



MEMORANDUM

Council Agenda
Item No. IX.G.
1/12/2016

The City of OKLAHOMA CITY

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: James D. Couch, City Manager

Resolution designating Crystal Lake as a City Park, 6625 SW 15th Street. Ward 3.

Location 6625 SW 15th Street

Background

The City of Oklahoma City (City) owns certain property within and adjacent to the North Canadian River, a portion of which is known as the Oklahoma River. The Oklahoma City Riverfront Redevelopment Authority (OCRRA) is a public trust of which the City is sole beneficiary. The City owns Crystal Lake and leases it to OCRRA.

Crystal Lake features an approximately 57-acre lake on the site of a former sand mining plant that closed in the 1970s. Crystal Lake was obtained for park purposes but never improved to the standards of, nor dedicated as, a public park.

In 2010, OCRRA and the City entered into a Lease Agreement (Agreement) with City Care, Inc. to provide maintenance, operation, development, and programming of Crystal Lake. City Care's stated mission is to provide private and grant funds to maintain, operate, develop, and program Crystal Lake as a unique urban venue for mentored children's groups to enjoy outdoor activities and nature education programs while supporting related opportunities for public use.

Since 2010, City Care has made significant improvements to Crystal Lake and has managed it in a manner consistent with public park purposes. The current Agreement with City Care runs through November 7, 2020.

In June 2015, the MAPS 3 West River Trail, which links Lake Overholser to downtown Oklahoma City, was completed, and part of the trail runs along the north side of Crystal Lake.

Staff believes designating Crystal Lake as a City park would allow it to be more effectively integrated into the overall planning and development of the park system. It would also provide the potential for improvements to be funded through future General Obligation Park Bond initiatives and give police the ability to enforce certain park-specific statutes at Crystal Lake.

Legal counsel advised staff that a park designation would not affect the current City Care Agreement, which would remain in effect. On December 22, 2015 (Item No. V.F.), OCRRA recommended that Crystal Lake be designated as a City Park.

Review

Parks and Recreation Department

Recommendation: Resolution be adopted.

Attachment