



Presented June 5, 2017 (7:00 pm)
Town Council Report for May 2016
Parks and Recreation Activity Highlights:

2017's Major Park Planning Efforts with Town-wide Effects (Chronologically listed)

- *Overly-Worman Park Conceptual Design Process:* At their May, meeting the Park Board approved a conceptual design and a long term conceptual phasing plan (5 phases). This park has had the most public input opportunities of any park designed in Zionsville and the public responded well. Most of these incorporated ideas were directly from them.
- *Federally Funded Grant Efforts:* Two large matching reimbursing grant programs have now had applications submitted (each for \$200,000 in grants funds, and both must be locally matched). The May 1st deadlined Recreational Trails Program Grant (RTP) received a total of 13 applications. RTP has available funds this year to likely match 3 submissions. The Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant (LWCF) grant application submitted just this past week was one of at least 10 (more could be arriving in the mail at the time of this report's preparation). LWCF funds can also be accessed for State-level projects as well as local level like ours so the amount coming to locals isn't exactly known at this time. Probably won't be any more than 5 local grants fully funded for 2017.

Note if both Federal programs still exist next granting cycle, the Park Board has 1 or 2 more applications planned. One of these planned later applications, the LWCF, is quite strong and could well bring in a third \$200,000 to assist the development efforts. Also if one of these two already submitted are fortunate to score high enough this year, they could easily be tweaked and re submitted again.

Park Programming

- *Zion Nature Center Open House:* We had anniversary of the 15th year of operation out at our center and an estimated 200 people attended over the three hours. The new museum-quality turtle exhibit was a big hit.
- *Environmental Programing:* Our Park Naturalist, Mindy Murdock, had 913 in total attendance in programs throughout the parks and at the Zion Nature Center for the past month. Over a third of those (382) were self-directed visitors to our Nature Center. Note also that only two of our day camp spots are left unfilled.
- *Zionsville Parks Golf Course (ZGC):* Weather continued to be a huge challenge in May. According to the Town's Water Treatment Dept, we had 10.5 inches of rain in a consecutive 15 day period. The course basically had to be closed for two straight weeks (plus another day later in the month). The gross revenues for May 2017 were our lowest ever at ~\$21,094 (~\$42,008 in 2015 was our highest and we have three other "Mays" that have grossed over \$40K). Our average for this month over 9 seasons of operation has been ~\$36,533.

Other Highlighted Parks Matters

- *Starkey Parks Trail SP-1:* The boardwalk that was damaged by the large tree that fell has been under (re)-construction by an Eagle Scout Project. Because of the damage, this was basically a complete rebuild. The funds for metal stairs that had been previously budgeted for in 2017 i.e. replace the stairs along SP-3. were repurposed to replace this unexpectedly damaged wooden stairway along SP-1. These metal stairs have been ordered, engineering cut-sheets have been received, and the stairs are under fabrication. Due to the cost of quotes for install (of these longer stairs than originally budgeted), we will likely have to install them in-house with our park staff and this will pull us from several days of "regular maintenance".