

**Meeting Minutes: Central/Buchmiller/Sunnyside Parks
 Master Plans
 Study Committee Meeting #3**

Date: November 7, 2006
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Shuts Environmental Center - Central Park
By: Ann Yost
Project No.: 06LAN-01

Persons Attending: James Hackett, Director, Lancaster County Parks and Recreation
 Tim Draude, Muhlenberg Botanical Society
 Sgt. Gary Metzger, Lancaster Police Department
 Nevin Greiner, Lancaster County Conservation District
 Michael Domain, Lancaster County Planning Commission
 Randy Moyer, West Lampeter Township
 Theodore Schaefer, YSM
 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 parks within a regional context and Central Park as a natural oasis.

Of Record:

1. C. Strodoski provided an update on ongoing planning activities. Additional key person interviews were completed with representatives of Lancaster Hiking Club, Kicks'n'Gliders cross-country ski club, Lancaster County Solid Waste Authority, and others. A summary of the Open House, held at the Dutch Knob Fall Pace was also provided.
2. A. Yost provided a handout that guided the discussion of the parks within their regional context. Research and interviews were undertaken to explore this topic. Discussion components included the following:
 - Lancaster County Regional Open Space Plan
 - Growing Together – A Comprehensive Plan for Central Lancaster County
 - Conestoga Greenways – A River Corridor Conservation Plan
 - Conestoga Trail – Conestoga Drive to South Duke Street Link
 - Interviews with West Lampeter Township Manager

- Interview with Lancaster County Planning Commission

The following documents the meeting discussion regarding the presented material.

- It was noted that the Media Heights Golf Course, adjacent property of Central Park, may already be protected as open space. YSM to check with West Lampeter Township.
- It will be important to extend the Conestoga Trail from the north side of South Duke Street, across the road at street level to Central Park. It was noted that trail connection under the South Duke Street bridge is unlikely due to steep banks and lack of stable shore line.
- West Lampeter Township has pursued access easement through private development to facilitate trail connections to Central Park. There is an easement from the Media Heights residential development which uses a paper street and extends along Mill Creek north to Lynch Architects office.

4. A. Yost reviewed the findings of the research and interviews that explored Central Park as a natural oasis. Discussion included the following:

- Central Park – Land Management Plan
- Environmental Center and Shuts Library – Vision and Mission Statement
- Lancaster County Environmental Center Task Force Report
- Environmental Center Executive Director interview.

The following documents the meeting discussion regarding the presented material.

- The barn is not utilized to its potential. It should be maximized as a teaching space and office area for naturalists.
- Keith Harner, County Engineer will be providing more information on how the two park sites are served with sewer and water.
- Consider converting the Exhibit Farm to a natural area. The field that is planted in corn should be naturalized and trails added to expand use of the area. T. Draude did note that additional trail on the Farm Exhibit peninsula could be located to be compatible with the Muhlenburg native plan and wildflower meadow. Another trail interior to the existing meadow trail was suggested.
- It was noted that flooding does impact the lower portion of the existing trail opposite the Kiwanis Natural Area every few years but that the majority of the trail in the Muhlenburg native plan and wildflower meadow does not flood.
- There is erosion occurring in the area of Ballfield No. 1.

5. A. Yost led a discussion of the passive activities and use areas in the two parks which were described briefly on the meeting handout. The meeting discussion included the following points:

- Rock Ford Plantation is a huge asset to the park which creates more exposure for the park. Rock Ford Plantation is its own entity and interviews should explore their concerns and ideas. Revolutionary War re-enactments occur on the site.
- The first floor of the Exhibit Farm house is available for rent and could be used for environmental education sessions. The farm house is not fully utilized and more rental use could be accommodated.

- It is believed that the landfill area is not lined but it is capped.
 - An arboretum could be added in the meadow of the Environmental Center. It should feature native plant material. The area could benefit from trees that will provide shade for picnic and special events.
 - Better trailhead markings and more trail blazes would improve the trail system. N. Greiner cautioned that equestrian trails typically cause erosion and suggested that no additional equestrian trails should be added to Central Park.
 - The idea of adding archery as an activity was discussed but safety, liability, and management concerns were cited as reasons to not provide an area for archery.
 - The idea of a bike/canoe loop system using the parks and extend along the Conestoga Trail was discussed.
 - The ideas of restoring wildlife habitat in the park, particularly pheasants was suggested. Placing the agriculture field in the CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) funded by the USDA and administered locally was discussed as a means of creating more natural habitat.
6. The next step in the planning process is to meet with the County Commissioners to get their input regarding the project. The next study committee meeting will focus on active park facilities and use area. There will not be a study committee meeting in December. The next study committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 9th at 7:00 pm at the Environmental Center. It should be noted that the meeting date has been changed to the second Tuesday for this meeting due to the holidays.

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