



# Parks Department Board Report

## June 11, 2014 (for May)

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### Administrative Update

- 5-year Master Plan – We will have the first workshop with HPG on June 12<sup>th</sup> which will be for Department Heads and other necessary Township staff who have been notified of the need for their participation.
- We have hired 9 total camp staff (one Director, one Lead Counselor and 7 camp counselors) for this years' summer camp. All staff were trained during the month of May in preparation for the start of camp on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Reworked the Park budget with the Deputy Trustee and with the approval of the Trustee to ensure that the budget more accurately reflects the Parks' spending and projected spending moving forward. The reevaluation of the budget directly lines up with the goals for the 2014 year and will help us to continue to better project future fiscal year budgets. When reworking the budget, the total published budget was not exceeded and at this time, no Board approvals or motions are required – this is purely informational.
- Secured a Platinum Level Sponsorship for Summer Camp from IU Health West Hospital in the amount of \$750. This sponsorship will allow us to provide healthy breakfasts and two snacks a day to our campers, in addition to allowing us to purchase t-shirts for each registered camper. We are extremely grateful for this generous donation provided by IU Health West Hospital!

### Community Outreach

- The IU West Day of Service was held in the Park on May 30<sup>th</sup> and was a HUGE success! The final areas which received Park improvements are a Fitness Station (across from the SplashPad, a Butterfly garden at the "T" intersection of the Town of Avon trail, preparation of the volleyball court, cleaning and clearing of the Trails, and planting at the Pavilion Center. There were a total of 109 volunteers that came into the Park from 9am – 2pm to help us transform our Park into something bigger and even better than it was! We are extremely grateful for those volunteers, but the event could never have even happened if it wasn't for the dedication and large amounts of time that went into the planning and preparation of the project by our Park staff. There are not enough words to explain the magnitude of planning that went into the project and each of the Park staff worked to ensure this event would go off effortlessly on the day of the event. I cannot thank them enough for their follow through on this vision!

### Events

- We held the annual (second year) Family Learn to Fish workshop in the Park on May 17<sup>th</sup>. The event was very successful and was well received from the participants. Our Special Programs Coordinator attended a Captain's training workshop prior to the event to be able to facilitate the event on her own this year and in the years to come. With the help of a volunteer Captain, Trilby Berry-Tayman, the workshop was led for the first year without the need for a DNR

representative to be present. We will be hosting the event again next year and hope to host other learn to fish events on other days throughout the year.

- Continue to host Insanity classes at the Pavilion Center Tuesday nights at 6pm and have added PiYo classes which follow the Insanity class beginning at 6:45pm. This addition of a free activity helps us to provide the community with a less strenuous, but equally effective workout which helps us to achieve our goal of improving the health of our community!
- SplashPad opened on Saturday May 24<sup>th</sup> and the public have already been out to take advantage of this great, free, water feature! New hours are 11:30am-6:30pm.

## **Maintenance Update**

- Maintenance has been utilizing FacilityDude to begin tracking work orders. A detailed breakdown capturing time spent on various ongoing activities will be provided at future board meetings in the board packets.
- The large tree in Abner's Creek was removed by a contractor.
- They are currently rotating weekends again as our part-time weekend individual quit during the month of April and we have not found an adequate replacement for the position. We are going to look to hire based on the candidate pool we currently have the second week of June.
- Maintenance built a protective barrier around the metal doors which house the SplashPad pipes. This is to discourage little and big feet alike from walking across the metal on hot summer days.
- Steve McIntyre and I attended an IPRA Sponsored Lake and Pond Management Workshop wherein the topics of not just pond management were covered but also funding opportunities for eligible entities and stream bank restoration and protection were covered. Discussion about the state of our stream banks should become a priority based on observation, patterns developing after storms and the loss of trees we are seeing currently. This workshop helped to solidify the importance of ensuring we are not just doing "patch work" to fix our stream bank but restoring it to ensure it does not become a very large problem in the near future.

