer), Ashley Cash (for Mayor Strickland) and John Zeanah (for Mayor Harris), Victoria Young, Julie Ellis, Commissioner Mickell Lowery, Councilwoman Cheyenne Johnson, Ed Stephens, Demar Roberts (Vice Chair), and John Pontius

Board Members Not Present: Senator Raumesh Akbari, Cheryl Pesce, Elizabeth Low (Secretary), and Representative Barbara Cooper

Staff Present: Paul Young, Penelope Springer, Penelope Huston, Brett Roler, Abram Lueders, Katie Flynn, Lauren Bermudez, and Jon Shivers

Guests: (*In-Person*) James Stokes, Irving Sandoval (DMC Intern), Corrine Kennedy, Joe Kent, and Janice Banks

Benjamin Orgel determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM Penelope Huston called roll for board members to confirm quorum. After reviewing meeting protocols, Chairman Orgel called for approval of the minutes from September 23, 2021, meeting. Julie Ellis motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Demar Roberts seconded the motion, after roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

Before a brief overview of DMC board activity, Chairman Orgel gave a shout out to Penelope Huston for her hard work on the upcoming virtual State of Downtown event. Penelope gave a quick update on the upcoming event.

Chairman Orgel called for agenda item IV: Financial Update

Penelope Springer presented monthly financial report and highlights.

Chairman Orgel called for agenda item V: Beale Street Overview

Paul Young gave a brief introduction of Jon Shivers. Jon Shivers gave a presentation of Beale Street and explained the connection of DMC and Beale Street. DMC became the interim manager of Beale Street January 2014. DMC manages the leases on behalf of the City of Memphis. DMC is responsible for the management of the leases, WC Handy Park, building and street maintenance, security, and marketing. He also gave brief highlight on new businesses, Handy Park renovations, and past and upcoming events.

Chairman Orgel called for agenda item VII: President's Report

Paul Young reminded board members of the upcoming Virtual State of Downtown event scheduled for December 3rd and encouraged board members to visit Downtown for the upcoming Downtown Dining Week November 1st – 7th and shared the promotional video.

Chairman Orgel called for agenda item VI: New Business/ Adjournment

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