



Presented Feb. 2, 2015

Town Council Report for January 2015 Parks and Recreation Activity Highlights:

Zionsville Parks Golf Course (ZGC)

- Hard as it may be to believe with this weather people are thinking about golf and season pass purchases are coming in in anticipation of our planned March 13, 2015 season opening (weather permitting). This past January's gross operating profit is our third highest over the last 6 Januarys and stands at \$6,987.0. This tops all but 2014 and 2012 January numbers (at ~\$9115 and ~\$9,701, respectively). Our lowest in that same period was 2010's ~\$2,168.00. The average for that same six-year time span has been ~\$6,342.

Zion Nature Center (ZNC)

- It was a good January for our Nature Center and Park Naturalist Mindy Murdock. Total monthly attendance at the Center and for various environmental educational programs stood at 607. Of that amount ~47% were drop in visitors at the Center and didn't swing by for a specific program. Also of note; for that total 607, 189 were off site programs at some location other than the Center itself. And over 100 of that amount were programs onsite at the Zionsville School System.

Other Highlighted Matters

- The Park Board's grant application for a \$20,000; 50%/50% matching reimbursement grant has been submitted into competition. This particular grant program is from the Indiana State Department of Health's (ISDH) and they wish to target healthier outcomes. They have set up this particular grant program to help with pedestrian and bicycle trail master planning as they have seen correlations between communities with organized and robust pedestrian and bicycling trails systems having healthier citizens and lower health care costs. Competition will likely be fierce statewide, as the ISDH is only pledging two grants for 2015. It may be that Zionsville will have a tough time winning out over our competitors since Boone County's citizen health is routinely ranked 3rd of the 92 counties in Indiana. We hope that the Town's previous commitment to trails and the fact that it was the number one item Zionsville citizens asked for more of in the recent 5-Year Park Master Plan process, will help convince the ISDH that we are the perfect partner.
- Also, while not specifically only a Park Board/Department matter; Zionsville Parks is assisting the Town Council's Pathway Committee on their upcoming Bicycle Friendly Community application. Primarily this assistance is coming through the Park Board appointment to the Pathways Committee as well as the Park Superintendent's efforts. Zionsville received an honorable mention on last year's application (which is still hard to get from these nationwide standards) and an actual bicycle Friendly Designation could help secure new businesses, economic development, and residents to our community.