

**Meeting Minutes: Central/Buchmiller/Sunnyside Parks
 Master Plans
 Study Committee Meeting #10**

Date: August 27, 2007
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Shuts Environmental Center - Central Park
By: Chuck Strodoski
Project No.: 06LAN-01

Persons Attending: James Hackett, Director, Lancaster County Parks and Recreation
 Mike Domin, Lancaster County Planning Commission
 Tim Draude, Muhlenberg Botanical Society
 Nevin Greiner, Lancaster County Conservation District
 Keith Harner, Assistant Lancaster County Engineer
 Ted Shaffer, YSM
 Ann Yost, YSM
 Chuck Strodoski, YSM

Purpose of the Meeting: To the proposed improvements to the landfill and park management.
Of Record:

1. C. Strodoski provided a brief summary of the proposed improvements to the landfill. The master plan proposes the majority of the landfill will be developed and maintained in natural area meadow with enhanced habitat area. The southern end is maintained as a special event area. Proposed improvement include meadow establishment and both hard and soft surface trails. A hard surface pad is developed as a stage for special events.
2. Keith Harner expressed concern that the land fill remains an unstable area. K. Harner notes that City View Drive constructed in 1985 settled 5-7 feet over the first 8 years. K. Harner believes there is no compaction or liner on the landfill and a thin soil layer was placed over top. The landfill contains a lot of metal, so many voids exist and metal and other objects will continue to migrate to the surface posing a safety concern. Proposed improvements should be completed with caution. Additional layers of soil should be provided as possible where improvements are proposed. Additional settlement should be anticipated. K. Harner does not recommend tree planting as the soils are shallow. YSM will contact the Lancaster Solid Waste Authority to further discuss issues regarding the landfill area. M. Domin suggested YSM contact Herb Flosdorf, a former executive director of the Lancaster Solid Waste Authority.
3. K. Harner was asked for comments on the road closures and realignment presented on the master plan. No concerns were raised.

4. Sewer and water facilities were discussed. Limited public sewer and water exist within the park. Sewer and water are available in the northern peninsula. On-lot systems are provided throughout the balance of the park. YSM will identify sewer and water needs proposed as part of the master plan and provide to K. Harner for review.
5. Ted Shaffer provided a handout regarding the management plan and led a discussion based on the outline. The discussions are highlighted below:

Facilities

- The Shuts Library building is undersized and inadequate to support staff.
- The environmental center is underutilized. The building contains a variety of exhibits without a common theme. Exhibits are not developed enough to engage the casual visitor. Upgrading the exhibits to the caliber needed seems inappropriate due to the necessary costs. The facility is highly desired for classroom space. Consideration should be given to reducing the indoor exhibit area and maximizing the building for classroom and education. Exhibit areas should be promoted outdoors, for drop-in, self-directed education.
- The maintenance area is crowded and expansion is warranted.
- The ranger station is in need of separate quarters, changing area for females, and a holding cell.

Marketing and Community Relations

- The County should look at the demographics and target its users. Look at what are the niches and focus on them.
- Volunteer and "Friends" group organizations should be harnessed to assist staff. York County Parks and Recreation Department and the Lancaster Concervancy were referenced as a great examples of organizations with strong volunteer groups. Friends groups could staff facilities such as a gift shop, if maintained. Liability insurance coverage for the volunteers must be address to be successful, as past volunteers stopped participating due to coverage requirements.
- A risk manager for the County is needed.
- There is no written policy for fees and charges for park use.

Maintenance

- The master plan will be evaluated based on geographic areas and individual area budgets will be developed to determine overall maintenance requirements for the park.
- Organization and documentation of the existing maintenance budget is necessary to project maintenance costs.
- N. Greiner questioned the use of 3rd party workers for maintenance such as lawn mowing. T. Shaffer recommends keeping it internal to promote ownership, maintain reliability and responsibility.
- Minimizing the lawn mowing areas throughout the park should be considered. Meadow and reforestation areas should be considered where appropriate. The County park naturalists do maintain meadows in the park with great success. T. Draude notes they estimate approximately \$2,000 to \$3,000 per acre to develop a mixed meadow. Reforestation is suggested at 150 trees per acre at \$10 per tree to reforest an area.

- T. Draude recommends the proposed natural areas be placed on a 15 year rotation between meadow (10 years) and grasslands (5 years).
6. A. Yost previously provided a handout (attached to these minutes) regarding acquisition. A. Yost requested the group review the handout prior to the next meeting and forward any comments on the criteria to her via e-mail anny@ysmla.com prior to the meeting.
 7. A. Yost concluded the meeting by outlining the next steps in the planning process. The next regularly scheduled study committee meeting will be held on Monday, September 17, 2007 at 7:00 pm.

Provide changes or corrections to these meeting minutes to C. Strodoski at YSM within one week of receipt.