

# Battle of Athens Public Meeting Notes

August 26, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

17 in attendance

## Melissa Pitford brought the meeting to order

- Introductions
  - Dustin Webb –Regional Director, Kyle Scott, Ranger Fohey, and park employees Roger Smith, Larry Simmons and Rodney Harvey

## Dustin Webb

- Been a busy year in parks overall.
- Describe the breakdown of Missouri State Parks.
- Explain our funding and the sales tax and how our parks are free compared to other states.
- Cannonball House renovation is going to be funded through the CI process.
- No questions were asked of Dustin.

## Melissa Pitford

- Reviewed site data sheets .
- Change since last year – One full time position moved to Wakonda and they are now in charge of Iliniwek Village.

## Ranger Fohey

- Discussed his role in State Parks.
- Was asked if he patrols Iliniwek, which he responded that yes, they patrol it regularly. He patrols there and also walks the trail to check for damage.

## Travis Moore - Fisheries Management Biologist with Missouri Department of Conservation

- Provided some details and data sheets on the fish in the lake.

## Melissa Pitford

- Reviewed list of accomplishments for the year so far.
  - Painted vault toilets at campground, lake, re-screened windows in vaults that were bad.
  - Painted inside of vault at playground, painted vault floor by shelter house.
  - Added solar lighting to vault toilets at lake.
  - Cleaned brush from lake dam, both inside and outside.
  - Roger mowed sumac at Iliniwek, I painted kiosk at Iliniwek.
  - Cut hazard trees, cleaned up downed trees.
  - Built spur trail connecting campground to lake and spurs up lakeside for fishing access.
  - Cleaned up mill, and overlook, as well as overlook behind cannonball house to mill.
  - Lots of plumbing leaks fixed in the residence – where Americorps stayed in April.

- Opened up roadway before Jane Gray foundation, cleaned up brush east of shelter.
- Replaced the fence around the Colton foundation.
- Replaced split rail fence by shelter parking and at lake entrance.
- Virtual Heritage Tours work.
- Military Trails of MO Passports/Coins program.
- Stone house foundation caved in – stabilized until can get a CI project going.
- Roger cleaned up brush in front of office.
- Ground stumps, seeded some spots.
- Replaced rotten boards on shelter house, painted porch, fascia, and soffit; painted ceilings in bathrooms and hallways.
- Replaced rotten soffit and some fascia on residence.
- Reviewed events
  - 2 School groups in spring, Van Buren – 20 kids, Scotland – 33 students; one more possibly coming this fall.
- Stewardship
  - Americorps Group of 4 for 8 days this spring - Pulled and sprayed garlic mustard in natural area.
- Upcoming Projects
  - ARPA project – adding sewer to campground – and we are adding a dump station plus host site this winter.
  - Cannonball House CI project – upcoming.
  - Working on fire lines.
  - CI project to stabilize the Stone House.
  - Next reenactment should be in August of 2025, will start planning for that.
- Questions from public
  - Do you control Teasel in the park and how? – No, we have not seen any in the park to control yet. She thought she had seen it, so we will look for it and treat it accordingly.
  - How can we get ahold of you if you are not in the office? We are often working outside in the park because we are low staffed and it takes effort from all of us to keep up. I try to leave a note with my cell phone when I am out working in the park. However, sometimes cell phones do not work the best in the park due to poor reception. If we are not in the office you can drive through the park and usually find us, or you can call and leave a message and we will return your call when we return to the office.

Tram tour of park and to see maintenance projects that were discussed.

Ice cream cake and water were served.