



Presented August 6, 2012

Town Council Report: July, 2012

Parks and Recreation Activity Highlights:

Zionsville Parks Golf Course

- Our gross operating profit for July 2012, was ~ \$51,433. The two previous years' July numbers were very consistent with each other at \$45,871 (2011) and \$45,635 (2010). Clearly this year's July numbers were continuing 2012's trend, and ran higher than each of the two previous years (> \$5,500). Also this July's figures were very close to what we tabulated in June of this year (~\$52,749). Given the continual heat, we were frankly a bit surprised to see this July's number holding within about \$1,300 of this past June. We had expected a bit more pronounced drop.
- As one might deduce, part of the reason for the play staying at a consistently high level is the ability to irrigate from our own onsite well. While our golf staff has cut the irrigation back to some degree out of respect for the irrigation issues that affect those under Citizen's Water, the fact remains that sports-turf does need to be kept healthy and viable to allow not only it's use, but to mitigate potential damages. We had a serious challenge when the old well pump/motor we inherited through the purchase finally (and permanently) failed during the height of this drought. Our golf and maintenance staff were able to diagnose the problem's severity, locate an appropriate replacement (not easy in a golf course application), confirm through two sources that the replacement would fit if the irrigation system were to be upgraded in the future, and get it installed within less than 24 hrs. Truly an "all hands on deck" effort from the golf staff, the maintenance staff, and up through the Superintendent level to get this nailed down so quickly.

Events/Activities in the Parks

- The Parks was asked by Boone County Metropolitan Board of Realtors to give a presentation on Zionsville's park system. In addition to the standard topics like how many and what type of, parks; the also specifically asked for information on the positive impacts parks have on economic development efforts for residential, commercial, and industrial avenues. The program was very well received by the 30 participants.
- We were also asked to provide a park system slide show for 20 members and visitors at the local Optimist's Club. Many compliments were received.

Other Highlighted Matters

- The increased Citizens Water restrictions coupled with the Emergency Watering Order here in Zionsville, required us to shut off the hydrant-meter supplying water to the garden plots. Since these are reserved for a fee by those individuals, and also because several plots supply food to local food pantries, there was some back push from some individual users (and some of whom incorrectly chastised the Council President, as it was not really the Town's choice/wish to shut it down). We immediately started contingency planning and in the short term thanks to a surplus Fire Dept tanker were able to get at least some water to the plots while other approaches were developing. We had been contacting water haulers, farm and farm suppliers, and tank suppliers but were having trouble finding enough portable tank capacity. Through contacts that the Fire Department staff had with a local farmer, who has an unusually robust "semi-portable tanks system, an intermediate solution was found and that is in place and operational now. Probably the best long term solution to avoid these drought usage shutdowns, will be to drill a well to will support water for the plots and possibly significant portions of the future park (depending on the quantity and quality that a well shaft might hit). The Town and those involved have been receiving more and more compliments as this fast-moving situation has evolved and the various efforts implemented. Special thanks to Fire Chief VanGorder for he and his staff's assistance (which in addition to the abovementioned, included plumbing the tanks as well).