

Battle of Athens/Iliniwek Village Public Meeting

September 17, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

18 in attendance

Melissa Pitford brought the meeting to order

- Introductions
 - Dustin Webb, Brett Barnes, Ranger Kroes, Ranger Fohey, Sergeant Bartz, Kyle Scott, Roger Smith and Rodney Harvey

Dustin Webb

- Been a busy year in parks overall
- Melissa has been covering since the manager position is currently vacant
- Describe the breakdown of Missouri State Parks, 92 parks/sites
- Explain our funding and the sales tax
- Story of Colorado State Parks and how a person has to pay for showers
- Thanked our volunteers and how much work they do
- Reenactment- less attendance this year which may have been due to the heat, a lot of work getting ready for the event
- Cannonball House renovation is going to be funded through the CI process, probably 2 years out
- CI project for study on the rest of the structures at Athens also in the works
- No questions were asked of Dustin

Melissa Pitford

- Reviewed site data sheets
- Attendance dropped off this year, camping is down, but tours stayed steady
- Iliniwek same trend as Athens with attendance being lower
- Reviewed full time staff numbers and seasonal team members
- Reviewed normal work week in regards to mowing and cleaning operations
- Reviewed list of accomplishments for the year so far
 - Power washed and treated boardwalk
 - Reseeded lake and playground area
 - Replaced porch around well
 - Lake/playground/campground power washed and treated picnic tables
 - Cleaned up brush piles and trees down due to storms and emerald ash borer
 - Added rock on historic area trails/roads
 - Re-laid foundation under the French house
 - Repainted vault toilets
 - Repaired cantilever sign at site entrance
 - Replaced hydrant by the Smith Hotel
- Reviewed events

- First Day hike was cancelled due to snow storm
- School group in May with 36 children and 20 adults
- Reenactment August 6-7, 2022, 40 reenactors, good event but lower attendance
- Stewardship
 - Pulled and sprayed garlic mustard in natural area
 - MDC shocked the lake; lake silting in, needs dredged
- Upcoming Projects
 - Cannonball House CI project a couple of years away
 - Sewer system in campground
 - Spraying/mowing sumac at Iliniwek
 - Finish working on gravel for trail at Iliniwek
 - Repair fence railings at Iliniwek
 - Trail project at Athens lake to connect to campground
 - New natural resource steward will be working on fire lines
 - Restore prairie area between lake and campground
- Questions from public
 - Are we repairing the fence at Iliniwek- Yes
 - Is the roof still leaking at the Smith Hotel- it still leaks some in one area, we are waiting for a study to be completed
 - People don't know that they can drive back to the Cannonball House, can we put up a sign or something
 - Can you clean out the area so we can see the river from the boardwalk and Cannonball House- yes we are planning on doing that this winter
 - One public comment asking to contact Iliniwek Archaeological group when there are school groups coming to Athens, they would like to help.

Sergeant Bartz

- Introduced himself, Ranger Fohey and Ranger Kroes
- Explained expanded coverage areas
- Challenge to get coverage everywhere

Ice cream cake and cookies were served.