



**MINUTES OF THE DOWNTOWN MEMPHIS COMMISSION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Thursday, November 16, 2017**

**9:00 A.M.**

**114 North Main Street**

**Board Members Present:** Chairman Carl Person, Mr. Rick Copeland (for Mayor Luttrell), Mr. John Pontius, Ms. Julie Ellis, Ms. Deni Reilly, Ms. Terry Woodard, Mr. Benjamin Orgel, Representative Barbara Cooper, Mr. Mauricio Calvo and Mr. Michael Whaley

**Board Members Not Present:** Commissioner Van Turner, Ms. Joann Massey (for Mayor Strickland), Councilman Edmund Ford, Senator Lee Harris, Mr. Demar Roberts and Ms. Cheryl Pesce

**Staff Present:** Ms. Jennifer Oswald, Ms. Christine Taylor, Mr. Chris Porter, Mr. Jaske Goff, Ms. Ellery Ammons, Ms. Debra Streeter, Ms. Penelope Huston, Mr. Patrick Besseliere and Mr. Eleslie Walker

**Guests:** Mr. Ray Brown, Ms. Ursula Madden, Mr. George Cogswell and Mr. Wayne Risher

**Call to Order**

Chairman Person called the meeting to order at 9:05am.

**Chairman Person called for agenda item II: Approval of October 26, 2017 Minutes**

Ms. Woodard made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Reilly seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**Chairman Person called for agenda item III: Chair's Report**

Chairman Person introduced John Pontius to the DMC Board and made other board member announcements including Cheryl Pesce's Lifestyle store opening at Crosstown, Edmond Ford Jr and Michael Whaley's announcement that they are running for County Commission, and Deni Reilly reopening the Brass Door. He also discussed the committees and reminded everyone to meet with their committees before the annual board retreat. Lastly, he reminded the board of Downtown Dining Week and encouraged them to dine downtown.

**Chairman Person called for agenda item IV: MLK 50 Update**

Ursula Madden, Director of Communication for the City of Memphis, provided an overview of the planned events and initiatives of MLK 50 including the Reverse March and I AM A MAN Plaza.

**Chairman Person called for agenda item V: President Search Firm Report and Recommendation**

Chairman Person reviewed the president search process and timeline and announced that Interim President, Jennifer Oswald, was selected to serve as the DMC President and CEO. Ms. Julie Ellis made a motion to approve the recommendation and Mr. Reilly seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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

President Oswald thanked the board and the staff for their support during her interim presidency and for their confidence in her to serve as president permanently. President Oswald also announced there were three new brigadiers starting that week and that the DMC is always open to referrals. She also announced that holidays lights are up with greater coverage and reminded the board about the Annual Tree Lighting Party on Saturday, November 18.

**Chairman Person called for agenda item VI: New Business/ Adjournment**

With no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:58 am.