



## MINUTES OF THE DOWNTOWN MEMPHIS COMMISSION

**Thursday, November 17, 2022, 9 AM  
Epicenter, 150 Peabody Place**

**Board Members Present:** Benjamin Orgel (Chair), Julie Ellis, Elizabeth Low (Secretary), Williams Brack (Treasurer), Ashley Cash (for Mayor Strickland), Deni Reilly, John Zeanah (for Mayor Harris), Victoria Young, Cheryl Pesce, and Senator Raumesh Akbari

**Board Members Not Present:** Demar Roberts (Vice Chair), John Pontius, Commissioner Mickell Lowery, Ed Stephans III, and Councilwoman Cheyenne Johnson

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

**Guests:** Sophorn Olsen, Michelle Ye, Michael Winter, Dacquiri Baptiste, Blair Perry, Angel Price, Joe Kent, and Member of the Public

Benjamin Orgel called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM. Christine Taylor called roll for board members present. and confirmed that we have quorum. Chairman Orgel called for approval of the October 27, 2022, minutes. Elizabeth Low motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Williams Brack seconded the motion, after roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

Chairman Orgel gave a shoutout to staff

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

Penelope Springer presented the financial report, and monthly highlights.

After the financial update, a public comment was heard from joe Kent regarding CBID revenue. Penelope Springer addressed his questions.

### **Chairman Benjamin Orgel called for agenda item V: Board Appointment Recommendations**

Brett Roler presented appointment recommendations for CCDC and DRB. Staff is recommending that the DMC Board select Ms. Angel Price and Ms. Dacquiri Baptiste as the newest members of the CCDC Board. Ms. Price is the Regional Director of Commercial Lending & Vice President at Liberty Bank & Trust Company. She is also a former member of the CCDC. Ms. Baptiste serves as Vice President & COO of the Orpheum Theater Group.

DRB will have five vacant positions, including the current DRB Chair and the DMC Board representative. Staff recommends appointing current DRB member Michelle Ye as the new DRB Chair, appoint Victoria Young as the next DMC Board representative, designate Mario Walker, a current DRB Member serving in the Alternate position, as a regular member of the DRB, appoint Ms. Sophorn Olsen, Mr. Aaron Campbell, and Mr. Michael Winter as new DRB members to replace Ms. Love, Mr. DeBerry, and Mr. McDoniel, also appoint Ms. Blair Perry, owner of Soul

& Spirits Brewery, to fill the Downtown Business Owner position on the DRB. This position is now vacant due to the resignation of Ms. Urevbu. Cheryl Pesce motioned to approve the slate of CCDC appointments as presented, Julie Ellis seconded the motion, after roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously. Deni Reilly motioned to approve the slate of DRB appointments as presented, John Zeanah seconded the motion, after roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

Paul Young gave brief updates on Downtown activity. COGIC convention back Downtown, ribbon cutting for GOGIC property on Vance Avenue. Upcoming events, holiday Tree lighting will be held November 19<sup>th</sup>, Diversity Committee meeting is scheduled for December 15<sup>th</sup>, and The State of Downtown will be held January 12, 2023. Also update the board on Mobility Center, 100 North Main and Mighty Lights. Before closing he answered several board questions regarding COGIC impact, Grand Hyatt, traffic plans and street closures due to Downtown projects.

**Chairman Benjamin Orgel called for agenda item VII: New Business/ Adjournment**

Seeing no other business, the meeting was adjourned.