

May 2, 2011

Town Council Report: April, 2011 Parks and Recreation Activity Highlights:

Flooding Events

- While not as bad as February's we did have another flooding event on April 28th. We will be completing assessments of any potential damage, likely the week of the Town Council meeting. As one example, we will be rerouting sections of Starkey Park earthen trail that have been washed out in this latest April Flood.
- Significant repair work has been completed by the contractor at Turkey Foot Park. Discussions are still underway with the contractor at Elm Street Green regarding the extent of their obligations as a result of the flooding in February.

Zionsville Parks Golf Course

- The golf course is open, but the weather continues to be our bane, especially the amount of precipitation. Measurements at our own Waste Treatment facilities showed nearly 9 inches in February. So we came into our golf season with saturated soils. Additionally, records show at least 10 more days of precipitation in March and at least 16 days in April, with this April being at least the 3rd or 4th wettest ever recorded. When coupled with the cold, this spring's weather has not been conducive to people being inclined or able to golf. The gross profit numbers for April, 2011 were \$12,365 (which is over \$10,000 under last year's April gross profits). Our golf course staff feels this is still due to cold and rainy weather and the two floods that impacted the course. We can report that in the total golf course fund, the unobligated balance of moneys based upon the mid-April Park Board claims was at ~\$122,153.

Other Highlighted Matters

- The wayfinding/safety process continues with several avenues of activity. A few days after the initial stakeholders input session, the consultants, park staff and interested stakeholders, jointly walked Starkey Park again assessing various areas. Also an update report was given to Public Safety Officials and Park department officials. A more formal update presentation is planned soon, most likely at May's Park Board meeting. Currently the process remains on the original track for presentation of the design and booklet of bidding specifications for signage within Starkey and the Rail Trail at the end of the second quarter of this year.
- Park naturalist staff, Zion Nature Center volunteers, the Z'GreenFest Committee and the Zionsville Public Library staff all worked together to hold this year's event. While a smaller, more select group of presenters due to location constraints (especially in case of rain), the event was still well received and enjoyed by those who attended. Fortunately the day dawned clear and bright (unusually so for this April) and the public responded and enjoyed themselves at the event. Thanks to all those who assisted in making this event happen
- The Park Board and Department are pleased to report to the Town Council that Zionsville Park and Recreation Department has recently received official confirmation that it is to be awarded the \$200,000 Land and Water Conservation Fund reimbursement grant. This grant program is a competitive process with other departments who apply each year. Usually only 3 or so are funded in an average year and competition can be fierce. Our application, based on the public input gathered across the Town through the last several years and also upon the public input meeting specifically held as a part of the grant preparation process, resulted in an application that scored second in the State (and just a few points out of first). This grant money will help by leveraging and supplementing the tax payers dollars needed to complete the newly purchased site off the western end of the rail trail, thereby providing a multiplier effect towards providing the amenities requested during the various input processes.