

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Melissa R. Marsh, City Manager

Date: June 20, 2023

RE: Interlocal Agreement for Park Operations and Park Renaming

The interlocal agreement between the City of Madison Heights and the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission (OCPRC) establishes terms for the future operation, maintenance, improvement, and management of real property dedicated to public recreation owned by the City, which will be incorporated within Red Oaks County Park. This interlocal agreement is the first “official” step in moving forward with the complete redevelopment of Ambassador Park and eliminating the City’s required Fifty-Thousand dollars (\$50,000) annual capital contribution for the George W. Suarez Friendship Woods maintenance.

With the execution of this agreement, OCPRC will:

1. Assume responsibility for Ambassador Park, a 7-acre public park located at 600 E Thirteen Mile Road.
2. Continue management of George W. Suarez Friendship Woods, located at 30330 Hales Road.
3. Transfer grounds maintenance responsibilities from OCPRC to the City of Madison Heights at the Youth Soccer Complex.

Approval of this legal agreement is a necessary step for the implementation of park improvement projects authorized and funded under the Healthy Communities Park and Outdoor Recreation Investment Plan approved by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners on October 20, 2022. A Letter of Intent between the parties regarding Ambassador Park was approved by the City Council and the Oakland County Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee in October 2022.

The agreement establishes a 20-year term with a transition period for implementation ending concurrently with the County's FY23 fiscal year. The pre-existing lease between the parties for the management and operation of the Friendship Woods property will be superseded to establish consistent provisions for both properties. The new terms release the City from cost-sharing responsibilities. The City and County also have a maintenance agreement for the Youth Soccer Complex where the City is responsible for the maintenance of the building and financial obligation for maintenance of the fields, including irrigation, mowing, and snow removal. However, Oakland County staff currently performs these services. This agreement releases the County from the obligation of providing these services while allowing the City to contract this with another contractor of their choosing.

Upon execution of the agreement by all parties, OCPRC will proceed with planning, public engagement, and the final design of park improvement projects funded under the Healthy Communities Plan. Preliminary plans include the development of an innovative play and activity area designed to create active interactions between multiple generations - especially children and seniors.

In addition, staff has been in conversations with OCPRC regarding the renaming of Ambassador. Given the processes Oakland County has in place for naming parks, they have suggested a park feature be named instead; however, this doesn’t seem to be the scale the Historical Committee originally intended when proposing Ambassador Park renaming therefore, after Mayor Pro Tem Bliss spoke to the family we are suggesting City Council

approve an amendment to the original naming motion and approve renaming 12 Sherry park McGillivray Park on July 17, 2023.

Staff and I request City Council consider approving two motions:

1. Approval of the Interlocal agreement with OCPRC allowing the following changes to take place at: Ambassador Park, George W. Suarez Friendship Woods and Nature Center, and the Red Oaks Youth Soccer Complex.
2. Amend Council motion CM-23-33 to rename Twelve-Sherry Park to McGillivray Park in honor of Gary McGillivray.