



Presented August 3, 2015
Town Council Report for July 2015
Parks and Recreation Activity Highlights:

- *Zionsville Parks Golf Course (ZGC):* For this past July, our gross operating profit at Zionsville Park's Golf Course was only ~\$31,459. This gross operating receipts total was actually ~\$2,035 lower than the previous month's (and that one was a record low for all the June numbers we've tracked). The weather was clearly the biggest factor, not surprisingly since it was the wettest July every recorded. We had flooding and long rain events and that caused us to have the course closed for 9 full days (mostly for standing water and/or extreme soggy conditions). There were 50% more closures than in the previous month. Plus, we had 4 additional days where daily gross receipts didn't reach \$1,000. Previously our totals for this particular month ranged from ~\$40,359 (2009) to a high of ~\$51,433 (2012), not counting 2015. This month's average for our seven-year time span (including 2015) is ~\$44,915.
- *Zions Nature Center (ZNC):* This was a really great month for our Nature Center with over 1300 participants in our programs (throughout the park system) and visitors to our Center. A part of this success this month was our day camps, which were very well attended. Of course these take up a lot of staff time this month (over 200 part-time hours, plus our full-time Park Naturalist Mindy Murdock's time as well). However for the first time since these program were first started, the nature camps generated enough money they could have covered all the staff counselors payroll cost as well the more traditional supplies costs, etc. (not counting Mindy's as she is a year round programmer). While there are likely some accounting challenges to paying part-time staff from the account into which the funds have to flow, it is an eventual goal of ours to have the day camps at least cover all their operational expenses (except Mindy's full time portion).

Additional Programming, Partnerships, Other Events in the Parks, etc:

- *Zionsville Bicycle Challenge:* Final results are now in and tabulated, and this was an excellent second year for this popular program! There was more than 50% more participation over its inaugural year (128 riders in 2015). We had new categories for families and newer riders and over 25% of our total participants this year were either new riders or people returning to the bike after years of absence. All told the 128 participants logged over **33,497 miles!** And in one of the new categories, Just for Fun participants logged in over *5500 minutes* of riding for the same 6-week challenge window. Team Zionsville was successfully able to defend its overall title this year with 16,015 miles to 11,808 for the Dow AgroCyclist Bike Club and 5674 for the Zionsville Triathlon Club (who split off from our Team from last year). Just as a reminder, 2014's totals were 85 participants, who logged a grand total of 23,721 miles (no minutes category in 2014), with Team Zionsville accounting for 13,967 of those total 2014 miles vs. 9,754 for the Dow AgroCyclists.
- *Tails on the Trails Program:* This new program has also just completed as well. Led by Park Naturalist and dog owner, Mindy Murdock; this was a very well received new program with over 85 participants (depending if one counts the humans or the dogs, since some have multiple animals in the program). The pet-orient business community supported this very well and many participants logged their pet walking distances on their own. To help them though we had 5 scheduled walks in several of our parks as well.

Other Highlighted Parks Matters

- *Zionsville Creekfest:* The program this year continues to be a cooperative effort between Zionsville Parks and Recreation Department and the Town's Department of Streets and Stormwater. While it will still include the popular stream cleaning activities, this year we organizers hope to grow the event from just a stream cleanup and into a water quality environmental festival. Gavin Merriman is really assisting with ideas for growing the festival side of the equation. Again our local business community is supporting our efforts with significant donations from Sub-16, Akards, Marsh, and others. We hope everyone will keep Saturday August 29th from 9:00 to noon open on your calendars!