



Presented January 3, 2017

Town Council Report for December 2017 Parks and Recreation Activity Highlights:

Park Programming

- *Zionsville Parks Golf Course (ZGC):* There were no significant gross revenues for December as the course usually closes just before the end of November (usually the weekend after Thanksgiving Thursday). But while the final End-of-the-Year report from the Department of Finance and Public Records is still pending, we do have some idea of roughly where the year looks to be ending out at the golf course. It is estimated the net profits for the ZGC's 2017 season from Mid-March until the end of November should show another profit this year. It looks like the number for 2017 should settle at approximately \$50,000 in the black. Town Council will likely recall that for as much as the general operations allow, the Park Board is committed to planning for the long term capital needs of the course. And that therefore they have set up a program where each year since 2013, they earmark \$15,000/yr towards the future replacement of the cart fleet. And similarly, they also save an additional \$25,000/yr towards the future irrigation replacement. So it looks like that total of \$40,000 in pledged funds will be able still "come out" and leave funds to slightly increase the "Rainy-Day Amount" (RDA) left unobligated in the fund. The last two years this RDA has hovered between \$10,000 and \$20,000. Of course with the Mayor and Town Council's generous partnership, we plan to be using our irrigation savings this next year to combine with the additional moneys the elected official placed into the ZGC budget to replace the long-struggling irrigation system!
- *Environmental Education and Recreational Programming:* The regular programming in this area saw a total of 396 participants, with 188 of that total representing "drop-in visitors" (unconnected to any particular program). When we have visitors who just swing by we often give a short, impromptu "mini-program", and 99 of this previously reported number of drops-ins were able to receive this added benefit to their visit. This total of 396 represents roughly a 1/3 drop in the numbers from the previous month but that is not at all unusual over the years with the busy holiday schedules of our constituents.

Other Highlighted Parks Matters

- *Holiday Vandalism:* The park department experienced several acts of vandalism over the holidays, particularly the weekend immediately before Christmas. While we get some occasional limited acts of vandalism this seemed more extensive in the number of incidents (the fiscal impacts have yet to be seen). Plus two of them may have been connected and perhaps the same individual or individuals. Turkey Foot Park suffered from a graffiti attack. And in (the perhaps related) two incidents, Mulberry Fields Park and Elm Street Green both had a vehicle leave the road and drive across the turf surfaces in that first significant snowfall event over the Christmas extended weekend (Staff noted the damage during their normal rounds on Dec 26th). The ground was still soft enough that both incidents left ruts in the turf. It will remain to be seen after spring weather breaks, as to how much freeze-thaw cycles may work some of that back out. If it stays frigid like this there won't be many such cycles and the ruts will remain at original depth. Also both areas driven across have irrigation and some heads may have been crushed or driven down. Again spring will tell the tale as to how much work/cost will be needed to restore. This is especially disheartening as the Mulberry incident was across the fields used by both youth football and rugby and these non-profit groups contribute to the agronomic care on the fields as one part of their "rent" for holding there seasons out in the Park. Just the month before, those areas had received these non-profit's groups' efforts.