



To: Chairman and Trustees  
Oklahoma City Riverfront Redevelopment Authority

From: Melinda McMillan-Miller, CPRP, Director  
Parks and Recreation Department

Subject: Parks and Recreation Department Director's Report—February 2024

- On December 18, 2023, staff met with representatives of the Riversport Foundation ("Riversport") and the Public Works Department to discuss removal of several old river racecourse lane markers. The lane markers were no longer functional and were replaced by Riversport. However, they remained anchored in place and, should they break free, could impact future dredging activities or damage the river dams. With the Eastern Basin drained, this is an ideal time for Riversport to remove the lane markers. On February 21, 2024, Riversport reported removing all but two of the old lane markers. Because of their position in the river, Riversport must wait until the basin is re-filled to remove the last two. Riversport expects to be able to do so by March 31, 2024.
- On December 23, 2023, Roger Skeen, with Lost Lakes, LLC, reported installing 952 feet of post-and-cable barrier at the Lost Lakes Outdoor Entertainment Complex, near Northeast 10<sup>th</sup> Street and Sunnyslane Road. The project, designed to control illegal vehicle access onto OCRRA property, used excess, City-owned cable. It was done under a letter of understanding between OCRRA and Lost Lakes. We thank Mr. Skeen for his assistance.
- On December 27, 2023, staff reinstalled post-and-cable on OCRRA property south of the Oklahoma River, near Southwest 8<sup>th</sup> Street and May Avenue. Vandals removed it to gain illegal vehicle access to the site, which has been a problem area for some time. Unfortunately, the repair was broken through shortly thereafter. To provide a more substantial barrier, Chairman Marrs authorized staff to install a pipe rail fence at the location. We recently identified a qualified vendor to perform the work. On February 20, 2024, staff met the vendor on site for a walk-through. Installation should start within the next few weeks and take approximately one week. A related item will appear on a future OCRRA claims docket.
- On December 29, 2023, staff heard from Mike Lorenz, with the "Riverfront Grand Prix" motorcross race. The event, which used OCRRA property, was conducted November 25-26, 2023, in partnership with Lost Lakes. It was held in Oklahoma City for the first time after being conducted in Arkansas the past 28 years. Mr. Lorenz felt the "Riverfront Grand Prix" was very successful, and he intends to bring it back to the Lost Lakes Outdoor Entertainment Complex November 30 - December 1, 2024. Mr. Lorenz said he would soon begin planning the 2024 race. Staff will work with him and Lost Lakes to facilitate event permitting and other requirements.
- From January 22–30, 2024, staff helped evaluate letters of interest from multiple engineering firms related to Project MC-0745, on-call engineering contract for OCRRA. The current contract expires in June 2024. Staff also participated in consultant interviews on February 20, 2024. Following the selection process, a related contract will appear on a future OCRRA agenda.

- On January 22, 2024, the trust attorney advised me that, due to a lack of positive response following numerous requests, outside counsel abandoned their attempts to secure an accommodation agreement from Exponent Energy related to their installation of a saltwater injection line on OCRRA property near Southwest 22<sup>nd</sup> Street and Walker Avenue.
- On January 30, 2024, staff began working with representatives of the Planning Department to verify property boundaries for placement of “No Trespassing” and “No Camping” signs at certain locations along the North Canadian River, west of MacArthur Avenue. The project is part of a joint effort with Clutch Consulting and the Police Department’s Homeless Outreach Team (“HOT”) to address illegal camping along the river. On February 13, 2024, staff attended a follow-up meeting with the consultant to verify the final sign-placement locations. Grounds Management installed the signs on February 21, 2024. The same day, HOT relocated individuals from the unauthorized campsites.
- On February 6, 2024, staff facilitated communication between Lost Lakes and the Oklahoma County Sheriff’s Training Facility, located on OCRRA property near “Prairie Park Lake.” Lost Lakes wished to obtain a County permit to use the facility’s driving course for a future motorcycle event. However, on February 20, 2024, the Sheriff’s Office informed staff that such use was not possible at this time. We notified Lost Lakes.
- On February 6, 2024, Phillips 66 sent staff a proposed easement related to an upcoming pipeline replacement project. It will cross OCRRA property at several points near Sooner Road, between Northeast 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and Northeast 36<sup>th</sup> Street. Since Summer 2023, staff from multiple departments have been in contact with Phillips 66 regarding this project. Parks staff reviewed the easement and have no concerns with the proposed pipeline alignment. However, several issues, including appropriate financial compensation to OCRRA, have yet to be finalized. Staff will continue discussions with Phillips 66 and provide updates as warranted. We anticipate that the final easement will be submitted to OCRRA for a recommendation before being docketed for City Council action.
- On February 7, 2024, staff were contacted by a resident interested in operating a push-pole boat concession on the Oklahoma River. Staff provided relevant background information and requested that, as a first step, the individual submit a detailed, written proposal. If we receive the proposal, we will update trustees.
- On February 13, 2024, Riversport notified staff that an emergency call box located along the North Oklahoma River Trail, near the Finish Line Tower, is not operational. We have reached out to the Police Department and to the Information Technology Department to identify the entity responsible for the device. Afterward, the appropriate party will determine if it can be repaired or should be removed.
- On February 15, 2024, staff met with a representative of the Fire Department to discuss logistics for multiple, one-day sessions of helicopter water-rescue training that will be conducted at “Prairie Park Lake” over the next three years. The training will be led by the Oklahoma Task Force One Urban Search and Rescue Team, in conjunction with the Oklahoma Army National Guard. A related item appears on this month’s OCRRA agenda.

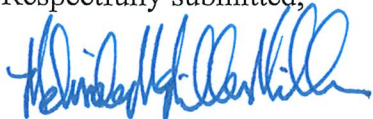
- Several Riversport whitewater center repair projects are underway or were completed recently. (See below.) The projects likely qualify for reimbursement under Riversport's management agreement. Qualifying reimbursements will be made using City contingency funds:
  1. Raft Conveyor System—Work cannot be finalized until certain parts are fabricated and shipped. The target date for shipment of the needed parts is March 15, 2024. Installation should be done by March 31, 2024. The project cost is approximately \$280,000.
  2. Mass Flow Filtration/Recirculation Pump—The pump is being refurbished in phases. The first phase is complete. But during the second phase, several problems have arisen. Since December 2023, the refurbished pump was installed twice. Both times, faulty materials or contractor missteps left the pump non-operational. (Riversport advised that they used the manufacturer's authorized repair facility.) Due to these factors, the latest re-build will be at no additional charge. That work should be completed in late March 2024. The target re-installation date is March 31, 2024. The project cost is approximately \$120,000.
  3. Mass Flow Pump Rehabilitation—This is an annual maintenance task. The sixth whitewater center mass flow pump was rehabbed by a vendor. Work was completed in late January 2024. The contractor will complete final inspection by February 29, 2024. At that point, the mass flow pump should be fully operational. The project cost is approximately \$37,500.
- Staff continue working with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation ("ODWC") to finalize a new memorandum of understanding ("MOU") to continue the Close to Home Fishing Program. Since my last report, the draft MOU has been revised repeatedly. On February 14, 2024, the final version was sent to ODWC for signing. Afterward, we will submit it for consideration by OCRRA, other applicable trusts and commissions, and the City Council.
- Recently, staff compiled a report on the value of third-party volunteer and partnership agreements for Calendar Year 2023. I wanted to highlight several groups that provided direct benefits to OCRRA:
  1. Riversport reported spending \$2,151,956 and providing 4,100 volunteer hours for landscape maintenance, programming, and improvements at multiple locations, including along the Oklahoma River. The total value of their contributions was estimated at \$2,262,164.
  2. The Oklahoma City Community Foundation reported spending \$38,000 and providing 45 volunteer hours for landscape maintenance and improvements along the Oklahoma River. The total value of their contributions was estimated at \$39,209.60.
  3. The Oklahoma City Public Works Department's "Waterway Clean Sweep" program reported spending \$16,464 and providing 612.5 volunteer hours for litter removal at various sites, including along the Oklahoma River. The total value of their contributions was estimated at \$32,928.
  4. Lost Lakes reported spending \$8,500 and providing 200 volunteer hours for maintenance and improvement of their OCRRA leasehold. The total value of their contributions was estimated at \$13,876.

We greatly appreciate all of their efforts and look forward to continuing the partnerships.

- On February 16, 2024, I received a request from the City's Police Department to conduct a joint City-federal operational readiness exercise at "Prairie Park Lake." The training is tentatively scheduled for July 9-11, 2024. It is separate from the water-rescue training to be conducted at the site by the City's Fire Department, as referenced in the last bullet point on Page 2 of this report. Staff will work with the Police Department to get a permit in place for their operational readiness exercise. We will also coordinate activities between the two user groups.

If you have questions, please call David Burch, OCRRA Trust Specialist, at (405) 297-2212 (office), or at (405) 823-0341 (cell), or email him at [david.burch@okc.gov](mailto:david.burch@okc.gov).

Respectfully submitted,



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Parks and Recreation Department