



MEMORANDUM

Council Agenda
Item No. VIII.O.
8/2/2016

The City of OKLAHOMA CITY

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: James D. Couch, City Manager

Concurrence with the Oklahoma City Riverfront Redevelopment Authority in adopting Resolution designating River Park, 800 South Agnew Avenue, as an equestrian park; prohibiting all activities inconsistent with that designation; reserving River Park open space for future development and operation of equestrian amenities similar to those contained in the Equestrian Trails Conceptual Master Plan, as prepared by Triad Design Group and received by the Oklahoma City Riverfront Redevelopment Authority on September 15, 2015; directing the Oklahoma City Riverfront Redevelopment Authority General Manager to post appropriate signage identifying River Park as an equestrian facility, as provided for in Section 38-728 of the Oklahoma City Municipal Code (2010), as amended; and providing for an effective date of September 1, 2016. Ward 6.

Location 800 South Agnew Avenue

Background The City of Oklahoma City (City) owns, and OCRRA leases, certain property known as the North Canadian River Corridor Recreation Area (NCR CRA), a portion of which is known as the Oklahoma River. OCRRA is a public trust of which the City is sole beneficiary. A goal of OCRRA is to promote economic development, tourism, and recreation within the NCR CRA.

On September 15, 2015 (OCRRA Item No. V.C.), OCRRA received an Equestrian Trails Conceptual Plan prepared by Triad Design Group, the OCRRA on-call engineer. The Concept Plan was developed after numerous meetings with a stakeholder group representing the Stockyards District, the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Mounted Patrol, State Fair Park, and others within the local equestrian community. The project was initiated following input from local Chamber and tourism officials that equestrian trails along the Oklahoma River could help capitalize on the many horse-related events held within the Stockyards District and at State Fair Park and provide a desired recreational amenity for Oklahoma City residents and visitors.

The Concept Plan proposed the phased development of horse-riding trails (separate from the existing, paved trails) and related amenities along the south side of the Oklahoma River. On May 24, 2016 (OCRRA Item No. V.C.), OCRRA approved an initial phase of the equestrian trails and authorized staff to begin construction. The City Council concurred on June 14, 2016 (Council Item No. VIII.U.).

The City's Parks and Recreation Department will use existing General

Fund resources to establish an initial phase of the project, to include an earthen equestrian trail, hitching posts, trailhead, and signage between Agnew Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue, in and adjacent to River Park. Construction of the initial phase of the River Park equestrian trails and related amenities is scheduled to begin in September 2016.

Previously, River Park has been used for various athletic and recreational activities consistent with existing Ordinances and posted park uses. For a number of years, the Parks and Recreation Department has also issued permits at River Park to various organizations to conduct youth and adult athletic practices. The current practice field permits expire on August 31, 2016.

OCRRA trustees and project consultants have determined that programming of River Park for athletic practices and other activities is incompatible with the planned equestrian-park improvements. Parks and Recreation Department staff have worked with representatives of the groups that have used River Park for athletic practices and other purposes to identify suitable, alternate venues for their activities.

Under this Resolution, all portions of River Park not previously identified for use as equestrian trails and related amenities shall be designated as open equestrian space, and all activities inconsistent with the use and programming of River Park as an equestrian facility shall be prohibited.

OCRRA adopted the Resolution on July 19, 2016 (Item No. V.F.).

Review

Parks and Recreation Department

Recommendation: Concur with the Oklahoma City Riverfront Redevelopment Authority in adopting the Resolution.