

**Facility:** General John J. Pershing Boyhood Home State Historic Site

**Meeting date:** September 14, 2024

**Meeting format:** Open House Format

- **Meeting agenda;** Museum Grand Opening/ Public Meeting
- **Number of participants:** Approximately 50 at Public Meeting
- **List of local elected officials invited:** Laclede City Council- 5 Members
- **List of local elected officials attended:** 2 Members of Laclede City Council attended.
- **List of state elected officials invited:** State Senator Rusty Black and State Representative, Peggy McGaugh
- **List of state elected officials attended:** Peggy McGaugh, District 7 Representative.
- **List of key stakeholders/groups invited:** Pershing Park Memorial Association, PPMA
- **List of key stakeholders/groups attended:** PPMA 37 members attended.

**Summary of discussion:**

**Brett Barnes**, introduction and greeting

**Denzil Heaney**, brief heartfelt remarks on museum completion and friendship of Pershing Park Memorial Association.

**Jerry Dale**, (PPMA President) welcomed the completion of the Pershing Memorial Museum and Leadership Archives. Reflected on passing of long term President Honorable Judge Robert Devoy. Spoke on long term partnership with Missouri State Parks. Listed everything that the PPMA and Missouri State Parks accomplished together. Pledged to continue support for the site after MOU is completed.

**Dustin Webb**, Welcoming completion of museum, overview of Missouri State Parks and Historic Sites. Reflecting on the upcoming tax renewal and overall summary of State Park operations. Highlighted that the museum came well under the projected costs but did not skimp on quality or content.

**Peggy McGaugh**, emphasized significance of General Pershing and Missouri history and its people. Emphasizing small town history needs to be preserved.

**Other observations/comments:** One comment that kept coming up is the signage on Highway 36 both east and west bound traffic signs. The signs are small and only reference the Boyhood Home. The addition of a museum to the historic site would draw more visitors. Internally, Brett and Dustin have discussed our MO State Park standard directional signs within the city limits of Laclede. Possibly adding the museum logo onto existing signs and possibly adding museum to current signage. Highway 36 signage is standardized by MODOT and anything beyond current highway signage would have to be addressed through those channels.

- **Discussion and refreshments were enjoyed by all. The museum total attendance for the day was tallied 186.**