



Presented May 7, 2018

Town Council Report for April 2018 Parks and Recreation Activity Highlights:

Park Programming

- *Environmental Education and Recreational Programming:* Our regular programming in this area (including those programs more traditionally “recreational” in nature such as dog walks, etc.) saw a total of 1046. This was up over 15% from last month’s numbers. And, 400 of that total represents “drop-in visitors” at our Nature Center (unconnected to any particular program). When we have visitors who just pop in, our staff often give a short, impromptu “mini-program”, and 100 of this previously reported number of drops-ins were able to receive this added benefit to their visit. This total of 1046 represents an increase of a bit over 150 visitors in the numbers from the previous month. While monthly fluctuations are not unusual, due to seasonal programming variations, actual weather on the weekends, etc.... we feel this month of April had a bit more vigorous attendance than in previous. Much of this increase is due to the 260 participants from Zionsville Middle school that helped us out at Starkey Park’s, in our Pull for Parks (anti) garlic mustard program.
- *Zionsville Parks Golf Course:* The gross revenues for this past month were our 2nd lowest ever at ~\$13,231 with only 2013’s being lower, at ~\$9,262. In in this, our 10th full season of operation, ~\$28,974 in 2012 was our highest for this month. Our average for this month over the 10 seasons of operation has been ~\$18,725. Unseasonably cold temperatures (and even several snow falls this past month), rain and just generally miserable outdoor conditions kept the course closed 11 full days this past month. And of the remaining 19 days, one grossed less than \$75 dollars and two more grossed only \$50 or under.

Other Highlighted Parks Matters

- *Maintenance Highlights- Rain/Flood Related:* For the second time in the last 6 years and at least the third time overall, we have had to dredge out the Big-4 Rail Trail west side drainage swale as it runs north of Whitestown Road. This is due to heavy sedimentation being delivered to, and then clogging the flow of the swale. This stormwater and its sediment is from the adjacent landowner to the west (and several years ago the landowner has been made aware of the issue). However, the stormwater must be allowed to continue to flow in this manner. Over three days’ time our park staff (entirely), with borrowed heavy equipment from the Street Department (a backhoe, mini-excavator, and 2 large, single-axle dump trucks) removed 15 truckloads of sediment, thereby restoring flow and reducing the rainfall flooding potential in that area of the Rail Trail. With some of replacement hires in the last couple of years, this represents our maintenance staff’s increased skill level and ability to tackle larger projects. By our estimation, this effort represents over \$6,000 in staff hours and equipment cost. Borrowing the Street’s equipment when they weren’t using it probably reflects a rental saving of half of that total. Of course this did take all of our maintenance staff away from other projects for 3 full days. So these are not efforts we can *regularly* afford; as it would just take us away from other needs
- *Another Maintenance Highlight:* The project has begun to switch most all of our existing outdoor lighting to LED. The supplier estimated a \$7,000/year savings. We suspect less though, because they measure against incandescent usage. For years we have already switched out most of our lighting for compact fluorescents and therefore have already garnered cost savings for that. But even if it’s more like half the vendor’s estimate that still means in 5 years we will have recouped the original LED-switch investment. And that is without even counting the staff time it costs in ongoing maintenance on replacing compact fluorescents that burn out.