

## Parks and Recreation Committee Report - October 22, 2007

Under a consolidation plan, the Zionsville Parks and Recreation board will become the consolidated parks and recreation board, representing all of Eagle, Union and Zionsville.

The composition of the board is defined by state statutes (IC 36-10-3-4) The statutes define the composition for both a town board and a city board.

For a town board, membership will consist of 4 members appointed by the town council. The members shall be appointed on the basis of their **interest and knowledge of parks and recreation**. Not more than 2 members of this board may be affiliated with the same political party and must be residents of the district or town.

In addition, the ordinance allows for 1 or 2 ex-officio members, those being:

- 1) a member:
  - a. of the same governing body of the school corp selected by that body (a **school board member**)
  - b. or a person designated by the governing body of the school corp
- 2) a member of the **governing body of the library** districted selected by the library

Terms are for 4 years for new appointments to an existing board and staggered appropriately for initial appointments to a new board.

We recommend that as current members rotate off the board, that future members be considered from Eagle and Union township if those person(s) are qualified.

Board shall appoint a superintendent of parks and recreation. There is a superintendent in place in Zionsville (Al Smith).

### Advisory Council/Special Committee:

The Statute allows for advisory or special committees. These committees typically include members who show interest in parks and recreation. This committee can be an opportunity to include representatives from eagle/union townships initially.

It is the recommendation of this subcommittee that the current Parks board for Union and Eagle be dissolved at the time the consolidation goes into effect. The existing assets of those respective township parks board would be assigned to the consolidated parks and recreation board, with the those funds considered for use within the geographic regions from which they were assigned from if opportunities are justified.

The parks board receives funding from the tax levy on the homes within the district of the parks board. The tax levy would include the entire consolidated region once the consolidation is finalized and implemented. In addition, the impact fees are currently in place for Zionsville. However, there may need to be a new study done pertaining to the impact fees, and there is also a lawsuit filed to change the current amount of impact fee's assessed to developers.

Current Parks board staffing includes a superintendent (Al Smith), along with another full time employee. The parks dept and street department share an FTE. Total parks staff is between 3-4 in total.

It is also the recommendation of our committee that the rights and responsibilities of the township trustee as it relates to the maintenance of cemeteries transfer to the park board upon the effective date of the consolidation.

As far as a future parks planning, the subcommittee recommends that the consolidated parks board follow the current parks and recreation master plan and assess the consolidated region as part of the transition plan.

The subcommittee does not anticipate additional costs resulting from the consolidation unless there are additional costs associated with the cemetery maintenance responsibilities.