

The Douglas Henry State Museum Commission (DHSMC) met at 10:00 a.m. on February 6, 2023, in the Conference Room of the Bill Haslam Center with Chairman Bo Watson presiding.

### **Members Present**

Ambassador Victor Ashe  
Danielle Barnes  
Cathy Cate  
Nancy Baker DeFriece (phone)  
Chairlady Patsy Hazlewood  
Michael Keeney  
The Honorable Steve McDaniel (phone)  
Scott Price  
Phillip Renfro (phone)  
Lottie Ryans  
Laura Travis  
Chairman Bo Watson

### **Ex Officio**

Ashley Howell, TSM Executive Director  
David Fox, Tennessee Historical Society Chair

### **Members Absent**

none

### **Participating Guest in Attendance**

Deputy Attorney General Janet Kleinfelter

### **Participating TSM Staff**

Sabrina Hooper, Deputy Director  
Sharon Dennis, DHSMC Liaison

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Bo Watson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., proceeded with roll call, detected a quorum was present and presided over the following business.

### **Welcome and Introduction**

Chairman Watson welcomed members and guests.

### **Mission Statements**

In an ongoing effort to level set, Chairman Watson began by reading the Mission Statements of the Tennessee State Museum and the Douglas Henry State Museum Commission along with the TSM Vision Statement.

## **Collections Storage Facility and Legislative Plaza Updates**

Chairman Watson recognized Executive Director Ashley Howell to introduce Peter Heimbach, Director of Special Projects for the Tennessee Department of General Services (DGS)/Real Estate Asset Management (STREAM) to discuss the new State Museum storage facility project that is planned to be constructed at the R.S. Gass Complex in East Nashville.

### Collections Storage Facility Timeline

- With design development completed, DGS is awaiting a guaranteed maximum price from the General Contractor which is fully expected to be within budget. Upon receipt, a contract will be fully executed.
- Construction is anticipated to begin in two or three months from this date and last fifteen months.
- DGS is currently working with the museum and the central procurement office to approve and execute an RFP to continue to fund packing and moving the artifacts.

### Legislative Plaza Timeline

- Legislative Plaza is being renovated to house a Capitol Visitor Center and the Military Branch Museum to be run by the State Museum.
- The TSM Military Branch Museum (MBM) will be relocated from the War memorial Building (WMB) to Legislative Plaza.
- The Veteran's groups currently housed in WMB will be housed coincident with the MBM.
- A conference center is planned.
- The entrance through the Capitol Visitor Center will become the primary public entrance to the Capitol and essentially another gallery for TSM to celebrate the Capitol while leading the Capitol tours.
- The deadline for completion is the next inauguration.

## **Approval of Minutes from the October 3, 2022, Quarterly Meeting**

Chairman Watson identified the October 3, 2022, Quarterly meeting minutes emailed in advance of this meeting, also included in the meeting booklets, and entertained a motion to adopt the meeting minutes as written. Ambassador Victor Ashe moved the approval; Chairlady Patsy Hazlewood seconded. Upon calling for further discussion and seeing none, the Chair called for those in favor of adoption of the October 3, 2022, Quarterly meeting minutes as written. The motion carried unanimously with no opposition.

## **Vote Confirmation of Audit Committee (AFC) Selected by Chairman Watson**

Chairman Watson proposed the following AFC members slate for a vote confirmation:

- Laura Travis, Chair
- Ambassador Victor Ashe
- Danielle Barnes
- Chairlady Patsy Hazlewood.

Ambassador Victor Ashe moved the slate of appointments by Chairman Bo Watson to the Audit Committee (AFC); Laura Travis, Chair, Ambassador Victor Ashe, Danielle Barnes, and Chairlady Patsy Hazlewood be adopted; seconded by Commissioner Ryans. Upon calling for further discussion and seeing none, the Chair called for those in favor of adoption of Chairman Watson's proposed Audit Committee (AFC) slate. The motion carried unanimously with no opposition.

## **Announcement of Nominating Committee**

Calling for objection and seeing none, Chairman Watson rolled the announcement of the Nominating Committee slate to the next Quarterly meeting.

## **Announcements**

Upcoming scheduled Quarterly meetings: April 2023 TBD, July 10, 2023, October 9, 2023, January 8, 2024. *The DHSMC meets the second Monday of the first Month of each Quarter.*

In consideration that the regularly scheduled Quarterly meeting on Monday, April 10 falls the day after Easter Sunday, and the proposed TSM Storage Facility groundbreaking is scheduled for Monday, April 24, Chairman Watson entertained a motion to move the upcoming Quarterly Meeting to Monday, April 24. Ambassador Victor Ashe moved to adopt the following scheduled Quarterly Meetings on April 24, 2023, July 10, 2023, October 9, 2023, and January 8, 2023; seconded by Chairlady Patsy Hazlewood. Calling for objection and seeing none, Chairman Watson called for those in favor of adoption of the quarterly meetings on April 24, 2023, July 10, 2023, October 9, 2023, and January 8, 2024. The motion carried unanimously with no opposition.

## **Budget Report**

Chairman Watson recognized Deputy Director Sabrina Hooper.

As of December 31, 2022, the Agency has spent 45% of its total State appropriated dollars which is a 3% increase for the same time-period last year. Nongovernmental Earned Revenue Actual totaled \$16,528.39 from donation boxes and solicitations which is a 1% increase for same time-period last year. Current Services Revenue Actual totaled \$233,054.64 from store sales, event rental, and other small items like imaging which is about a 23% increase for the same time-period last year. Inter-Departmental Revenue Actual totaled \$14,771.80 received from other agencies for TSM staff assistance for MOU procurements and other functions provided to state agencies.

Since the last meeting there have been eleven (11) HR transactions; three (3) positions hired, five (5) resignations and three (3) promotions. Advertising for (3) positions is in process.

In answer to the question, which positions did the five resignations hold, Ms. Hooper responded, the detailed HR information is included in Director Howell's written report.

Seeing no further questions, Chairman Watson noted Ms. Hooper's report.

## **Executive Director's Report**

### **Visitation in Person and Virtual**

From July 1 thru December 31, 2022, TSM welcomed 56,656 visitors, a 7.2% increase over this period last year. For additional comparison to FY 19-20 attendance was 22,055 visitors from July 1 thru December 31, 2020.

### **Onsite Field Trips**

This quarter, TSM served 6,119 students from 92 schools in 27 counties.

Since the beginning of the fiscal year, TSM served in-total 7,460 students from 30 counties which is a 77% increase in the number of students from FY 21-22. Management continues to provide members of the General Assembly updates to services and visitations of schools from members districts.

#### Virtual Field Trips

15 Virtual field trips served 1,048 students in 8 counties which is a decrease from FY 21-22 that speaks to the conversion back to onsite tours.

#### Outreach

Traveling Trunks served 7,516 students with 51 reservations in 31 counties. Year-to-date, TSM delivered 143 trunks for 12,023 students in 39 counties which is an increase of 43% in the number of students served from this time last year.

#### Digital Engagement on the Website

TSM received 162,422 page views this quarter, a 34% increase over this period last year. ARGUS online collections increased this quarter by 483 artifact entries with 4,425 views.

#### Exhibitions

*Painting the Smokies: Art Community and The Making of a National Park* closed January 15, 2023.

*A Better life for Their Children: Julius Rosenwald, Booker T. Washington, and the 4,978 Schools that Changed America* features the work of photographer Andrew Feiler opens February 24, 2023. This tour originated at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta, is currently at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis.

Opening June 2023, *Building a Bright Future: Black Communities and Rosenwald Schools in Tennessee* is a community-led exhibition that concentrates on the history of Rosenwald Schools throughout Tennessee created in partnership with FISK University's Franklin Library, the home of Julius Rosenwald Fund archive.

#### DOHR's Statewide State Employee Compensation Study

- 72% of state employees received increases
- 90% of state museum employees received increases

Management continues to work with DOHR on Salary review and adjustments.

#### Collections Storage Facility Update

Director Howell cited the recent recalibration of the Collection Department was an important step in the strategic planning of conservation, packing and moving the collection to the new storage facility. To date, 32,549 out of 160,000 artifacts have been processed and are ready to move. The groundbreaking is on target for April 2023. Design development includes:

- Fine tuning the space to the storage needs and placement of artifacts
- Evaluating accessions and deaccessions as to how they relate to planning
- Assessing accessibility of the artifacts stored for research, exhibit rotation in planning exhibitions and short-term and long-term loans.

### Current Proposed Legislation

A large part of the TSM's mission is to procure, preserve, exhibit, interpret and to provide access to artifacts. It is management's view, the two bills related to Confederate artifacts are signaling and proposing a forced deaccession from the collection of the Tennessee State Museum. TSM has processes in place for short-term and long-term loans.

Discussion ensued among the members. Following discussion, Chairman Watson noted Director Howell's report.

### **Other Business**

#### Retirement of Deputy Attorney General Janet Kleinfelter

Chairman Watson led the thanks and appreciation to General Kleinfelter for her service of almost 35 years to the TSM and the DHSMC since 2009. Members concluded with a standing ovation.

#### Resolution to recognize Dan E. Pomeroy

Chairman Watson read in its entirety, a Resolution by the 113<sup>th</sup> General Assembly to Recognize Dan E. Pomeroy in his retirement listing his many accomplishments as Researcher, Chief Researcher, Director of Development and Director of Collections and Chief Curator of the Tennessee State Museum over the last 45 years.

Chairlady Hazlewood noted for the record, the paraphrasis uttering Mr. Pomeroy's 145 years of service must be correct; "because there is no way Mr. Pomeroy could have done all those things in just 45 years."

#### Salary Increase for Executive Director

In reviewing the exceptional performance of the Executive Director, Chairman Watson entertained a motion to increase Ashley Howell's pay to \$178,857. Ambassador Victor Ashe moved approval of the motion; seconded by numerous members. Upon calling for further discussion and seeing none, the Chair called for those in favor to increase Executive Director Ashley Howell's pay to \$178,857. The motion carried unanimously with no opposition. Chair Watson resolved he and the Deputy Director will prepare the proper documentation for DOHR.

Furthermore, the Chair gave notice to all members to think through what a performance package looks like based on metrics that can be built into a compensation package to be offered to Director Howell and future Executive Directors, so that there is an incentive to not only perform at a high level of excellence, but to be appropriately compensated when one does. This notice shall remain a discussion for a future date.

### **Public Comments**

Chairman Watson called for public comments. Public comment was given.

### **Artifact /Acquisitions Report**

Director Howell began noting while TSM continues to prepare for the move, the team is slowly taking in quality acquisitions and introduced Chief Curator Richard White to highlight a few acquisitions included in the report.

## Media Coverage

Chairman Watson recognized Ambassador Victor Ashe to close out the meeting with the media coverage. Ambassador Ashe recognized Director Howell who began by highlighting the Sunday evening Washington Post article on the cover of the media booklet. This booklet reflects extensive press clippings from the previous quarter.

## Adjournment

Ambassador Ashe thanked members and called for a motion to adjourn. Scott Price moved to adjourn; seconded by Laura Travis. The motion carried unanimously with no opposition and was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

## Main Motions Summary

**Motion #1:** Ambassador Ashe moved to adopt the October 3, 2022, Quarterly meeting minutes as written. The motion carried unanimously with no opposition.

**Motion #2:** Ambassador Victor Ashe moved the slate of appointments by Chairman Bo Watson to the Audit Committee (AFC); Laura Travis, Chair, Ambassador Victor Ashe, Danielle Barnes, and Chairlady Patsy Hazlewood be adopted. The motion carried unanimously with no opposition.

**Motion #3:** Ambassador Victor Ashe moved to adopt the following scheduled Quarterly Meetings on April 24, 2023, July 10, 2023, October 9, 2023, and January 8, 2023. The motion carried unanimously with no opposition.

**Motion #4:** Ambassador Victor Ashe moved to increase Executive Director Ashley Howell's pay to \$178,857. The motion carried unanimously with no opposition.

**Motion #5:** Scott Price moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:13 a.m. The motion carried unanimously with no opposition.

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Senator Bo Watson  
Chairman Douglas Henry State Museum Commission