



**DOWNTOWN COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2023**

The Downtown Commission convened in a meeting on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at 301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in hybrid meeting format.

**COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

August Harris, Chair	Sania D. Shifferd
Ed Ishmael Jr., Vice-Chair	Tania Ortega
Liz Coufal	Amy Mok
Jen Weaver	Jennifer Franklin
Kimberly Levinson	Spencer Schumacher
Mike Lavigne	David Holmes

**CITY STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:**

Aaron D. Jenkins, Economic Development Department  
Christine Maguire, Economic Development Department

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Approve the minutes of the Downtown Commission September 20, 2023, Regular meeting.
  - a. A motion to approve the minutes was made by *Vice Chair E. Ishmael Jr.* and seconded by *Commissioner K. Levinson* on a vote of (7-0)

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

2. Approve the Downtown Commission 2024 meeting schedule.
  - a. A motion to approve the 2024 Meeting Schedule was made by *Vice Chair E. Ishmael Jr.* and seconded by *Commissioner M. Lavigne* on a vote of (8-0)
3. Laura Patiño of the City of Austin Management Services Office presented an update for the Downtown Resiliency Plan to the Commission.
  - a. No action was taken.
4. Peter Mullen of Austin Transit Partnership presented updates for Project Connect to the Commission.
  - a. No action was taken.

5. Matthew Schmidt of the City of Austin Economic Development Department presented updates for the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Mexican American Cultural Heritage District to the Commission.
  - a. No action was taken.
6. Yariel Diaz and Mike Staples of Get Cruise updated the Commission on Driverless Vehicles.
  - a. No action was taken.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

7. Discussion of recent activities and actions taken by the Arts Commission.
  - a. *Commissioner A. Mok* updated the commission on discussions and actions by the Arts Commission related to:
    - i. The completion of (2) grants.
    - ii. Discussions about possibly bringing back a Downtown Circulator.
8. Discussion of recent activities and actions taken by the Parks and Recreation Board.
  - a. *Commissioner J. Franklin* updated the Commission on discussions and actions by the Design Commission related to:
    - i. A presentation from staff was given on House Bill 1526, regarding Parkland Dedication, this is expected to be heard at Council soon.
9. Discussion of recent activities and actions taken by the Urban Transportation Commission (UTC)
  - a. Commissioner S. Schumacher updated the commission on discussions and actions by the Urban Transportation Commission related to:
    - i. A recommendation to Council for the removal of parking minimums
    - ii. A recommendation to Council to updating requirements for bicycle parking.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

10. Staff working group on Autonomous Vehicles
11. Republic Square (Plaza) – redevelopment of republic plaza (affordable housing)
12. Heating and Cooling centers
13. Seaholm TIRZ

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm without any objection.

*The minutes were approved at the November 20, 2023 Special Called Meeting on Commissioner K. Levinson motion, Commissioner T. Major Seconded on a 7-0 vote.*