

**Meeting Minutes: Central/Buchmiller/Sunnyside Parks
 Master Plans
 Public Meeting #2**

Date: June 25, 2007
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Kiwanis Pavilion #22 - Central Park
By: Ann Yost
Project No.: 06LAN-01

Persons Attending: James Hackett, Director, Lancaster County Parks and Recreation
 Ad Crable, Lancaster New Era
 Dave Martin, West Lampeter Township
 Mike Domin, Lancaster County Planning Commission
 Verna McCauley, Frequent Park User
 William R Geibel, Disc Golfer
 Al Peinhardt, Park Neighbor
 Bettie Peindardt, Park Neighbor
 Dennis Grimm, Park Neighbor
 Lori Gochnauer, Park Neighbor
 Jeff Hawkes, Intell Journal
 Doug Ritter, Park Neighbor
 Carol Ritter, Park Neighbor
 David Lenig, Park Neighbor
 Lere Prnigh, Park User and Employee
 Emily Cost, Environmentalist
 Tim Draude, Muhlenberg Botanical Society
 Ted Shaffer, YSM
 Emily Leckvarcik, YSM
 Chuck Strodoski, YSM
 Ann Yost, YSM

Purpose of the Meeting: To review and discuss the Pre-Final Master Plans for Central and Buchmiller Parks with the public.

Of Record:

1. J. Hackett opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, briefly describing the project and introducing the consultants.
2. A. Yost presented an overview of the work completed to date and the master planning process:

- Goal setting
 - Site analysis
 - Needs assessment and research
 - Conceptual alternative designs
 - Pre-final design
 - Final design
 - Cost analysis
 - Operations and maintenance analysis
3. A. Yost gave a brief introduction to the parks and the project goals were outlined:
- Develop a plan to meet the active and passive needs of County residents.
 - Enhance management and maintenance operations of the park.
 - Investigate ways to link the parks to each other and the community.
 - Chart a path to address future recreation needs balanced with conservation objectives.
4. A. Yost presented working vision statements for Central and Buchmiller Parks:
- Lancaster County Central Park is a natural oasis for outdoor leisure pursuits. Its diverse natural and recreation features create a unique destination that draws visitors to enjoy family orientated facilities and special events, environmental education programs, and scenic beauty.
 - Buchmiller Park is a destination for picnicking and informal recreation. Visitors enjoy the quiet setting and easy access to the Conestoga River and Greenway.
5. C. Strodoski presented the pre-final master plans for each park. Discussion of the master plan review included the following verbal comments as well as written comments on maps of the two park sites made available following the meeting for comments.

Central Park

- Concern regarding trails shown off of the park site on private lands in West Lampeter Township was raised. Trail extensions along Mill Creek and the Conestoga River are shown from a planning perspective to promote these linkages. Easements would be required from willing landowners to develop greenways and trails beyond the park sites.
- Vehicles' speeding on Golf Road is a problem. Turning onto City View Drive can be challenging and dangerous for pedestrians and drivers.
- There are blind spots on Golf Road where it is not safe for pedestrians to walk.
- The elimination of the basketball courts in Central Park is a concern. Once a connection is established to the Sunnyside neighborhood, the basketball courts would be used by Sunnyside residents.
- It was suggested that a professional disc golf course be considered for the landfill area. Buchmiller's disc golf course is design for beginners.

- The athletic fields off of Eshelman Mill Road are currently heavily used and it was questioned why they are being eliminated. The master plan suggests phasing out the athletic fields once they reach the end of their utility and as municipalities develop athletic fields and no longer need to use these County fields.
- A football field was suggested for the landfill area. Ongoing settlement associated with the landfill does not make athletic fields desirable there.
- Ball field number one is heavily used and creates traffic problems along Golf Road.
- Traffic calming measures are needed on Golf Road through the park site.
- A walking trail should be located along Golf Road through the park, not into the park through secluded areas.
- The boy scouts annual jamboree and other large outdoor events take place throughout the year on the lawn by the environmental center. There is concern for the continuation of those events once that lawn is eliminated.
- The Williamson entrance pillars should be maintained.
- The Willow Valley retirement community would use the park and walking trails if there was an established connection between the two properties. Explore connectors to Willow Valley Retirement Community.
- The ranger operations in the park should be analyzed to maximize personal safety in the park and stop illegal poaching during hunting season.
- Provide a comfort station for the campground area.
- The restrooms at the garden plots and ball fields are in the most demand and heavily used but in very bad condition. An improved restroom in this area is requested.
- There is an extensive existing network of trails throughout Central Park. These are not shown on the plans and it was questioned whether they would be closed off and eliminated. Adjust proposed trails on plans to utilize these routes before blazing new paths through the park and into woodland areas.
- Enhance the environmental center and offer more volunteer opportunities.
- Have a restroom in the park that is open to the public year round.
- Provide fence or barrier for the public from the cliff at Indian Rock.
- Keep the basketball courts open at the skatepark area for the city youth.
- Restore the pond at the environmental center.
- Keep the drive and turn around in the camping area at the environmental center.
- Remove duplicate trails and minimize pavement outside the environmental center.
- The outdoor classroom area and building is not wanted at the environmental center.
- Composting toilets were suggested for the comfort station at the campground.
- Show the solar display at the environmental center.
- Accessible restrooms are desired in the environmental center.
- Keep all trails within the park boundaries.
- The parks need more signage in general to attract public.
- Disc golf is not desired on the landfill.

- The landfill should be kept natural and event parking should not be located there.
- Establish a walking path along Golf Road from Media Heights to the maintenance building.
- It was questioned why the maintenance department needs more space in the park.
- An open view over the cliff at Indian Rock is not desired.
- A large theme-park playground is not wanted.
- Only native plants should be proposed and placed in the park.
- The hard-surface proposed trails raise concern for placing more impervious pavement in the park and in the Conestoga River's floodplain. Consider using material that is more pervious and lighter on the land.

Buchmiller Park

- Concern for trails shown off of the park site onto private lands was raised. Trails are for visioning and future discussion purposes only, eminent domain will not be employed to take lands for trail development.
- The feasibility of the Media Heights tunnel connection under 222 was questioned. Golf course and residents of this area must be brought into the discussion before any plans are made.
- Willow Street Pike (222) traffic is a very heavy and dangerous. Pulling out from Golf Road onto it is not an easy task and major concern. Many neighborhood residents attempting to make a left-hand turn onto the southbound lane of Willow Street Pike from Golf Road must first turn right onto the northbound lane of Willow Street Pike and turn left into Buchmiller Park (using the middle entrance) in order to turn around and then turn right onto Willow Street Pike to go south. A traffic light at the intersection of Golf Road and Willow Street Pike was suggested to resolve this problem.
- The need to close the central access drive into Buchmiller Park was questioned. It is well used now and gets more people into the park.
- There is concern regarding elimination of the tennis courts in Buchmiller Park. They are as heavily used as the ones in Central Park.
- There is concern for the new facilities in Buchmiller Park coming into conflict with the disc golf course.
- Locate the large pavilion proposed for the ball field area in Buchmiller on the River side of the existing pavilion and further away from the residents to the east. Night lighting of the pavilion or renovated ball field is not desired.
- If disc golf can not be established in Central Park, improvements to the course in Buchmiller Park are needed to advance it to a higher level of play.
- Open access to the River more to Buchmiller Park users.
- Rehabilitating the rail bridge over the Conestoga River is not preferred because it will attract too many people into the park.
- It was suggested to split the two basketball areas shown in the pre-final design between tennis and basketball, showing two tennis courts and two basketball courts instead.

6. A. Yost concluded the meeting by outlining the next steps in the planning process. The next meeting will be held with the study committee to review the comments received and present probable development costs and discuss development phasing. The next meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2007.

Provide changes or corrections to these meeting minutes to A. Yost (anny@ysmla.com) at YSM within one week of receipt.