

September 6, 2011

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

Park Design Charrette

- The undeveloped 10-acre parcel at 400S and 875E was the subject of an intensive public input and conceptual design process. This is at least the second public input session for this site but the Charrette involved much more on the conceptual design side beyond the earlier feature-based input. Various stakeholder groups were specifically invited in the morning and we had nearly 30 participants in those sessions. Then for the evening summation presentation we had about 15 who wanted to see the results. The features in the two presented concepts from that evening will be melded with the earlier grant-related public input comments as well as sound park and public safety design concepts for a presentation to the Park Board (currently planned for the October Board meeting).

Zionsville Parks Golf Course

- The August 2011 gross operating profit for ZGC was ~\$42,169. This is down a bit (about \$3,700) from the July 2011 gross operating profit. Since we have a significant two-aged usage curve, senior play and beginners (often school-aged) we traditionally see a drop in play in August as school starts back up. For August last year, the gross operating figure was ~\$39,927, so we were slightly higher (~\$2,242) in 2011 than the same month in 2010.

Other Recreation

- Our parks continue to receive steady, and often, heavy utilization. As just one set of examples revolving around Mulberry Fields, consider the following incomplete listing... Over a ~5-Hr period on a single cool, damp, and slightly foggy Sunday morning, the park served as an organized rest-point for 68 bicycle riders. Independently, 12 other bicyclists rode into or through the park on their own, enjoying the morning. During the same time period 16 park users walked 19 dogs (most in the earliest portions of the morning). Additionally 8 walkers and 6 runners used the paved pathways (and the hillside) to get in quick workouts. Four users were rolling around on the skate park accompanied by two (non-skating) parents. Despite the weather, the splash pad even had 3 kids in two separate groups accompanied by an adult with each group. The weather was too chilly for them to stay long, but they did turn on the water and sprint around a bit. Had it been a normal August morning, there is little doubt it would have been packed there (and likely was later in the afternoon when the sun came out). It is also likely that most of these numbers would have been higher had it been; say, a Saturday afternoon.

Other Highlighted Matters

- The Laurel Ave. Rail-Trail connection and area improvements (route up from Nancy Burton Parking lot) had been included with the Town's recent asphalt bid. We received bid numbers considerably under the Town Engineer's construction estimate. It is anticipated the Park Board will be requesting the Town Council appropriate some of the existing funds from within the Park Department's Non-Reverting Capital Fund at their October Meeting so that this project can be completed yet this year.
- The Wayfinding/Safety Leadership Team met with the consultants and the Town Manager for final refining touches on the concept. Various suggested signage locations and the proposed sign/topics at those locations have already been field checked. The consultants should have specification packets to us by October 1 so that initial orders can be placed.
- Indianapolis Power & Light Company should be doing an initial target spraying of woody material of a certain size within their easement. This should be mid September. It will be followed in key areas (like the Starkey Park portion of the easement) by a mechanical treatment of remaining stems. This Starkey Park area is where we will be using the donated funds to implement the prairie restoration area.