



MINUTES OF THE DOWNTOWN MEMPHIS COMMISSION

Friday, April 28, 2023, 9 AM
114 North Main Street

Board Members Present: Demar Roberts (Vice Chair), Commissioner Mickell Lowery, Elizabeth Low (Secretary), Williams Brack (Treasurer), Ashley Cash (for Mayor Strickland), Julie Ellis, Ed Stephans III, Councilwoman Cheyenne Johnson, Deni Reilly, Lauren Stimac, and Victoria Young

Board Members Not Present: Benjamin Orgel (Chair), John Pontius, John Zeanah (for Mayor Harris), and Senator Raumesh Akbari

Staff Present: Paul Young, Christine Taylor, Penelope Springer, Penelope Huston, Sara Barrera, Lawrence Green, Tori Haliburton, Halle Novarese, Lauren Bermudez, Abe Lueders, and Sam Caldwell

Guests: Constance Brown, Bob Phillips, and Administrator

Vice Chairman Demar Roberts called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM. Christine Taylor called roll for board members present to confirm quorum. Vice Chairman Roberts called for approval of the March 24, 2023, minutes. Ed Stephans motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Ashley Cash seconded the motion, after roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

Vice Chair Roberts made a few brief comments on the Grizzlies playoff season.

Vice Chairman Demar Roberts called for agenda item IV: Financial Update/FY24 Budget

Staff Accountant, Sam Caldwell presented FY23 financial highlights. Penelope Springer presented the garage portfolio and answered board members' questions.

After the financial update, Paul Young started the presentation of the FY24 budget. The budget will be presented to the City Council next Tuesday and the County Commission on May 10th. The budget was based on board priorities, funding, and familiarity overview. Penelope Springer presented the FY24 budget overview. Most of the budget will be spent on Safety & Hospitality and Clean & Green. Before presenting, the budget was reviewed by board chair, Benjamin Orgel and board treasurer, Williams Brack. Williams Brack thanked Penelope Springer (CFO) and Sam Caldwell (Staff Accountant) for all their work on the DMC budget. Williams Brack motioned to approve the FY24 Budget as presented, Victoria Young 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 gave a brief update on the Tom Lee Park tour and thanked board members for attending. Also updated the board on the return of the Memphis in May Blues tent back to Handy Park on Beale Street, Mobility Center progress, Memphis Grizzlies watch parties (shout out to Darnesha Cotton for all her hard work), the Sterick Building has new owners, and clarified Downtown Safety news story.

Before adjourning Julie Ellis thanked staff for the Blight Tour and expressed her appreciation for Brett Roler introducing Stuart Harris.

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

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