



Presented May 4, 2015

## **Town Council Report for April 2015 Parks and Recreation Activity Highlights:**

### *Zionsville Parks Golf Course (ZGC)*

- For this month just past, our gross operating profit at Zionsville Park's Golf Course was ~ \$16,195. We still had some weather issues affecting us through this past April, mostly being related to cold temps and/or rain. This year's results can be compared to the same month's numbers in 2014 of ~\$18,528 and in 2013 of ~\$9,262. In looking back at our past Aprils back through 2009, our highest gross operating profit has been ~\$ 28,037 (2012) and our lowest has been that 2013's flood impacted total of \$9262. This particular month's average for that same seven-year time span has been ~ \$18,352.

### *Zion Nature Center (ZNC)*

- April was a good month for our environmental and other park programming. We had over 600 visitors/program participants. About 1/3 of these (234) were drop in visitors to the Zion Nature Center itself. The rest were participants at various programs and events such as the Pull for Parks discussed below.
- Also the annual Pull for Parks Program was held again this year. 5 Groups, many of them returnees to the program) assisted us in combating garlic mustard an nonnative invasive that can quickly choke out all native ground plants. Weather impacted is quite a bit, with one group having to reschedule due to weather and another that was flat out rained out and couldn't reschedule. All told we had over 70 people assist us on this program again this year. As each plant can produce over 10,000 viable seeds, and each seed can live for 7+ years without germinating, every bag of these invaders represents potentially millions of future plants that have been stopped before they get started.
- The Friends of the Zions Nature Center Z'GreenFest, held to support our Center, was impacted by poor weather this year. For only the second time in its 7 year existence, rain forced it to be moved inside (to Town Hall this year). Likely due to the weather, the attendance of around 150 (counting presenters and volunteers) was only about 65-75% of what it was last year.

### *Other Highlighted Matters*

- The second presentation of our educational gardening program, (the Planting and Plotting Program), will have been held by the time of the Council meeting. It may be recalled, that for this program we recruit experienced and knowledgeable gardeners from our own Garden Plot Reservation Program. We work with them to provide a site and help advertise the program. It was well received in its first year so we hope to have a good turnout.
- The well-loved yearly event is back for its fifth Year... the Family Fun Ride will be held on May 9<sup>th</sup> as a part of National Bicycle Month. This is a leisurely 7 or 10 mile loop through 5 parks and alongside 5 others as we tour the trails and quiet streets of Zionsville.
- Also as a part of National Bicycle Month, we'll be bringing back the Zionsville Bike Challenge. This will start May 18<sup>th</sup> and run through June 28<sup>th</sup>. Last year participants logged over 23,000 miles in 6 weeks and the Zionsville Team won the first inaugural travelling trophy. We have more teams working against us this year it will be tough but we hope the Zionsville Citizens will rally around us and join for some fun times and help us win!