



**PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT,**  
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**MEETING SUMMARY NO. 2  
CORDATA PARK MASTER PLAN  
PUBLIC MEETINGS/STEERING COMMITTEE**

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DATE OF MTG.: April 10, 2008, 7:00 - 9:00PM  
DATE ISSUED: April 17, 2008  
MTG. LOCATION: 400 Meadow Brook Court, Birchwood Presbyterian Church, Chapel Room  
BY: Gina T. Gobo, P.E. - City of Bellingham Park Project Engineer

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**PRESENT:**

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|---|------------------------|
| 1. Gina T. Gobo, Parks Project Engineer           | 13. Fred Haskins       |
| 2. Leslie Bryson, Parks Design & Dev. Manager     | 14. Gloria Smith       |
| 3. Julie Guy, MNAC Neighborhood Rep               | 15. Jim Zander         |
| 4. Cheryl Stewart, Cordata Neighborhood           | 16. Judy VanWoudenberg |
| 5. Andy Mitton, Landscape Design Consultant       | 17. Keely Lewis        |
| 6. Jonathan Morely, Landscape Design Consultant   | 18. Kristine Duncan    |
| 7. Robin McKennon Thaler, Civil Design Consultant | 19. Linda Langey       |
| 8. Adrienne Lederer                               | 20. Mary Lu Breece     |
| 9. Beverly Jacobs                                 | 21. Michael Lilliquist |
| 10. Bob Sanders                                   | 22. Mickey McDiarmid   |
| 11. Chris Carlson                                 | 23. Pat Adams          |
| 12. Delphia Merta                                 | 24. Paul Lewis         |

**CC:**

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|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. Marvin Harris, Park Operation Mgr.   | 11. K. Elaine Kooistra        |
| 2. Ron Cowan, Bellingham Public Schools | 12. Lucy DeGrace              |
| 3. Chris Benner, Trillium Corporation   | 13. Nick Mele                 |
| 4. Bernie & Billie Prosser              | 14. Nicole Pridachuk          |
| 5. Carol Taylor                         | 15. Norbert Petsel            |
| 6. Cyndy Anderson                       | 16. Pamela Sorensen           |
| 7. Dorothy Smith                        | 17. Paul Sorensen             |
| 8. Doug Simpson                         | 18. Robert and Jeanne Sherwin |
| 9. Duane McEwen                         | 19. William Zersen            |
| 10. Jason Rosas                         |                               |

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This meeting summary is issued to serve as a general overview of the items discussed at the subject meeting. Any discrepancies should be brought to the attention of Gina T. Gobo, P.E. at 360-778-7000, [ggobo@cob.org](mailto:ggobo@cob.org).

If you would like to have your name removed from the steering committee/parties of interest list above, please contact Gina T. Gobo, P.E. at 360-778-7000 or via email at [ggobo@cob.org](mailto:ggobo@cob.org).

**Meeting summaries will be distributed electronically. If you wish to receive future issues, please send your email address to [ggobo@cob.org](mailto:ggobo@cob.org). Otherwise, you may request hard copies (for a small fee) at the Parks Office located at 3424 Meridian Street, Bellingham 98225, 360-778-7000.**

## I. GENERAL

- a. This meeting is the second meeting of a series of public meetings to obtain input on the design of the master plan of “Cordata Park”.
- b. Citizens that wish to be included in this public process/steering committee were instructed to provide their contact information on the sign-in sheet provided at the meeting.
- c. Gina Gobo provided brief introductions and a project update of ongoing work:
  - i. A surveyor will complete a topographic contour survey of the properties by April 30
  - ii. Meeting summaries will be distributed electronically. Hard copies can be obtained from the Park’s Office.
  - iii. Gina has contacted Meridian High School, Sterling Apartments, Boys and Girls Club, and the Birchwood Church regarding obtaining input from teens and parents. Copies of flyers were sent to all.
- d. Jonathan Morely, Andy Mitton and Robin McKennon Thaler presented a PowerPoint presentation that included information on the following.
  - i. Project Timeline and Public Input Opportunities
  - ii. Site Analysis, including area available for development, location of wetlands, streams and buffers
  - iii. Confirmation of Program Elements
  - iv. Establishment of Community Priorities
- e. Some highlights of the presentation include:
  - i. Active play uses
  - ii. Passive uses
  - iii. Existing environment topography and constraints
  - iv. Examples of shelters
  - v. Salvage on site soils for reuse and other sustainable design opportunities
  - vi. Park design may include electricity for events, benches, picnic tables, chairs, bike racks
  - vii. A scaled figure of a tennis court was used to demonstrate the overall scale of the site and the amount of space required for certain activities such as dog parks. Off leash dog parks are typically 2 – 3 acres and are located in community parks as opposed to neighborhood parks
- f. Participants were given blue stickers and were asked to place these stickers on the display boards provided by the consultants to indicate their favorite park elements.
- g. A copy of the presentation is available for view at:  
<http://www.cob.org/government/departments/parks/projects/cordata-area-park.aspx>
- h. From a quick head-count, approximately 24 people attended the meeting.

## II. PUBLIC INPUT

- a. Many comments and questions were stated by different citizens in the audience. See attached table.

## III. ACTION ITEMS/NEXT STEPS

- a. Public meetings will continue to be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month from 7-8:30pm at the Birchwood Church Chapel Room as follows: May 8, June 12, July 10, and August 14.
- b. The design consultants will bring an expanded site plan to the next meeting. The plan will show trail connections to surrounding elements and will include the north Bellingham Trail Map, Whatcom County property to the east, etc.

## IV. CORRECTION ITEMS

- a. Gina provided a correction from last month’s meeting summary as follows: According to the Bellingham Municipal Code, Park hours are from 6am to 10pm, not from dawn to dusk as stated in the meeting.

#	Public Comment/Questions	Response
1	What are the consultant's qualifications?	Jonathan and Andy provided information about their professional background including example projects
2	Why can't Park's staff complete this design work?	Leslie Bryson responded that Park's only has a limited number of staff working on many projects throughout the City. Consultant services are utilized so that projects can move forward in a timely manner without waiting multiple years for staff to become available.
3	How big are wetlands 'F' and 'G'?	Robin responded that the wetland is approximately 150 to 200 feet at their widest points
4	Does the time of year affect the size of the wetland and size of the stream buffers?	Gina responded that wetland delineations are usually completed during the wet season. The type and number of plants, soil type, and ecological function are indicators on the size of the wetland and associated buffer. The quality and function of the wetland and/or stream is the determining factory.
5	How do you determine the number of parking stalls required?	Leslie responded that recommendations are provided in the City of Bellingham Parks, Recreation and Open Space plan as well as recommendations from national park standards. Gina added that the number of stalls is not necessarily stated as stringently in the development codes as it is for commercial developments. It is based on use and is ultimately at the discretion of the Park Director.
6	Don't delay building the trail or the park if the Horton extension is not developed. A temporary trailhead and on-street parking could be constructed now.	
7	7.5 acre property to the east that is currently owned by Whatcom County will most likely be transferred to the City. Julie Guy confirmed that she had heard this news today from County staff.	
8	The City purchased 5 acres across the road from Cordata Park. Even though the properties in between are not yet owned, we should show trail connections to this property.	
9	This looks like an environmental park. If so, how will Western Washington University or other local schools get involved?	Jonathan responded that WWU could be involved.
10	We should prioritize uses at the Park that will serve the greatest population.	
11	We should maintain open spaces as natural spaces for kids.	

#	Public Comment/Questions	Response
12	Kids like natural spaces verses artificial play structures	
13	Consider creative play for older kids too	
14	Consider neighborhood demographics, both existing and future.	
15	Many kids seem to be moving in to the neighborhood	
16	Dog owners are looking for dog play areas. We should designate specific areas to minimize waste issues.	
17	We need an off leash dog area	
18	Many play structures already exist in surrounding neighborhoods and at Whatcom Community College. More will be located at the new school when it is built.	
19	Consider "rope play" and raised boardwalks similar to Capilano. Appeal to older kids	
20	Bike racks are important	
21	Kids like bridges	
22	Road bikes use Aldrich as a through route	
23	Bike trails are sometimes disruptive	
24	Most local mountain bike trails are located in South Bellingham	
25	Whatcom County property functions as a regional stormwater facility. This area may be better suited for passive uses	
26	Can there be a connection to Whatcom Community College?	The North Bellingham Trails map will be incorporated into the master plan.
27	Show easements for both proposed and existing trails on a map	
28	Walking access verses automobile access is important	