



MEMORANDUM

Council Agenda
Item No. VII.AY.
12/20/2016

The City of OKLAHOMA CITY

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: James D. Couch, City Manager

Resolution designating the following dates as “Free Fishing Days” in Oklahoma City: January 7, 2017, February 4, 2017, March 4, 2017, April 1, 2017, May 6, 2017, June 3-4, 2017, July 1, 2017, August 5, 2017, September 2, 2017, October 7, 2017, November 4, 2017, and December 2, 2017; and providing that, during “Free Fishing Days,” applicable state fishing permits shall still be required, and all other fishing regulations shall remain in effect.

Background

The City of Oklahoma City (City) provides a variety of public fishing venues for residents and visitors. In 2016, the City offered one day each month in which City fishing permits would not be required at the City’s designated fishing sites, including all City reservoirs, the Close to Home fishing waters, the Oklahoma River, and the Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge. On October 3, 2016 (Item No. III), the Game and Fish Commission recommended that “Free Fishing Days” be continued in 2017.

The goals of “Free Fishing Days” are to introduce Oklahoma City residents and visitors to fishing and encourage them to partake of the City’s numerous fishing opportunities. “Free Fishing Days” would occur the first Saturday of each month and would include the weekend of June 3-4, 2017, in conjunction with “National Boating and Fishing Week.”

The Parks and Recreation Director is authorized, with City Council approval, to implement “Free Fishing Days” under Section 38-103 (b) of the Oklahoma City Municipal Code. During “Free Fishing Days,” applicable state fishing permits would still be required, and all other fishing regulations would remain in effect. Staff believe that any loss of permit revenue during “Free Fishing Days” would be negligible.

On October 25, 2016 (Item No. V.E.), the Oklahoma City Riverfront Redevelopment Authority recommended that “Free Fishing Days” be continued in 2017; the Park Commission did so on October 19, 2016 (Item No. V.); and the Oklahoma City Water Utilities Trust recommended the 2017 “Free Fishing Days” on November 8, 2016 (Item No. III.J.).

In December 2016, the Oklahoma City Zoological Trust (Zoo Trust) is scheduled to consider a Resolution wholly devolving the designation of “Free Fishing Days,” as applicable to Zoo Lake, to the Oklahoma City Council.

Previous Action Adopted a Resolution designating “Free Fishing Days” for 2016 on
October 27, 2015 (Item No. VII.BG.).

Review Parks and Recreation Department

Recommendation: Resolution be adopted.