

## **Bennett Spring Public Meeting Notes**

**July 31, 2020 – 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

**Location: Nature Center**

### **Attendance:**

- Public - 4
- Hosts - 4
- FTE - 7
  - Director, regional director, deputy regional director
  - NRM, PHS Supervisor, IRS III and Ranger 42

### **Park Update, presented by Gabe DuMond, park superintendent**

- Sharp - ranger update
  - Guest asked: With more thefts, do all these get reported? He answered not all of the thefts mentioned on Facebook get reported. Sharp encouraged people to report the thefts directly to him.

### **Mike Sutherland, Missouri State Parks Director**

- COVID-19: Discussed phased approach and challenges we are facing
- Parks have set record visitation numbers
- New park visitors-full parking-future visitors
- Rock Island Corridor update: Potentially manage, without taking resources from other parks as the rock island fund is separate from other parks.
- Discussed the four unopened state parks:
  - Bryant Creek - day use and trails
  - John Walthers (capital city fly fishers) - mentioned he wants us to take care of what we have at Bennett before new projects like these are developed.

### **Questions**

Q: Mark Clement: How does MSP handle the bid process? Is it competitive?  
Sees more negative comments about the responsibilities the concessionaire has.

A: Laura Hendrickson explained the process including the evaluation team.  
Sutherland commented about addressing those issues to provide good service.

Q: Stan Wilnsheer (longtime guest-1965): Can we do something to make walk ways for folks in the parks? He cited a few examples of kids on the main roads in danger of getting hit. Stan's wife doesn't feel safe walking the roads. Stan was concerned about crosswalks and how cars don't yield to them. He thought that we have a huge litter problem-suggested encouraging other guests pick up trash.

A: Sutherland mentioned we are constantly looking for improvements. Our conceptual plans are updated on a rotating schedule. Mentioned 'leave no trace' and the ongoing battle with new people not cleaning up their trash.

Chambers mentioned that the spring trail is no longer available for a board walk. Claimed that we don't have funding to complete a new trail. Chambers mentioned we have people cleaning up and it will take time to educate new people.