

Public Meeting 9-20-2023
General John J. Pershing State Historic Site
Locust Creek Covered Bridge State Historic Site

Denzil R. Heaney
Administrator

Town Hall Style
11 people attended

MO State Representative- Peggy McGaugh

MO State Senator- Rusty Black messaged that he was unable to attend

Mo State Park staff- Brian Stith, Dustin Webb, Brett Barnes, Park Ranger Kroes
No media were present.

(pizza, cookies and drinks were provided)

Dustin Webb- started meeting reviewing the Mo State Park system and the approaching sales tax vote. He also discussed the current status of the Locust Creek Covered Bridge to include the potential move to Pershing State Park. Light discussion as everyone familiar with the bridge knew that eventually something would need to be done.

MO State Park Ranger Greg Kroes- Reviewed the State Park Ranger Program and his duties in the northern region.

Denzil Heaney- Reviewed a prepared Power Point slide show.

The slide show covered all of the highlights of the past 21+ years. The slide show also covered upcoming projects and initiatives underway for improvements. Feedback included the possibility of removing stone fascia from the piers of the covered bridge when it is relocated and use for stone fascia for the sign on the building. Public comments were all positive on the improvements and direction of the historic site.

The City of Laclede has renamed the portion of Ausmus Street in front of the museum "Pershing Way." Eventually when all of the mapping apps update, it will be easier for the public to find the museum and initial visitor contact point. The city is also using a grant resurfacing the streets of Laclede. The city has also agreed with the Pershing Association to paint a launching Pershing Missile on the city water tower that is near the museum. The question was raised and an example was given of a local person not knowing about the museum. The question was raised about advertising for the museum when completed.

Brett Barnes- Reviewed the meeting and the comments. Addressing advertising, Brett mentioned that when building is complete, more resources would be brought to help get the word out to schools and tour companies. He complimented the staff on all that was accomplished in 2023. He also highlighted the full support of the Pershing Park Memorial Association over the years.

Brian Stith- Commented briefly about the positive changes and the direction of the site.

Closing- In closing, it appeared that all issues were addressed and questions were answered.

Low attendance was believed to be due to the close proximity to Pershing Days. This year Pershing Days fell on Sept. 9, 2023.

Normally the numbers for the Public Meeting are around 30+ in attendance.