



## **DOWNTOWN COMMISSION APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2023**

The Downtown Commission convened in a meeting on Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in hybrid meeting format.

### **Downtown Commissioners in Attendance:**

August Harris, Chair	Joel Sher, Commissioner
Christopher Lehman, Vice Chair	Jen Weaver, Commissioner
David Gomez, Commissioner	
Ben Heimsath, Commissioner	
Ed Ishmael, Commissioner	
Megan Meisenbach, Commissioner	
Amy Wong Mok, Commissioner	
Nelly Paulina Ramirez, Commissioner	

### **City Staff in Attendance:**

Christine Maguire, Economic Development Department  
Mona Sanchez, Economic Development Department

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Approve the minutes of the Downtown Commission January 18, 2023, meeting.  
*During the February meeting the minutes were approved, however a motion nor vote was made per Robert's Rules of order, this was discovered after the meeting. A proper motion and vote will need to occur at the next meeting for approval.*

### **STAFF BRIEFINGS**

2. Staff briefing on the Conceptual Plans for Redevelopment of 1215 Red River Street and 606 & 614 East 12th Street (former HealthSouth property) by Margaret Shaw, Economic Development Department.
  - Margaret Shaw, Economic Development Department & Amanda Swor of The Drenner Group presented to the Commission.
3. Staff briefing on the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH) by Adrienne Stirrup, Austin Public Health.
  - Akeshia Johnson Smothers, Austin Public Health presented to the Commission.

### **DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

4. Discussion and possible action on the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH).
  - a. *Akeshia Johnson Smothers*, Austin Public Health presented to the Commission. No action was taken.
5. Discussion and possible action on the Conceptual Plans for Redevelopment of 1215 Red River Street and 606 & 614 East 12th Street (former HealthSouth property)
  - a. *Margaret Shaw*, Economic Development Department & *Amanda Swor* of The Drenner Group presented to the Commission. A motion to support the project was made by *Commissioner E. Ishmael* and seconded by *Commissioner J. Sher* on a vote of (10-0)
6. Discussion and possible on the Downtown Commission Graffiti Working Group.
  - a. Discussion occurred but No action was taken.
7. Discussion of recent activities and actions taken by the Historic Landmark Commission
  - a. *Commissioner B. Heimsath*, stated that the Historic Landmark Commission did not meet due to the Ice Storm. Discussion occurred, but no action was taken.
8. Discussion of recent activities and actions taken by the Arts Commission
  - a. No action was taken
9. Discussion of recent activities and actions taken by the Public Safety Commission
  - a. *Commissioner N. Paulina Ramirez* stated that the Public Safety Commission did not meet due to the Ice Storm. No action was taken.
10. Discussion of recent activities and actions taken by the Design Commission.
  - a. This item was left off the agenda. A motion to add this as an agenda item was made by *Commissioner E. Ishmael* and seconded by *Commissioner N. Paulina Ramirez* on a vote of (10-0)
  - b. *Commissioner J. Weaver* provided some updates, no action was taken.

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Commissioner appointments and Re-appointments
- Update on the Downtown Austin Plan and the Palm District
- Update on the Safer Sixth Street Initiative at the April meeting
- Briefing from EMS/Fire/Police on how they stage and prepare for large events.
- Update on individuals experiencing homelessness Downtown
- Update from Austin Transportation Department (ATD) & Texas Department of Transportation (TxDot) on the I-35 Expansion & The Cap & Stitch project

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was called adjourned at 7:43 P.M without any objection.