



Presented June 2, 2014

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

Zionsville Parks Golf Course (ZGC)

- This month our ZGC reported that the gross operating profits recorded in the month of May were ~\$40,779. Over six years of records we have ranged from a low of ~\$37,398 (last year) to a high of ~\$41,586 (in 2012, and also the first year our new "cart rates came into play). So this was our second highest gross for May and was only about \$800 less.

Events/Activities in the Parks

- As we approach summer it's time for the long-running Lincoln Park Concert Series to return to Wednesday nights in June and July (new time of 7:00 PM). This event is the result of a partnership between the Lincoln Park Concert Committee and the Zionsville Park and Recreation Department. This year the Park Department also spent a few thousand dollars to provide enhancements that improve the sound system contractor's ability to deliver the audio.
- The 4th year of the Bicycle Rodeo and Family Fun Ride was successfully staged at Elm Street Green. This year, we were asked by PTO members of the Zionsville School System to move our event up 2 weeks so they could utilize it as part of their Bike to School week of activities. We honored that request, but it put us in direct conflict with the Indianapolis Mini-Marathon. We did hear about that from some of this year's and last year's participants. Attendance was down slightly from last year's high, but we still had 35-40 riders.
- It was also another successful year for Z'GreenFest this year. Somewhat similarly, the Friends of the Zion Nature Center Group who partner with the Park system in holding this event at the Nature Center also had to shift this event (because of the way Easter fell this year). This May 4th date probably accounts for the somewhat lessened attendance compared to the highs of a year or two ago (185-200 visitors for 2014). Still, a good draw on a very pleasant Sunday with many competing activities drawing attention away.
- The Park Superintendent was asked to speak to the Boone County Master Gardeners about the Department's county-level leadership in the utilization of native species, combat of non-native species (always a never ending chore), and other green initiatives within the park system. 35 participants seemed to really enjoy the hour long presentation and discussion. The Group followed up with a thank-you note that indicated they had received several great comments about the program after the event.
- Also the Park Superintendent spoke to over 300 3rd and 4th graders at Pleasant View Elementary School on a warm Friday in Mid-May. This Front-Porch Friday program had all the 3rd and 4th graders requesting a brief presentation (about 20 mins.) about the Park System with lots of questions sprinkled in.

Other Highlighted Matters

- The new Park Naturalist has now started and as of the Town Council Meeting, has been toured around the Zion Nature Center, the park system and much of the community. She will spend much of her first week or two familiarizing herself with the Center as it stands now. And then as assigned at the Park Board level, she'll move into planning a 2015 proposal document for the 2015 year covering proposed program offerings, fee structures, and perhaps even some Center-based recommendations to improving the structure and arrangement of resources out there.
- The Mulberry Fields Splashpad opened one week later than previously planned. Per normal practice we completely opened up the system and tested it a few weeks ahead of the normal Memorial Day Weekend opening. It was running properly at that time. Then early in the week immediately before we went to turn on the system again and found some components appeared to have been damaged by electricity. Two parts were overnighted and installed on the Friday before Memorial Day, but when those were working it was found their failure was masking further component in the system. An indirect lightning strike is suspected. And these other components were replaced immediately upon arrival just after Memorial Day.