



Presented January 6, 2014

Town Council Report for December 2013 Parks and Recreation Activity Highlights:

Zionsville Parks Golf Course (ZGC)

- The weekend before Christmas, Eagle Creek threatened serious flooding. We had nearly 3.5 inches of rain over the 3 days prior to the flood's peak the morning of 12/22. Almost an inch came from 6 pm to midnight on Saturday. This was after two days of snowmelt on Thurs/Fri. At the NOAA-forecasting peaks of about 11.30 feet, we still would not have necessarily had the pro-shop impacted. However, the prediction might have been too low. Normal protocol is for ZGC/Park staff to go "On Alert" when the levels reach 9 feet in depth. In the two flood events which reached and damaged the pro-shop, (April 2013 and Feb 2011), NOAA reported the water depths reached 15.96 feet and 12.95 feet respectively. Other than these two events, the golf course's pro-shop has had no reported incidents of flooding damage in its existence

While the plans call for "going active" at about 10 feet in depth and moving equipment and such (as according to NOAA records getting to and across the course isn't significantly impacted until 11 feet in depth and the shop not impacted until around 12 to 13 feet in depth), in this case, due to holiday staffing challenges we actually pre-moved the equipment prior to the weekend. We will be tracking the staff-hours needed for this winter shift (out and back into storage) and using it to refine our estimates and plans for moving equipment when at an "in-season" operational level.

Fortunately the prediction was off, in this event the waters fell over two feet short of the forecasted high, cresting at about 9.37' in depth at about 5:45am on that Sunday morning.

Other Highlighted Matters

- Heritage Trail Park is open to public access. Three items remain from the Contractor's punch-list, none seriously affect the day-to-day usage of the park. We are holding twice the value of the remaining items to ensure their completion in the spring. We will also place the benches, tables and other equipment in the park in the spring as no sense having them age an extra winter of weathering with no significant usage. We look to have Council involved in a ribbon cutting in the spring, probably in April.
- In other Heritage Trail Park news, we received our end of project inspection and approval from the DNR. This will enable the final 10% of our \$200,000 reimbursement grant to be sent to us. This will return to the fund that helped cover the costs initially. Getting this grant in a very competitive year where only a scant handful of grant applications were funded (after nearly a score of application packets were sent) was very gratifying. The Park Board is examining various projects the community has suggested in the 5-Year Master Plan process and looking for ones that fit with the overall plans and would seem to have a good chance of winning funding in a future application.
- We have already had 3 significant snow events (and likely will have a 4th by the Council meeting). While most park departments across the state don't clear snow from their trails, we do try to do so for at least some of our major trails (time/resources does not allow us to get all trails). When we are able to clear, Mulberry Fields (sledding hill access) and the Zionsville Rail Trail are high priorities. We also try and help out on the other trails that aren't in a park or immediately adjacent to a park. While construction and maintenance of these other trails are in the Street Department's domain, in these snow events they obviously have a higher priority to clearing roadways, so we help out as we can. It would be good for all to keep in mind that during a declared Snow Emergency, we are unlikely to be clearing trails, and routes to the sledding hill, etc. If it is bad enough to be a declared emergency, the Town probably shouldn't be facilitating access to features when the public is supposed to be staying safely at home.