Comments in red indicate results of discussions at Public Meeting #1.

Notes and Comments from the Meeting Recorded By RWDJAZ.

1. PARK CHARACTER

   Group seemed to reach consensus on the Character as follows:
   a. Maintaining openness is the defining goal. Public Agreed
   b. Acquiring the central wetland (not part of the property) a priority! Jewel of the Park. Public Agreed
      Update: City is acquiring the wetland.
   c. Develop the park in a manner which maintains the rolling, meadow character. Public Agreed
   d. Maintain open views – do not plant a forest. Public Agreed – agreed to take concerns to the City if forested wetland buffers are required.
   e. Keep open lines of sight to discourage unwanted camping. Public Agreed
   f. Develop property edges in a way which maintains the open character but screens adjacent uses.
   g. Wetlands are important, but kids and park users are too! Find the balance! Let’s not make this a wetland park. Public Agreed –
   h. Create a unique set of elements that sets the park apart from other city parks–create a destination.

2. MISCELLANEOUS PARK DISCUSSION

   a. Forested wetlands to the east and conservation easement to the north will help buffer the park.
   b. More development than just a natural wetland park character – growing demographic in the area.
   c. Create a name change to remove confusion over Cordata Neighborhood Park.
      a. Name change can only go through the City Council.
   d. Lighting – low trail lights, make all lighting visually unobtrusive. Public Agreed – no tall lighting.
   e. Keep parking near the entrances so lights will blend with adjacent development, easier to police.
   f. Develop a younger constituency. Most public meeting attendees over 55, may not reflect the overall community user demographic. Get the kids involved during the public meetings.
   g. Find out what the younger users want – school age, college students from WCC. Public Meeting had advocates for youth, discussed youth opportunities, discussed having a youth-oriented area with multiple, clustered elements.
   h. Park will be used by WCC students as well as neighborhood and community residents.
   i. Bike racks are important.

j. PARK PROGRAM ELEMENTS DISCUSSION

   Group seemed to reach consensus on the park development items as follows:

   a. Trails
      • Make the park walkable for all ages. Public Agreed
      • Provide multi-modal access, especially pedestrian and bicycle. Public Agreed
      • Loop trails with internal connectors are important to provide variety of experiences.
      • Trails should be accessible – may provide mix of hard surface and aggregate – area has a large number of wheelchair users and users with walkers due to adjacent medical facilities and also high percentage of over 55 area residents. Public Agreed
City of Bellingham  
Parks & Recreation  
Cordata Community Park – Steering Committee Meeting #1  
1730 - 1930 [local time]  
05/18/16

- Trails should connect with trails and walks from Cordata area developments. **Public Agreed**
- Provide diverse trail experiences. **Public Agreed**
- Use COB wayfinding signage to link neighborhood and community destinations to Cordata Community Park.
- Distance markers wanted. **Public Agreed**

b. Dog Off-Leash Area
- DOLA could be good use if adequate space is provided – do not make it too small.  
- DOLA will bring more people in to the park. **Concerned about size.**
- Is a DOLA a priority for this park? Committee opinion was mixed. Community vs.
  Neighborhood users may differ. **Public opinion was mixed.**
- May consider DOLA moving to another location if development restrictions limit size.
- Don’t limit the size and locations of other public use areas just to have a DOLA. **Public Agreed.**
- Look at moving DOLA to Cordata Neighborhood Park? Better fit due to more space?
  o Cordata Neighborhood Park feels too isolated; the problem will probably go away once Horton is constructed. **Public Divided on DOLA, consider moving it to the Cordata Neighborhood Park as an alternative.**
  - The south end of the site may not be suitable for a DOLA due to adjacent property being zoned single-family residential – **avoid potential conflict.** **Public Agreed – located at north end.**

c. Playground / Play Areas
- Consider play area which does not physically separate age groups. **Public Agreed**
- Be sure to consider many parents have more than one child – design to allow them to easily monitor them. **Locate adult exercise area / Parkour adjacent, allows observation and also opportunity to have parents include children in the Parkour area.**
- Unique elements that set the playground apart from other playgrounds: consider musical elements, natural play elements, etc. **Public Agreed on concept, but detail design will wait until later in the design process.**

d. Miscellaneous Park Program Elements
- Provide inclement weather shelters along the trails to provide temporary shelter. **Public Agreed**
- Consider a skate dot, but keep it for small kids – not a skate park. **Public Agreed**
- Disc Golf – is it suitable for this park? Space, wear and tear on turf / ground area. Not discussed, but will be on the Agenda for Public Meeting #2.
- Gazebo at north end: music, activity, gathering spot. north end car access limited function intersection. **Public Agreed – gazebo that functions as stage with open grass, "amphitheater", music/movies in the park.**
- Spray park or splash pad? **Public Agreed – small one, but parking a concern.**
- Adult exercise area? Concentrated or spread out along a trail? What would it look like? No one had a strong opinion either way. **Public Agreed – locate adjacent to playground so parents can work out and watch kids.**
- Committee thinks were are on track.
- Integrated/functional art desired
• Possibly a pump track? Bike Trick Track? Public Agreed – make it par of the teen/kids active area.

e. Art
• Integrate art into the park.
  o Barriers, signage, gates, etc.
  o Natural art elements that meet the natural, pastoral character.

f. Sportsfields and Sportcourt
• Design sportsfields for unregulated casual play – no built facilities: fences, lighting, backstops, etc. Public Agreed
• Integrate space for sports into the natural character of the open play spaces.
• Hard surface sportcourt is a good idea, ½ basketball court, or court large enough to take pressure off neighborhood courts.
• Pickleball OK Public Agreed – vocal supporters showed up, requested 15 dedicated courts, not shared with tennis.
• Sport court could create conflicts because of unintended uses. Public agreed that multipurpose sportcourt would be a good idea.
  o Unintended uses may be good as well.
• Color surfacing on sportcourt.
• Lighting on sportcourt needs discussion. Public wants no tall lights such as sportslighting. Lighting with shorter poles such as parking lot fixtures could be okay.

g. Park Pavilion
• Good idea.
• Create a small community building – 50-60 people size, single room for rental, kitchen, and restrooms. Public Agreed
• Integrate building into the character of the site. Public Agreed
• Steve Crooks said naming park pavilion does not follow same policy as naming a park; would like to name the pavilion after Julie Guy.

h. Sportsfields and Sportcourt
• Design sportsfields only for casual play or practice – no built facilities: fences, lighting, backstops, etc. Public Agreed
• Integrate space for sports into the natural character of the open play spaces. Public Agreed
Cordata Community Park
Project Schedule

• Present developed preferred concept plan
  Public Meeting #2 (October 2016)

• Present final park master plan
  Public Meeting #3 (December 2016)

• Parks/Rec Advisory Board approval
  February 2017

• City Council adoption February 2017
Cordata Community
Park Master Plan

City of Bellingham Parks
and Recreation

Preferred Conceptual
Master Plan

Legend

- Rolling, rough lawn play areas mowed less frequently
- Mowed lawn for active play. Higher quality lawn than rolling, casual play areas.
- Mowed Lawn with Picnic Tables and benches

Note

Central Wetland: Potential enhancement stormwater capacity. Start discussing what that means.