

**Meeting Minutes: Central/Buchmiller/Sunnyside Parks
 Master Plans
 Study Committee Meeting #7**

Date: April 16, 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
 Ralph Goodno, Lancaster County Conservancy
 Dave Martin, West Lampeter Township
 Mike Domin, Lancaster County Planning Commission
 Nevin Greiner, Lancaster County Conservation District
 Tim Draude, Muhlenberg Botanical Society
 Courtney Barry, Resident
 Ad Crable, Lancaster New Era
 Chuck Strodoski, YSM
 Ann Yost, YSM

Purpose of the Meeting: To continue the review of the conceptual alternatives for Central and Buchmiller Parks and discuss the Pre-Final Plan.

Of Record:

1. A. Yost opened the meeting and facilitated discussion of the alternative plans. This meeting is a follow up to the last committee meeting where the alternative plans were presented. Discussion of the alternatives included the following:

Central Park

- Generally, the closure of the narrow portion of Rockford Road to vehicular traffic, adjacent to the river was favorably received. Closure of Williamson Road and General Hand Drive was seen as unnecessary. Relocating the Williamson Road at the intersection of South Duke Street, further uphill, away from the bridge, to align with the adjacent streets was suggested. This could reduce the vehicular pedestrian conflicts. YSM notes that park maintenance personnel strongly oppose closing roads that would require maintenance vehicles to use exterior public roads to access various parts of the park. The Pre-final should consider closure of Rockford Road to vehicular traffic, but maintain access for maintenance and emergency vehicles.

- The garden plots should be maintained in their current location. The size of the plots shown shall be reduced based on leases over recent years.
- The athletic fields, south of the skate park, were suggested to be abandoned on each alternative. Replacement of these fields was seen as unnecessary as the local municipalities are developing athletic fields for their residents. Central Park was viewed as a destination for natural, passive recreation.
- A safety concern regarding the location of a playground near the Indian Rock overlook was raised.
- Surrounding properties should be addressed in the master plan. Criteria should be established to access adjacent property's value to the park. This will give the County guidance if adjacent properties become available for sale. Acquisition, option agreements, or conservation easements should all be considered, as appropriate, based on the property. The peninsula, west of the park's southern peninsula, was suggested for the park. The land-locked parcel was suggested as it is adjacent to the park and would offer increased buffer to the park's edge. Access to the parcel for park use is problematic due to slope and the river crossing.
- A trail easement, northwest of the southern peninsula along Mill Creek, exists along the creek (N/F Lynch Property).
- The landfill opportunities were discussed. The landfill was considered compatible with a special event area. The idea of disc golf was not favorably received, due to maintenance and interference with other park users. A fenced dog park in the area was not favorably received, although, the area could be a designated dog friendly area within the park. The park permits dogs under owners control. Park staff notes very few complaints regarding this policy. A suggestion was made to use the funds from the Creswell landfill closure for reclamation of the Central Park landfill.
- The environmental education area should be dedicated to the natural landscape. Event areas shall be moved from the location. A small outdoor classroom and self directed exhibits shall be provided.
- The skate park was discussed. The addition of a street course should be considered. Accommodations for bikes and scooters should be made. The addition of skate elements along the entrance trail to the skate park was suggested.
- New ideas, not shown on the alternative plans include an indoor, zero depth pool, and rock climbing walls. Both could provide park revenue. Although good ideas, these items were not seen as the role of county government. West Lampeter is actively working with the YMCA to develop an indoor facility.
- The maps should show existing facilities to remain.
- The lawn area, adjacent to the river, north of the landfill should be modified to provide access to the river. Bio-engineering of the banks could stabilize and provide ADA access to the water's edge.

Buchmiller Park

- C. Strodoski briefly presented the alternatives for Buchmiller Park. Both alternatives maintain the existing disc golf course.
- Bocce was discussed. Bocce was not specifically requested, although is seen as a compliment to picnic opportunities. Quoits pits were also suggested.
- The proposed canoe launch will be a challenge due to ADA requirements.

- The trail system through the park may conflict with the disc golf course. The trail system should avoid conflict with the disc golf course.
- The connection between Central and Buchmiller Parks were discussed. Golf Road is the most direct, however, narrow and lined with mature vegetation, making it difficult for a separate pedestrian/bike lane. The alternative designs illustrate proposed connections in the woodlands north of the golf course. This connection requires an agreement with the golf course.
- Maintaining the softball field was favorably reviewed.
- Replacing the six tennis courts with four basketball courts was favorably reviewed.
- The addition of smaller pavilions was suggested, as most of the existing park pavilions accommodate 75 to 100 users. Smaller pavilions will cater to smaller groups.

General

- Lancaster City is actively planning the City's parks. A suggestion was made to have J. Hackett be involved in the planning process to coordinate city and county activities.
 - The parks are in need of additional sources of revenue generation. York County received 39,000 hours of volunteer work in their parks. This equates to roughly 20 full time employees.
2. A. Yost distributed minutes from the Park Staff meeting for review. Many of the comments from the staff were presented throughout the discussions above.
 3. A. Yost presented a revised draft of the Vision Statements for the parks. No discussion was had. Attendees were asked to review the handouts and provide comment at the next meeting.
 4. A. Yost concluded the meeting by outlining the next steps in the planning process. The next study committee meeting will be held on Monday, May 21, 2007 at 7:00 pm. The meeting will present a pre-final plan for each park. A public meeting to present the pre-final plan will be scheduled for June 2007.

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