



Presented October, 2015

## **Town Council Report for September 2015 Parks and Recreation Activity Highlights:**

### *Park Programming*

- *Zionsville Parks Golf Course (ZGC):* Our monthly gross operating profit for the Zionsville Park's Golf Course was at ~\$26,937 for the month. This was an expected drop from the previous month. After the various schools start our golf operations traditionally show a drop, even if the weather is good. During our seven full seasons of operation, the gross operating profits for this month have ranged from a high of ~\$30,329 (in 2013), to a low of ~\$22,964 (in 2011). With a clustering around the ~\$26,000 to ~\$29,000 area. This month's average for our seven-year time span (including 2015) is ~ \$28,026.
- *Zions Nature Center (ZNC):* This was a good month for our Nature Center with over 406 participants in our programs (at various locations in the park system and community) and visitors to our Center. Over half of these (266) were unscheduled walk-ins to our Zionsville Nature Center. As per our practice, we try and offer drop-in visitors staff-led impromptu programs and our Park Naturalist and her Part-Time Staff interacted with 83 of those visitors in this manner.

### *Additional Programming, Partnerships, Other Events in the Parks, etc.:*

- *Zion Nature Center Rummage Sale:* Park Naturalist Mindy Murdock has been spending some of her first year and half of employment with us going through the Zions Nature Center's basement and attic and sorting through the 12 years of accumulation that was filling these locations. She has identified a variety of items that in her professional opinion are worn, no longer accurate or relevant, and/or otherwise surplus to the mission of the center. As per State Law, the Park Board met and declared these items surplus. And on Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> the Zions Nature Center will be holding its first Rummage Sale. Proceeds are to be targeted towards jump-starting a new box turtle exhibit and home. The Friends of the Zion Nature Center have agreed to match the sale's proceeds up to the first \$500.

### *Other Highlighted Parks Matters*

- *New Donated Animal Mount for our Nature Center:* A family who regular visits our park found an unfortunately deceased, but still warm, Great Blue Heron in Starkey Park. There were no obvious signs of trauma but it was found under the High Tension power lines so it might have flown into one of the lines. They are regular visitors to our various parks and wanted to donate the cost of mounting this beautiful animal so that it can become an educational exhibit. This is in process and within the next month or two we should have a new addition at our Zion Nature Center.
- *Possible Parkland and Trail Donation:* Considerable time has been spent this last month working with the Park Board and Town Staff reviewing and considering the potential of a ~55 acre donation parkland donation Primarily floodplain. This would also include a ~1000 foot donation of a trail extension along the south portion of the Zionsville Rail Trail. While certainly an intriguing possibility, the Park Board has aspects of the public trust to consider and part of that includes completing due diligence on the property, such as review of the 100's of pages of environmental documents associated with the property. The Plan Commission has continued the matter into October (on matters independent of the Park donation question), and the Park's review continues.