

ZIONSVILLE

Town of Zionsville | 1100 West Oak Street | Zionsville, Indiana 46077 | www.zionsville-in.gov

August 30, 2023

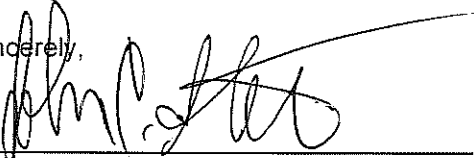
Zionsville Town Council
1100 W. Oak Street
Zionsville, IN 46077

Dear Zionsville Town Councilors:

We, the undersigned members of the Zionsville Board of Parks & Recreation, write this note as a supplement to a letter you will receive from Jarod Logsdon, Superintendent of Parks & Recreation. We appreciate, support and join in Jarod's unwavering advocacy on behalf of the Zionsville Parks & Recreation Department and on behalf of the Zionsville community that utilizes the Big-4 Rail Trail. We encourage you to please give sincere consideration to Jarod's thoughts as he has outlined them in his letter and vote to approve the additional appropriation to complete the Rail Trail corridor in a timely and cost-effective manner for the safety and benefit of our community.

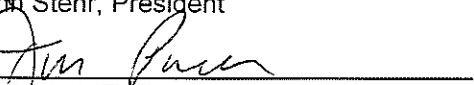
Thank you.

Sincerely,



John Stehr, President

Yes	No	Abstain
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



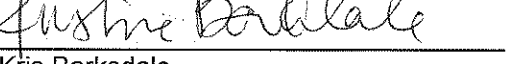
Jill Pack, Vice President

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Ryan Cambridge

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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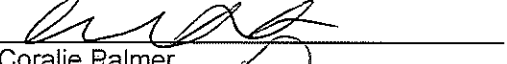
Kris Barksdale

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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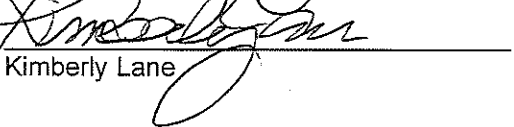
John Salewicz

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Coralie Palmer

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Kimberly Lane

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Administration 317.344.1167	Finance & Records 317.873.5410	Police 317.873.5967	Public Works 317.873.4544	Parks & Recreation 317.733.2273
Town Council 317.873.5130	Town Court 317.344.1176	Fire 317.873.5358	Municipal Action Center 317.873.5410	Community & Economic Development 317.873.8247



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Attn: Councilors of the Town of Zionsville

On behalf of the Town of Zionsville Parks and Recreation Department and Board of Parks and Recreation, it is our responsibility to champion the priorities and initiatives of the community as it pertains to greenspaces, recreational opportunities, and wellness. The Big-4 Rail Trail is the central spine of Zionsville’s trail and pathway system, and one of the most utilized assets in our park system. It provides an alternative to vehicular and roadside travel and connects many community institutions, parks, and neighborhoods. In recent years the trail has expanded nearly 2 miles, first with the Southern Expansion from Starkey Avenue to Zionsville Rd, providing access to Overley-Worman Park and the Vonterra subdivision, and last fall, the Northern Expansion created connection opportunities with the Hampshire subdivision, Trailside Elementary, and Whitestown’s Rail Trail segment.

Through grant opportunities and local bond investment, the Park Board and Parks Department have resources available to not only complete these expansion projects, but also prioritize the widening and improvement of existing portions of the trail. The bundling of these efforts has provided significant cost savings to the taxpayer and minimized disruption to our community. This investment in our Rail Trail comes at a time when existing segments are nearing end of life and require remediation to provide a safe, accessible surface for users. This accessible route is especially critical as our students return to school this fall and wish to utilize the trail for access to Pleasant View Elementary, Zionsville Middle School, and Zionsville Community High School.

Beyond providing a safe route to school this fall and next school year, completion of phase 2 of the widening project will allow for a single closure event for our community. Each year dozens of nonprofits and community organizations utilize the Rail Trail to conduct public running events to celebrate life, seasonal festivities, and fundraise for their philanthropic missions. The Rail Trail is a premier route as it avoids road closures, hosts basic amenities, and creates an easy-to-follow route. As we experienced with the Southern Rail Trail Expansion and Zionsville Golf Course Cart Path paving projects, spring in Central Indiana can be unpredictable and poor draining soils can delay paving operations long after temperatures allow for asphalt. A delay this fall could result in the central portion of the trail being closed throughout next summer, and potentially impacting dozens of community held special events. Further, we anticipate increased pedestrian and cyclist traffic in 2024 as we welcome visitors and neighbors from the Whitestown segment of the regional Big-4 corridor.

The Park Board and our community have prioritized this project in our park system and support the utilization of funds from the Non-Reverting Capital Fund (Fund 403) to see its completion. At the time of this memo, the balance of Fund 403 is \$651,709.07, and the request for \$300,000.00 will ensure the completion of this project while leaving cash reserves available for future park system improvements.

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Approval of this additional appropriation will avoid any penalties associated with demobilization/remobilization costs, saving the Town tens of thousands of dollars in unnecessary fees. It is our hope that Council will grant this additional appropriation request so the Parks Department may complete the project as originally proposed, resulting in one single closure event for our community, significant cost savings, and a complete Rail Trail corridor by year end to allow pedestrians, cyclists, and students safe travel along this public trail. If there are any questions related to this agenda item, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Thank you,

Jarod Logsdon

Superintendent of Parks and Recreation