



The Douglas Henry State Museum Commission (DHSMC) Carousel Committee met at 9:15 a.m. on July 8, 2019 in the Tennessee State Museum Conference room with Chair Laura Travis presiding.

#### **Members Present**

Laura Travis, Chair  
Ambassador Victor H. Ashe  
Tina Hodges  
Deanie Parker  
Scott Price  
Thomas S. Smith

#### **Member Absent**

Walter Knestrick

#### ***Ex Officio:***

Ashley Howell, TSM Executive Director

#### **Participating TSM Staff**

Sharon Dennis, DHSMC Liaison

#### **Other DHSMC Member Present**

Robert Buchanan

#### **Call to Order**

Chair Laura Travis called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. and proceeded with roll call. She verified that a quorum was present following roll call and presided over the following business.

#### **Approval of the January 14, 2019 Inaugural Meeting Minutes**

Chair Travis entertained a motion for approval of the January 14, 2019 Carousel Committee meeting minutes. Tina Hodges moved to approve the minutes; Deanie Parker seconded the motion. There being no discussion, the Chair called for a vote and the motion carried unanimously with no abstentions.

#### **Red Grooms Foxtrot Carousel**

Chair Travis began by saying she has visited the Carousel in storage and the artifact is very well preserved, protected and secured; however, the mechanical mechanisms are not in proper order. Offering to have a formidable business plan in hand at the October meeting, the Chair asked members to share with her all informational gathering efforts ranging from carousel restoration companies, vendors, architectural firms, contractors, possible state-wide venue and parks sites and any conversations with venue and parks management. The plan will question the desirability, practicality and achievability. Main points of discussion included:

- The Legislature made a one-time appropriation to the TSM to pay off the Tennessee Fox Trot Carousel Corporation debt.
- TSMF holds in trust for TSM in a restricted account \$265,000 for the Carousel. This is a pass through account from which the TSM may now draw down funds.
- TSM may execute a long-term Outgoing Loan Agreement for use of the Carousel as a static display carousel or a fully operational carousel.
- A fully operational carousel is in itself a business requiring management, staff, maintenance, liability insurance, security and a building.
- Questions regarding the process of accepting large gifts/bequests.

While there was general agreement the TSM does not have the means or the staff to manage and operate the Carousel, the consensus was the artifact is beloved by many and worthy of resurrection from storage.

In response to questions raised; does the Carousel hold any restrictions and if not, may the TSM deaccession the Carousel and sell it, Director Howell explained should the DHSMC propose deaccession, the Carousel would go through the deaccession process as outlined in the Collections Management Policy as would any other artifact.

The classification of operational carousel vs static display carousel makes this collaborative planning process crucial so as to not present unrealistic expectations to the public during the development of the business plan and the subsequent vote of approval from the full DHSMC was voiced as a caution.

#### **Action Item**

Director Howell will provide Chair Travis a list of Tennessee Museums with contact information.

#### **Adjournment**

Chair Travis thanked those present for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

#### **Main Motions Summary**

Moved by Tina Hodges to approve the January 14, 2019 Carousel Committee meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously with no abstentions.

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Laura Travis  
Chair Carousel Committee