

**Meeting Minutes: Central/Buchmiller/Sunnyside Parks
Master Plans
Study Committee Meeting #4**

Date: January 9, 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
Tim Draude, Muhlenberg Botanical Society
Michael Domain, Lancaster County Planning Commission
Ralph Goodno, Lancaster County Conservancy
Dave Martin, West Lampeter Township
Sam Slaymaker, Rockford Foundation
Jim Zahn, Lancaster City Police
Randy Moyer, West Lampeter Township
Dan Synoracki, Rettew Associates
Chuck Strodoski, YSM
Ann Yost, YSM

Purpose of the Meeting: To review planning findings of park research and analysis. The focus of the meeting was on the active features of the parks.

Of Record:

1. A. Yost provided a summary of the meeting with the Lancaster County Commissioners. The Commissioners were interested in maximizing the parks for the public benefit. Active facilities should be grouped with other active features, maintaining passive recreation opportunity. Linear connections and trail initiatives were stressed.
2. A. Yost and C. Strodoski led a discussion of the active facilities and use areas in the two parks which were described briefly on the meeting handout. The meeting discussion included the following points:
 - Sledding occurs south of Golf Road. No designated parking is available. Sledding areas with safe designated parking should be considered.
 - Cross county skiing at Reichert's Landing is common.
 - A setting for small festivals was suggested. The area should be intimate and flexible to accommodate a variety of special events, such as; bluegrass festival, nature area

festival, apple festival, harvest festival, etc. The area should include a small stage and open lawn. The area should not be developed to compete with Long's Park Amphitheater.

- Consider expansion of the hay wagon rides.
 - Camp site usage in Central Park is on the rise.
 - The County is experimenting with a carry in/carry out policy for trash. Is working in the area. Needs more awareness.
 - The skate park does not permit bicycles or scooters. The County Parks Department notes many requests for a bicycle facility similar to the skate park.
 - The tennis courts at one time were used by the local school districts. West Lampeter Township no longer uses the courts and Lancaster Catholic recently developed their own tennis courts.
 - Pickle ball was noted as an up and coming sport in the local schools.
 - The County Parks Department notes the disc golf course in Buchmiller Park hosted approximately 40 tournaments this past year.
 - The site analysis notes the unlighted ball fields have improper solar orientation. The County Parks Department notes no complaints from users regarding orientation.
 - The meadow area between Fields 1 and 2 contain rock outcroppings, limiting development potential.
 - Improvements to the existing park signage will be recommended to provide a hierarchy of signs to navigate the park.
 - The environmental center is regarded as a “magnet” in the park. A great service for the community and families – the best kept secret in Lancaster County.
 - The natural area surrounding the Rockford Plantation is an asset to the Rockford experience. Resist development of the surrounding area to preserve the experience.
 - Consider the integrity of the surrounding landscape. Provide linkages to the city.
 - The park designs should consider hubs of activities with themes for each area, to tie it all together.
 - The addition of swings at the ball field playground was suggested.
 - Proposed facilities should focus on unique items not found in surrounding community parks.
3. A. Yost led a discussion regarding the balance of active and passive opportunities within the park. Generally, the group believes the parks are well balanced. The active facilities in the parks are well used; however, no additional active facilities are desired. Buchmiller Park is currently more active, and should continue as the more active park, while Central Park shall remain more natural.
4. A. Yost led a discussion on developing a vision statement for the parks. Four sample vision statements were handed out to generate discussion. Suggested key words/phrases were provided by the committee for consideration as a vision statement is crafted for Central and Buchmiller Parks.
- Bring nature into the city

- Balance active and passive
 - Balance of facilities, environmental education, and programs.
 - Urban park – family oriented, excellent facilities, secure setting
 - Stress “family oriented”
 - Health and wellness theme
 - Central Park is similar to New York Central Park
5. The next step in the planning process is to develop alternative designs for the parks. The next study committee meeting will review the alternative designs. The next study committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 6th at 7:00 pm at the Environmental Center.

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