

February 7, 2011

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

Winter Storm Event

- While the bulk of this weather event's impact falls on other departments, it still negatively impacts our department as well. Not only do we have clearing of some of the parking lots and trails that are within or along the parks, but because the street department's staff are so busy on the streets themselves, we try and help out by clearing some of the trails along roadways and such that would normally be part of their maintenance area. Last year and this year we worked at clearing a total of over 13 miles of trails and alternative transportation pathways during snow events. Plus selected portions of the park's parking.

Many park departments do not plow much of their inventory and certainly do not salt them because of limitations of equipment size in spreading salt and the potential damage to the park features. The nature of this latest weather event effectively sealed down this layer of precipitation almost as an armor coating. We are still working our way out from under it.

Park Improvement/Construction Projects Updates

- We are still working with contactors to finish up a few final items at each of the two major project sites. Some of these are the nature of final punch-list items. Some are late items that were adjusted by the park board in response to citizen input. The brief periods of suitable weather since the last monthly report to the Council saw fence-work at Turkey Foot completed and some signage installed. Elm Street Green got nearly all of the native dormant seeding handled and the erosion controls buttoned up into place for the winter.

Zionsville Parks Gold Course

- The course is closed but purchase of season passes for 2011 still continues. We are slightly higher in terms of season-pass sales than at this point last year (by 1 or 2 passes).

Mulberry Fields

- The landscaping subcontractor from the original development project has completed his negotiated close-out responsibilities. The work has been inspected by the appropriate, contractually- obligated consultants and by park staff as well. It has been deemed sufficient. The Park Board Attorney is coordinating the final pay-out of funds related to this project so as to ensure all legal requirements are met.

Other Highlighted Matters

- The Indiana Park and Recreation Association's (IPRA) annual educational conference was held in late January in Indianapolis. Many excellent educational, training, and professional development sessions were held and staff benefitted from the opportunity.
- As one specific example, two park staff attended an intensive two-day pre-conference workshop on Playground Safety. This nationally certified course ran for 16 hrs of training time followed by a 2 hour test on Wed. Participants need to pass to receive their certification. We are pleased to report both staff passed. This will be a valuable help to them regarding maintenance issues as they are on site at playgrounds within our systems.
- We have also enrolled our Park Interpretative Naturalist in the National Association for Interpretation. This professional association, targeted towards professional development and support, should prove to be a valuable asset to her in her efforts in this area.