



Presented June 1, 2015
Town Council Report for May 2015
Parks and Recreation Activity Highlights:

Zionsville Parks Golf Course (ZGC)

- For this month just past, our gross operating profit at Zionsville Park's Golf Course was ~\$42,008. This is a new monthly high for the 7 years' worth of data for this month. In looking through our past May records back to 2009, our lowest had been that 2011's total of ~\$34,344. It seems that we either had weather that kept our totals in the \$34,000 to \$37,000 range (3 months) or the totals ranged in the low \$40,000's. This particular month's average for that same seven-year time span was at ~ \$39,194.

Zion Nature Center (ZNC)

- May was a good month for our environmental and other park programming. We had 769 visitors/program participants. A bit over ½ of these (409) were drop in visitors to the Zion Nature Center itself. The rest were participants at various programs and events.
- Also, in the upcoming month of June, the annual day camp programs will again be getting underway. We have 149 children registered. Many of the camp sessions are booked solid, but there is still room in the 9-11 year olds and the teen camps sessions.

Other Highlighted Parks Matters

- We received a surprising bit of great news in May, just in time for National Bike Month. Town Councilors may recall that we applied for a \$20,000 trail planning grant at the very end of 2014. And we heard early this year that out of very stiff competition among 20 or so applicants, we were 3rd or 4th in the State. We were contacted by the staff from the State Board of Health a couple of weeks ago who told us they had been able to scrape together enough additional funding to actually award us approximately \$18,000 to fund the Bicycling and Pedestrian Trail Planning process for which these funds are awarded across the State. This is the first time in the program's history a later award has been given after the official notice. We were told in part it was because of our community's strong pathway's commitment and the excellent application that detailed it.
- A new program this year, the *Tails on the Trails* program is reaching out to dog owners in our Town and, similar to the Zionsville Bike Challenge, is encouraging them to get out into our parks. At this point we have nearly 70 dogs registered, with more expected. The Zionsville business community has really stepped up in the sponsorships for this new program. And pets who take their owners on walks through the total series of program scattered throughout several parks, will win prizes and have a shot at the grand prize drawing (a free supply of dog-food for a year). We will also be having a series of E-newsletters familiarizing owners with proper pet-ownership etiquette, Zionsville's leash laws, and other such material.
- The Zionsville Bike Challenge is now well underway (May 18th through June 28th). We had a great response from the community members, with a 35% increase at over 115 registrants (and the possibility of a few others still trickling in). It may be recalled, we were very pleased to have over 85 participants in last year's inaugural event and that those 2014 riders logged over 23,000 miles in six weeks last fall. We expect even higher participation mileage numbers this year. The Zionsville Community Team is pretty evenly matched number-wise with the Dow AgroCyclist Team, so it will be an interesting competition for the overall traveling trophy.