



Presented July 7, 2014

Town Council Report for June 2014 Parks and Recreation Activity Highlights:

Zionsville Parks Golf Course (ZGC)

- For the month of June, our ZGC reported gross operating profits of ~\$41,683. This is very consistent with the ~\$40,779 in gross operating profit we generated in the previous month of May, 2014. In looking back over the total six years of records, we have ranged from a low of ~\$37,750 (2010) to a high of ~\$52,749 (in 2012, and also the first year our new “cart rates came into play). So for June, 2014; it was our fourth highest gross operating profits since the course went to public ownership.

Events/Activities in the Parks

- June marked the 12 year anniversary of the starting of our Zion Nature Center. The Friends of the Zion Nature Center wanted to commemorate the occasion with an open house at during the Center’s normal Sunday visitation hours and the department thought that was a fine idea. It was also thought this would be a fine time to dovetail in a chance for the public to meet our new Park Naturalist, Mindy Murdock. Thirty-nine visitors stopped by the Center that Sunday to either attend the Open House or just to visit.

As you know, the citizens advisory committee formed by the Park Board back all those years ago (this being the same committee that eventually morphed into our Friends of the Zion Nature Center group) were a strong catalyst in getting this center up and running. They deserve much recognition for their volunteer efforts in working with the various park departments paid part-time nature center staff and later (starting in 2007) the department’s paid full-time naturalist. And of course in addition to those efforts, the Park Board and Department have always contributed significantly throughout the years; both in direct, monetary support and other assistance such as ongoing maintenance support of the building’s physical infrastructure (the Park Department’s 2013’s direct fiscal contributions for the Zion Nature Center were well over \$100,000).

- In other Nature Center news... Park Naturalist Mindy Murdock has already hit the ground running and has refreshed and revamped many of the display areas throughout the center. As just one example, many of the animal exhibits were tweaked to allow the animals a more “naturalistic” environment (to use the descriptor from Mindy). This will provide visitors with a more accurate impression of these animals natural habitat by removing at least some (but not all) of the internal man-made materials.

Other Highlighted Matters

- The Quail Run apartment project is starting their construction to the north and west of Town Hall Park. As a part of building the additional apartment buildings, the project will be boring a sanitary sewer main under the Rail Trail corridor southwards to connect with the Town’s waste treatment plant. This was one long planned as a use for the subterranean portion of the old rail corridor and the line will eventually be donated to the Town for our maintenance. However, its construction will require significant closures on the Rail Trail (probably during the weekdays). These will be at various points along the central portion of the rail-trail and for probably duration of two months or more (weather dependent). The Contractor is working with the Town to develop detours for trail users and the Contractor will be (and has accepted this normal Town practice) of being responsible for signing these detours and preparing detour and timetable update notices for the Town’s posting on our web site and in other appropriate media venues