



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 ~\$16,400. This compares to ~\$25,075 the previous month. As expected, this is down from the month just before, but such is normal at this time of year. In terms of gross operating revenue for this particular month, this number is the third highest we have ever generated and over \$1,000 higher than our overall average. Historically over the last 8 seasons (including this year), our two highest historical numbers for this particular month each year stand at ~\$17,816 in 2011 and ~\$17,232 in 2010. When looking back over the last 8 seasons, the lowest historical number for this particular month stands at ~\$13,359 in 2014 and ~\$14,587 in 2015. Our average for this month over our 8 seasons of operations is ~\$15,306.
- However, as an alert the Town Council and Park Board, 2016 *may* well be our second lowest year in terms of our final net operating profit (the lowest being 2012, where we forced to replace the aging 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 a few staff still working in November and December after course-close-- getting carts and mowing equipment sharpened, stored, and otherwise ready for the next season. Also for 2016, 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 plan to save yearly amounts of \$15,000 and \$25,000, respectively towards each of those needed major expenses. In 2016, while we expect to still make a profit the general operational sense, we may not clear the necessary \$40,000 total to fulfill these savings goals. If this 2016 concern does indeed manifest, the sincere hope would be that 2017 rebounds enough to both cover the 2017 needs (including the \$40,000 savings earmarks for 2017) and additionally generating enough to make up any potential savings shortfall in 2016.

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

- *Zion Nature Center:* We had our highest month ever in terms of environmental education contacts from our Park Naturalist, Mindy Murdock. The total this last month's total was 2,274 contacts. As is usual, these programming contacts are in a variety of settings; at our center, out in our various parks, at senior centers, out in our Zionsville schools, etc. In fact, Our Park Naturalist in this past month gave a presentation to each student in two of Zionsville's elementary schools. This

represented ~1,000 of the contacts above. Plans are underway that in December, we will get to the remaining elementary schools with the same presentation.

Other Highlighted Parks Matters

- *Zion Nature Center (potential new building)*: As was reported to the media, the new Nature Center bids came back on October 5th. And the Town-selected Consultant Team has reviewed the bids. Unfortunately and surprisingly, the bids all came in much higher the Consultant Team's estimates for the building. And the amounts were significantly more than the combined monies earmarked by both the Town and the Park Board for the project. Currently, the project's been put on indefinite hold while the Town's consultants look both at the building's original cost estimates to determine if there were any inaccuracies (and if so, to assess the relative degree this may have affected the bidding process), and to consider to what degree the currently highly active construction project environment may be contributing to the unexpectedly high bids. If it turns out significantly more monies are indeed needed to achieve this building, such will have to be carefully considered.