Common Council Report

**Agenda Item:** Discussion, Direction, and Possible Action Regarding the Transfer of Central Park to the School District of Milton

**Meeting Date:** September 21, 2021

**Presenter:** Al Hulick, City Administrator

**Department:** City Administration

**Conformance with Strategic Plan:**
- Affordability & Financial Stability
- Safe, Inclusive, Welcoming Community
- Diverse Opportunities for Fun and Life-Long Learning
- High Performing Organization with Professional Staff
- Environment for Business Success with Thoughtful Growth and Development

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**Summary**
The School District of Milton has inquired about the possibility of transferring Central Park from the City of Milton to the School District. The School District would assume operations, maintenance, and reconfiguration/reconstruction of portions of the Central Park Facilities in order to better serve their current and future athletic needs.

**Analysis and Key Issues**
The School District of Milton continues to work through its facility and athletic needs. Attached to this document is a letter stating the School District’s desire to have the land and facilities conveyed to MSD.

At this time, the School District is simply asking for feedback on the idea of conveying Central Park to become part of their facilities and grounds. The details of this transfer have yet to be determined, but would be worked out over the coming months if the Common Council was on board with the concept of conveyance.

An additional matter that still needs to be confirmed is the proper method of conveyance. Our Attorney is currently researching the method in which the park was created, designated, and/or dedicated. Although the particulars of these variables may alter the approach the City would need to take to convey the land, it would not alter the outcome if the City so chooses to move forward with the conveyance.

If conveyed, Central Park would still be open and available to the public for use and rentals, similar to the current operations of Schilberg Park.
The Parks and Recreation Commission will be reviewing this proposal at their September 20th meeting. Staff will be able to provide the Council an update as to their discussion and or recommendation at tonight’s meeting.

The Milton School Board discussed this matter at their September 13th meeting and provided positive feedback to staff to continue to pursue the conveyance of this property from the City to the School District.

**Fiscal Impact**
The City of Milton would see a positive fiscal impact if Central Park was conveyed to the Milton School District. Annually, the City of Milton expends approximately, $10,000 in supplies and utilities to operate the park and its facilities. Additionally, approximately 4 to 5 hours of staff time would be freed up from performing routine maintenance (mowing, pavilion and restroom cleaning, and general maintenance). Lastly, the City would no longer be responsible for long-term capital maintenance obligations for the Park including pavilion and parking lot upkeep.

**Recommendation**
The City Administration is in support of this transfer so long as an amicable agreement can be reached regarding the means and method of conveyance.

**Attachments**
- Milton School District Letter of Interest