



Presented November 7, 2016
Town Council Report for October 2016
Parks and Recreation Activity Highlights:

Park Programming

- *Zionsville Parks Golf Course (ZGC):* Our monthly gross operating profit for the ZGC was over ~\$25,075. This compares to ~\$30,249 the previous month. This is down a bit from the month just before but being down somewhat is normal at this time of year. Basically, after the first week of August the colleges start up and about ½ through the month most of the other schools start. So golfers are being pulled off the course as their schedules heat up. Weather was also a bit problematic through some of the month. When looking back over the last 8 seasons, our two highest historical numbers for this particular month each year stand at ~\$30,329 in 2013 and ~\$30,269 in 2009. Historically over the last 8 seasons (including this year), the lowest historical number for this particular month stands at ~\$22,964 in 2011 and 2016's numbers for this month our second lowest ever in terms of gross operating income. Our average for this month over our 8 seasons of operations is ~\$27,658.
- We would just like to alert the Town Council and Park Board, that 2016 may well be our second lowest year in terms of our final net operating profit (after 2012, where we forced to replace the cart fleet we inherited). When looking back at our 8 seasons in terms of the running total for the net operating profit for the year, we always tend to be a bit higher in the snapshot taken in August than we end up at the end of that particular year, so some of this warning is based upon estimation. This typical ~\$10,000 dip between August's snapshot and the year's-end numbers is normal and partially a result of October and November's golfers being fewer than in earlier months, as well as the fact that we have staff working in November and December after course-close-- getting carts and mowing equipment sharpened, stored, and otherwise ready for the next season. Plus this year we have had a couple of major unexpected expense hits; a mower that needed significant work, a concrete culvert that was suddenly failing significantly, and a major rework of a cart-path to allow a less physically-challenging approach to a tee station. So while it is still early, based on what we have seen in past years and where the August snapshot fell, we would estimate the ending ZGC net operating profits for 2016 to be around \$15,000.

In discussions with our staff they also believe the swings in weather we had this year; cold initially, to very rainy, to very hot, and back through the cycle, hurt our normal levels of attendance. We try and earmark money at the end of each season for both a future cart fleet-replacement (currently projected around 2022), and a future major irrigation overhaul/replacement. We want to save \$15,000 and \$25,000 respectively for each of those needed major expenses. In 2016, while we expect to still make a profit the general operational sense, we probably won't clear the necessary \$40,000 total to fulfill these savings goals. The sincere hope would be that 2017 rebounds enough to both cover the 2017 needs (including the savings earmarks for 2017) and additional generating enough to make up any potential savings shortfall in 2016.

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

- *Zion Nature Center Fundraising Efforts:* We just wanted to share with you the exciting news. The museum-quality new turtle exhibit for which we have been conducting a fundraising efforts has nearly reached its goal. This is due in part to the some exciting efforts by the students out at Union Elementary. Also our Friends of the Zion Nature Center Support group, while not feeling comfortable funding the whole \$10,000 amount, did decide to support the exhibit effort to the tune

of a \$5,000 portion. Many, many other groups and citizens also contributed. The Park Board, Superintendent, and Park Naturalist are very touched that this funding effort has gone so quickly (taking basically only a year). The plan is to have the exhibit constructed concurrently with the new building and have it installed by the time the new doors open.

Other Highlighted Parks Matters

- *Zion Nature Center (new building)*: The bids come back in October 5th, just after the Town Council meeting. The Town-selected Consultant Team will review these bids and prepare a recommendation-matrix for the October 12th Park Board meeting. If the bids come in under the Consultant Teams cost estimates for the project (and we have built in some Deduct-Alternates where we can subtract utility from the building to trade off for lower the project costs if necessary), it is expected the lowest responsible and responsive bidder will be identified the night of the 12th and the final contract documents will be drawn up and signed quickly thereafter. Keystone Construction Management, the lead of the Consultant-Team, has assured us that in a normal construction season, the building shell will be completed in time to move to the interior work by the time weather breaks. The bids will also include construction timeline information, but the current estimate is the building will be punch-listed by early May.