



Presented November, 2015
Town Council Report for October 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 ~\$14,587 for the month. This was an expected drop from the previous month as our weather becomes more autumnal. During our seven full seasons of operation, the gross operating profits for this month have ranged from a high of ~\$17,816 (in 2012), to a low of ~\$12,565 (in 2009). With a clustering around the ~\$26,000 to ~\$29,000 area. This month's average for our seven-year time span (including 2015) is ~ \$15,150.
- *Zions Nature Center (ZNC):* This was a great month for our Nature Center with over 1400 participants in our programs (at various locations in the park system and community) and visitors to our Center. Over 1/3 of these (574) 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 80 of those visitors in this manner.

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

- *Zion Nature Center Rummage Sale:* Park Naturalist Mindy Murdock raised slightly over \$800 in the two day rummage sale of surplus property from the over a decade of accumulation in the attic and basement out there. The Friends of the Zion Nature Center citizen group had also pledged to match dollar for dollar to the first \$500. So all told, this event raised over \$1300 dollars towards the case that Mindy has targeted.
- *Fundraising for New Turtle Exhibit:* The rummage sale cause the Park Board and Park Naturalist Murdock have selected is creating a new, more visually interactive, exhibit-home for our box turtles. This concept has been well received by the visitors to the Center during the rummage sale (the kick-off fundraising event). Several instructed us to "round-up" their sales (to a higher dollar amount) or even just donated money if they didn't buy items. The target goal is to raise \$10,000. Our current display houses the turtles adequately, if in a utilitarian manner. So we can fund raise until we reach the target amount. The Friends of the Zions Nature center group are considering helping out beyond the \$500 level they have already contributed.

Other Highlighted Parks Matters

- *Vonterra Project:* This 107 home subdivision was approved by the Plan Commission in October. But of more impact for the Park Department, as it is constructed there will eventually be a ~55-acre donation of new parkland to the department. This will include about 45-48 acres of bottomland, similar to, and across from our current Starkey Park. The remainder acreage will be the raised bed of the abandoned rail corridor which farther to the north across Eagle Creek is already part of the Zionsville Rail Trail. Through negotiations with the project's development firm, they will also construct a 15-foot wide asphalt trail starting at Zionsville Road and continuing back towards Eagle Creek and for slightly over 1000 feet of the ~3000 feet of distance between the road and the current end of the rail trail. All told, this represents the equivalent of a **\$200,000** donation to the Park Department and the citizens of Zionsville.
- *New Donated 130 Gallon Aquarium for our Nature Center:* A donor, who desires no overt recognition and wishes to remain unnamed, provided a full aquarium set-up for our Zion Nature Center! This was effectively all new-in-box and never used. It included everything that would be needed for a full freshwater (or marine) setup. Some of the highlights are... 130 gallon new tank along with oak stand and oak hood with a glass cover top back-up under the hood in case there are fish who are jumpers. It also included 3 huge filters worth approximately \$150, numerous air pumps, and 4 large boxes of various other new supplies and food. All told these new items are over a **~\$3,000** value. Our Park Naturalist intends it to be set up as a freshwater tank of Indiana native species to replace the marine tank which had to be discontinued because the volunteer who maintained that setup was no longer able to do so (and continuing this marine tank would have cost us over \$1500 a year for professional care plus the supplies costs).