

April 4, 2011

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

Flood Event

- Initial flood damage assessments have been completed. None of our streamside parks were totally spared damage, although obviously some were more significantly impacted than others. It is a potential we may need construction in the floodway permits for some of the repairs, which often is a lengthy timeline. Boone County has been compiling flood damage estimates for potential submission and identification as a flood disaster area, but this is a lengthy process. Several issues involve our two new construction projects and discussions are underway with both general contractors involved.

Zionsville Parks Golf Course

- The golf course *is* open. Due to the Feb 28th severe flooding of the course and particularly the pro shop, the course opening had to be delayed until March 21st. Also in those last 10 days of March the course was closed several days due to cold weather (the greens-keeping staff out there close the course when the temperature is 40 or below). As a result the gross income for those few remaining days in March totaled ~\$2,538. This is significantly under the March figures for the previous two years. The course is all repaired from the flood and ready to go. The more significant damage to the pro-shop has also been repaired but needs a little bit of finish trim and carpet cleaning and then the furniture will be all back in the usual spots. Doors are still open during normal course hours though. The entire crew out there deserve a big thank you for their extra work coping with this challenging month.

Other Highlighted Matters

- At their March Park Board meeting a consultant was selected for the assessment and design process of a Way-finding/Safety signage system for Starkey Park and the Rail Trail. An initial stakeholders meeting of Park Users, Public Safety Officials, and other Town Staff is slated for 3 to 5 pm on the Wednesday April 6th. The consultant will lead that meeting and later the Town's Leadership Team on this issue will meet to dovetail the results of this stakeholder's meeting and the assessment. As has been mentioned before, the final product will be a variety of sign designs, specifications and details, bid-ready, that should be primarily modular in nature. This will facilitate expansion of the signage system beyond the initial study area as funds become available and need is present. Also as discussed before, this bid-ready package is slated to be completed by the end of the second quarter, 2011. It is anticipated that bidding will follow. Many thanks to the Town Council for taking a funding-leadership role on this
- Zionsville Parks and Recreation was specifically and personally invited to participate in a recent Trails Summit with 65 representatives from across the state. Nine communities, nine statewide agencies, and sixteen trails groups, were represented along with staff from the Federal Government as well. During the presentation segment it was clear that Indiana has made great strides in trails in the last decade and our trails system here in Zionsville has helped contribute to those successes.
- The Park Department, with a very strong assist from Board Member Steve Mueller, is preparing a second year of invasive control efforts. Focusing primarily on garlic mustard colonies in 5 parks, last year's efforts involved approximately 50-65 volunteers. This year's numbers appear to be shaping up even stronger.