

December 5, 2011

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

Urban Forestry Grant Potential

- An Urban Forestry Grant Application request for \$20,000 was completed and submitted this past week. As we reviewed potentials, we engaged the Street and Stormwater Department as there were potentials in this grant that could benefit their efforts as well. If successful, these funds complement and extend already existing initiatives in each department. Our joint application was one of at least 25 applications submitted and they expect more.

Zionsville Parks Golf Course

- The November 2011 gross operating profit for ZGC was ~\$6,323. This is up slightly but still within a couple of hundred dollars of last year's November 2010 gross operating profit of ~\$6,186. Both of the figures for Nov. and Oct. this year have both run pretty much right at (although both a few 100's higher) than those same month's figures in 2010.

Other Highlighted Matters

- According to Town's contractor, Reith-Riley, the Laurel Ave Rail-Trail connection/improvements which were slated to begin November 21st and complete on December 5th, are unlikely to be completed yet this calendar year. Their, self-imposed, late start and the recent wet weather were contributing factors. This had been part of the Town's asphaltting projects and represented a cost savings over the original engineer's estimates. Our understanding is several of the currently underway Town Projects will need to be finished up. Then, if a suitable window of weather occurs, Reith-Riley could still build the connection, it's just unlikely. If a postponement occurs, this improvement would merely occur next Spring.
- The dormant seeding of prairie/wildflowers in the power line easement at Starkey Park was completed the full week before Thanksgiving. Dormant season is one of the preferred methods of planting prairies and these warm-season species should be germinating in late-spring and early summer. The nearly six acres is really two plantings, one for the upland area and one for the lower area. The native species in these two areas include the main matrix of about 7 grass species and 5 sedges, sprinkled through with lesser quantities of about 50 native wildflower species. Most of this was achieved through the large donation received targeted to this planting (there was of course, incidental costs such as staff time, etc).
- The Park Department and Board was very gratified to hear that the Recycling Grant application to the Boone County Solid Waste District was awarded in the full amount of \$5,000. Competition was fierce. The citizens advisory committee wrestling with ranking these projects had to consider 12 applications for over \$53,000 in requested projects. Our project was 1 of only 7 who received at least partial funding, and we feel very fortunate to have been the only one to receive the maximum amount/applicant of \$5,000.