



Presented December 5, 2016

Town Council Report for November 2016 Parks and Recreation Activity Highlights:

Park Programming

- *Zionsville Parks Golf Course (ZGC):* Our monthly gross operating profit for the ZGC was over ~\$7,017. As expected, this is down from the month just before which was at ~\$16,400. But the weather resulted in several closures due to frost and cold. Also the season closed for the year in Nov (the traditional date, the Sunday after Thanksgiving). 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 ~\$10,533 in 2009 and ~\$7,045 in 2015. When looking back over the last 8 seasons, the lowest historical number for this particular month stands at ~\$1,445 in 2014 and ~\$2,167 in 2013. Our average for this month over our 8 seasons of operations is ~\$5,847.

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

- *Zion Nature Center/Environmental Programming:* We had 988 total nature center visitors and program participants for this past month. Nearly half of these (430) dropped into the Center for their own self-guided visits (unrelated, and in addition to, specific program attendants). Of those 430 drop-ins, 108 were then engaged by our on-site staff into an impromptu educational session in addition to what they learned and enjoyed on their own.
- Our Park Naturalist reports that as of the end of this past month, and with yet a month of programming still to complete; we have surpassed the all-time attendance/programming record through the nearly 15 years of the Center's existence. While it is the Holidays, likely we will add several hundred more to this new record before the end of the year. Stay Tuned!

Other Highlighted Parks Matters.

- *Mayor's Monarch Pledge:* Zionsville Parks and Recreation has completed and documented action items towards the fulfillment of Mayor Tim Haak's pledge (along with other Mayor's nationwide) in the National Wildlife Federation's Mayor's Monarch Pledge. Completing 3 action items meets the base level of commitment, 8 or more qualifies for the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Leadership Circle. We documented twice that amount (16) out of the 24 available to this. Plus, unlike many others attempting to qualify, on many of these we had been quietly completing them for years.
- *Grant Awarded:* Our Park Naturalist submitted a competitive application and received a \$2,100 grant for a waste-recycling receptacle-set. This is the third such grant we have received from this entity, the Boone County Solid Waste District (BCSWD), over the last ~ 5 years. Previously the Park Department was awarded two separate \$5,000 grants from the BCSWD for two different recycled components of Heritage Trail Park. This new grant was originally intended for our new Nature Center Building. While we traditionally haven't had much luck with our park visitors sorting out recyclables from straight trash, and our trial efforts out in the parks required our maintenance staff to double handle and sort trash to achieve any meaningful recycling... It is hoped by putting this station of triple sorting-receptacles inside the current Nature Center itself will appeal to an already receptive audience who will use it more appropriately than the "regular park users" have.
- Mindy Murdock, our Park Naturalist, has just fulfilled the requirements for becoming a Certified Heritage Interpreter (CHI) with the National Association for Interpretation. While the full-time job description has always discussed such professional associations and certifications, Mindy is the first position holder to achieve this and in fact, she came to the position with some such certifications already in place. This latest professional acknowledgement is a higher level though, and Mindy is one of only *four* such CHI's in the entire state! Congratulations Mindy!