



MINUTES OF THE DOWNTOWN MEMPHIS COMMISSION

Thursday, December 21, 2023, 9 AM
114 North Main Street

Board Members Present: Benjamin Orgel (Chair), Williams Brack (Treasurer), Senator Raumesh Akbari, Ray Brown, Ashley Cash (for Mayor Strickland), Janice Banks, Surayyah Hasan, Ed Stephans III, and Lauren Stimac

Board Members Not Present: John Zeanah (for Mayor Harris), Elizabeth Low (Secretary), Demar Roberts (Vice Chair), Victoria Young, Commissioner Mickell Lowery, and Councilwoman Cheyenne Johnson

Staff Present: Paul Young, Christine Taylor, Penelope Huston, Penelope Springer, Brian Mykulyn, Sara Barrera, Lauren Bermudez, Nesha Cotton, Halle Novarese, Eleslie Walker, Sam Caldwell, and Tori Haliburton.

Guests: Stephen MacLeod, Neil Strebbig, Mike Humes, Administrator, and Member of Public

Chairman Benjamin Orgel called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM. Christine Taylor called roll for board members present to confirm quorum. After quorum was confirmed, Chairman Orgel called for approval of the October 26, 2023, minutes. Williams Brack motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Ashley Cash 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 Brett Roler on his new position as the new COO of DMC. Chairman Orgel updated the board on the DMC President selection committee. The committee is down to the final 6 candidates and plan to schedule a special called meeting for the final selection. Penelope Huston was given a special thanks for her 7 years at DMC, he also thanked Paul Young for his leadership over the last 2 ½ years as the DMC President.

Chairman Benjamin Orgel called for agenda item IV: Financial Update

Penelope Springer reported that the DMC finance department is finalizing the FY23 Audit report, and the review will be presented at the January board meeting.

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

Paul Young thanked the search committee for their service and that a special called meeting will be scheduled after the holidays. He stated that he has enjoyed working with the DMC staff and that the DMC will always have a friend and ally in the Mayor's office.

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.