



# Munster Lions Club

December 16, 2021

Re: Fee remission for Lions Club dinner meetings

Members of the board, Mark Heintz, director,  
Munster Town Hall  
1005 Ridge Road  
Munster, Indiana 46321

Although the Munster Lions Club has served the town of Munster and its citizens well since it was chartered in 1938, the one entity that has received the most support from the club has been Munster parks.

Dr. Lance Trusty, in his 2006 book, *Munster: A Centennial History*, noted that the Munster Lions Club was the town's "leading service group." He added "The Lions Club's greatest contribution to the town was Community Park. In 1948, the club created the Lions Civic Improvement Committee with the goal of establishing a park near the center of the town. The next year it purchased 14 acres of land, which it donated to the Munster Community Park Association. (There was no Park Board at that time.)

Over the next few years the club raised more than \$25,000 to build a Community Park Social Center. It was dedicated in 1957, the year of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the town's founding. The club continued raising funds to enlarge the park and build the its first ball fields and other amenities including the original Lion's Shelter.

In 1977 the Munster Community Park Association deeded the enlarged 33-acre park by then loaded with ball fields, tennis courts, the social center, and other amenities to the new Board of Parks and Recreation. In 1980, because the Social Center was too small to serve the Lions Club, which by then had more than 100 members, it paid for the expansion of the Social Center—adding the west wing. The club then had its twice-monthly meetings at the Center.

In the years since then, the Club has continued its support of Munster parks by providing funds for the Memorial Grove, the new Lions Shelter, and amenities at Centennial Park. Club members were surprised, but very pleased when the Park Department named the park's interior roadway Lions Club Drive.

After the Clubhouse at Centennial Park was completed, members of the town council encouraged the club to use the new park and so its meeting location was changed to Centennial Park.

During this time, the Munster Lions Club, through funds raised by its Pancake Breakfast and Steak Fries (now Steak and Chicken Grill) has supported dozens (if not hundreds) of local non-profit groups and projects including many groups at Munster High School and Boy Scout Troop 33 (now 533). It should be noted that none of the money that the club raises through its fund raising activities is used for club member benefits. Those expenses are paid for through the payment of dues. The Club also supported the Munster Pool Corporation, then independent, now a part of Community Park.

This year, with the unfortunate closing of the Centennial Park Clubhouse, the club, of course, can no longer use the that building and so it would like to return to the park and center that it established years ago.

With this letter, the Munster Lions Club requests that the normal rental fees be waived. As it did in the past, the club will have its meals catered. The club stands ready to continue to support Munster Parks as it has done so in the past.

Very truly yours,

George Shinkan, President