

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Items G-1 and G-2 are related
April 12, 2022
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago

Vice Mayor Michael Mena

Commissioner Rhonda Anderson

Commissioner Jorge Fors

Commissioner Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias

City Attorney, Miriam Ramos

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Assistant City Attorney, Stephanie Throckmorton

Parks and Recreation Director, Fred Couceyro

Public Works Director, Hermes Diaz

Assistant Public Works Director, Deena Bell-Llewellyn

Planning and Zoning Director, Ramon Trias

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Items G-1 and G-2 are related [3:39 p.m.]

A Resolution of the City Commission providing direction to the City Manager on changes to Salvadore Park to allow for a dedicated area for dogs.

(Sponsored by Commissioner Anderson)

(Sponsored by Commissioner Menendez)

A Resolution of the City Commission providing direction to the City Manager regarding dogs at Catalonia Park.

(Sponsored by Commissioner Anderson)

Mayor Lago: We had a 3 o'clock time certain for G-1, G-2. Yes, let's do G-1, G-2.

Commissioner Anderson: Are we ready?

City Attorney Ramos: G-1 is a resolution of the City Commission providing direction to the City Manager on changes to Salvadore Park to allow for a dedicated area for dogs.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: That's the extent of the resolution at this moment. We're looking for direction from the Commission. And City staff and Mr. Couceyro are here to present.

Commissioner Anderson: I have a preliminary question. How many tennis courts are at Salvadore Park?

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: Salvadore alone? It's 20 -- it's 13, sorry. I was combining both.

Commissioner Anderson: Thirteen, yeah.

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: Yeah.

Commissioner Anderson: Okay. I was just looking at the reservation system and I only saw -- there was fewer. There was eight, right?

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: Eight -- we -- because there's some that are for programming. The ones that are for reservation, the ones that are open for the social play.

Commissioner Anderson: Okay, alright. Now I understand.

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: Alright.

Commissioner Anderson: I haven't reserved tennis courts there so...

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: Yeah, okay, great. So, as we had discussed in previous Commission meetings, there is a need for off-leash dedicated dog parks in the City. We've had the discussion. The lack of those dog parks and areas lead to certain situations, one that we witnessed this morning. There was a discussion regarding Catalonia Park and the use of a neighborhood park for an off-leash dog activity. One of the things that we were given at the last Commission meeting is a directive that was through Commissioner Anderson's item is to look at a possibility of an area at Salvadore Park to look as a dedicated off-leash dog area. We were given direction to look at a concept and an estimate, with the understanding it was only two weeks, so it was going to be a rough estimate and a rough concept. We took into account all the suggestions that were given to us on the dais, and also, further suggestions that were given by Commissioner Anderson on certain improvements to come up with the final design. So, I'd like to bring up -- well, I didn't have to bring her up, she's here, Deena Bell-Llewellyn from Greenspace Management. Also, Hermes Diaz, and they're going to go over the design and then the estimate. And we can answer any questions after that.

Assistant Public Works Director Bell-Llewellyn: Thank you, Fred. Mr. Clerk, do you have the plan to bring up? There we go. Okay, so I will walk you through just a quick -- just programmatic concept we put together. We -- this is the current site that you're looking at. The area for the proposed dog park would be the lower right-hand corner. You can go to the next slide. Here are existing photos of the site showing the tennis court at Salvadore Park on the southeast corner of the site and the swale on the south side of the park, which is the area in question. Here are two

enlargements. You're going to find on the left proposed parallel parking, a possibility for that on the western side, and a proposed dog run area on the southeast corner. Next slide.

Vice Mayor Mena: There's no parking on that corridor now on that whole southern side?

Assistant Public Works Director Bell-Llewellyn: Right now, the parking is in the swale, and there's an existing asphalt parking lot just on the east side of the tennis courts, which would remain. So, we just thought there's a possibility to put some parallel parking along Valencia in the swale positioned this way. There's space there for eight or nine spaces in between existing light poles and trees. We have a lot of existing black olive trees that are in the area, and that's what the green symbols are with the black dots. Okay, next slide. And the dog park area, this is just very conceptual, just to block out the possibility of where it could fit. The light green color is the interior of the dog park, which still needs to be developed. That's just a concept showing the size, which is more or less 200 feet by 40 feet average. There is an existing sidewalk -- which you see the red dashed line -- that would need to be removed. And a new sidewalk would be relocated out to the swale. It would meander around the existing large black olive trees which are shown with the black dots. The curvy shape would fit around the big root systems that are there. And the pink sidewalk here is the new area. It's shown about five feet wide, but there's room to widen it and make it wider and narrower in areas, you know, around the roots. And this dog park will be fenced with a five-foot-tall fence, chain link or it could be upgraded to the aluminum picket, which would be more decorative. So, with that, that's the basic idea. All the storm drains would remain and -- no? No storm drains will remain? We'll talk about that.

Public Works Director Diaz: I'll take that.

Assistant Public Works Director Bell-Llewellyn: But you'll see the existing storm drains shown here, which might need some reconfiguration. And this design does not need a curb and road infrastructure. It's working with the existing road edge.

Public Works Director Diaz: So, we did some very (INAUDIBLE) estimates for this. Originally, there was a discussion about putting the sidewalk next to the road with a curb. There's a significant root system on that area. So, we felt that this was a viable alternative. We also included permeable concrete. That was the idea by the Commissioner Anderson on the parallel on-street parking. The basic park -- we have another magnitude of about \$275,000. And by basic, I mean, chain link fence. The drainage has to be redone. That area apparently gets really muddy. There's a recurring issue when it rains, apparently during the bigger events, that some of the clay washes off the courts and ends up in that area. We need to remove the drains from the middle of the area away from the dogs running and hide them somehow, which means that entire area will need to be regraded from the way that it's going right now. Obviously, there's a little uncertainty right now about prices, so we've included about a 20 percent contingency into that. That will include a survey. We need an updated survey, design, and the price goes up from there depending on what other features you may want, from a chain link fence to a slightly nicer picket with some...

City Manager Iglesias: Well, I think that from a zoning perspective, we cannot go with chain link fence.

Commissioner Anderson: Well, here's my...

City Manager Iglesias: We need to go with aluminum fence.

Commissioner Anderson: Suggestion because, you know, you have children walking along sidewalks. You don't want them sticking their hands through the typical aluminum high grade fence. Why don't we use some plants to, you know, buffer the chain link fence? Or you have chain link fence on the tennis courts itself...

City Manager Iglesias: Tennis courts are for -- are a different kind of zoning. On the perimeter, if you look at the park, Commissioner...

Commissioner Anderson: I understand.

City Manager Iglesias: We use aluminum so we could have -- I think we should probably, from a zoning perspective, have the aluminum picket fence, and we can put -- certainly, we can put landscaping.

Vice Mayor Mena: How much more is an aluminum fence?

City Manager Iglesias: It's much more expensive.

Public Works Director Diaz: It's much more expensive.

Commissioner Anderson: It's much more. I mean...

Public Works Director Diaz: It could be another 30, 50 grand more.

Commissioner Anderson: I think...

Public Works Director Diaz: It depends on...

Commissioner Anderson: You know, and we haven't talked...

Public Works Director Diaz: Bells and whistles.

Commissioner Anderson: To the neighbors yet, you know. And I like to go with conceptual drawings at least. If it doesn't make any difference to them because they're looking at a chain link fence, right now with a screen on it, some holes in it from the tennis courts, is it our best value for our residents who just really need a dog run to allow these dogs to get out of these other pocket parks and make it safer for children? I do think there's landscaping that can work along the fence that would basically hide it. You wouldn't even see it, and it would prevent children from, you know, sticking their hands through the fences and...

City Manager Iglesias: The problem, Commissioner...

Commissioner Anderson: Doing something so quick.

City Manager Iglesias: The problem, Commissioner, is that argument can be used by anyone to go with chain link fence. That's the problem, and we don't really allow it. So, I...

Commissioner Anderson: From a park? From a park that already has chain link?

City Manager Iglesias: From a park -- well, that is chain link fence for tennis courts and not when we did the actual park. That does have aluminum pickets.

Commissioner Anderson: Okay. And does the aluminum pickets allow dog balls to go through?

City Manager Iglesias: Well, I think we can have a smaller aluminum picket. We can have a four-inch picket that doesn't allow kids to get through. And I'm sure that you could stick your hand through a chain link fence just as you can through...

Vice Mayor Mena: What do dog parks typically use, like quality dog parks?

Public Works Director Diaz: I think this hybrid is like a picket fence with a mesh.

Vice Mayor Mena: Right.

Public Works Director Diaz: I think that's what was used.

Vice Mayor Mena: What did we have in the concept for the other park? I have it right in front of me.

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: Yeah. In the concept one, yeah, that's more of a screening that we can look at. That was in the one that's in the concept underneath (INAUDIBLE) so you can look at that as well. And in terms of what a standard is, it -- I mean, they're used -- I mean, chain links are used in other cities and it's commonplace as a barrier. But understanding they don't have the same zoning.

Commissioner Anderson: So, you have black-coated chain link fence. You have green-coated chain link fence. I mean, there's...

Unidentified Speaker: There's color.

Commissioner Anderson: Not all chain link fence is the same.

Mayor Lago: But we're not using chain link fence here, are we?

Vice Mayor Mena: I don't think we -- I agree.

Commissioner Anderson: Well, no, no, no. Listen...

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: That's the discussion.

Commissioner Anderson: No, no. I'm saying, you know, you can put plants in front of it.

Mayor Lago: But I mean, listen...

Commissioner Anderson: You won't even see it.

Mayor Lago: Listen...

Vice Mayor Mena: I think they do it with nice plants.

Mayor Lago: I think we do something nice...

Commissioner Anderson: Well, here's the problem. How many years is this going to take?

Vice Mayor Mena: I don't think it -- one fence takes longer than the other, does it?

Mayor Lago: I can get it done pretty soon.

Commissioner Menendez: What's the difference in time?

Vice Mayor Mena: Does one fence take longer than the other?

Commissioner Menendez: What's the difference?

Public Works Director Diaz: It's just money.

Vice Mayor Mena: Right.

Commissioner Anderson: It's just money.

Mayor Lago: And I think that we have to -- no but...

Commissioner Menendez: In the public eye, never say it's just money. It just doesn't -- like it's not...

Public Works Director Diaz: What I meant to say, it's not a timing issue, it's a money issue.

Vice Mayor Mena: No, money is a factor, of course, but we have to uphold a certain standard.

Mayor Lago: Of course.

Public Works Director Diaz: Absolutely.

Mayor Lago: And by the way, that standard was upheld for me by Mr. Trias.

Planning and Zoning Director Trias: Yes.

Mayor Lago: Who made me get a wall...

Planning and Zoning Director Trias: I did.

Mayor Lago: Have a wall on the side yard instead of a fence.

Planning and Zoning Director Trias: I did.

Mayor Lago: There he is.

Planning and Zoning Director Trias: And that's what I would recommend because the neighbors are not allowed to do chain link, so it would be...

Commissioner Anderson: Alright.

Planning and Zoning Director Trias: Inappropriate I think for...

Commissioner Anderson: So, do we have to...

Planning and Zoning Director Trias: A park to do it.

Commissioner Anderson: Put those block walls in there? I mean, it's just a dog park.

Vice Mayor Mena: Block walls?

Planning and Zoning Director Trias: We could work...

Commissioner Anderson: Well, if you look at Catalonia Park, they have the pillars.

Planning and Zoning Director Trias: Yeah, the...

Commissioner Anderson: Do we have to have pillars there?

Planning and Zoning Director Trias: There's some -- the Board of Architects would have to review, yes.

Commissioner Anderson: I think (INAUDIBLE).

Commissioner Menendez: So, what's the timeline? Once we agree, what's the timeline?

Public Works Director Diaz: Well, we need to find the budget for this, which right now, we don't have it. But if we have -- you know, we could use one of our...

Mayor Lago: Hold on, wait, wait. Let me just ask you a quick question.

Public Works Director Diaz: Sure.

Mayor Lago: Okay, let's take a step back. Commissioner Mena's retooling of my legislation to get 35 percent of impact fees, is there any money right now in the budget on that line item?

Public Works Director Diaz: I don't have an answer to that.

Commissioner Menendez: Where's Diana?

Mayor Lago: Commissioner Mena -- (INAUDIBLE) Vice Mayor Mena.

Commissioner Anderson: Well, at the time that he did it, it was Commissioner so...

Commissioner Menendez: Where's Diana?

City Manager Iglesias: Unencumbered, there's -- I have...

Mayor Lago: How much?

City Manager Iglesias: I don't remember, Mayor, how much we have unencumbered, but it's not a lot. But it's...

Mayor Lago: Okay, but I mean, 30,000, 40,000? It's got to be something, okay. It's got to be something. We have the money in that line item. And the reason of that legislation is to retool existing parks. Sixty-five percent is for acquisition, 35 percent is for retooling of existing parks. We have money in that line item there. Why don't we use that money -- why don't we use a portion of that money, whatever's required for the fence -- and we can start working on this project now.

Commissioner Anderson: Alright.

Mayor Lago: Now, can we go back to the slide that you had up there?

Public Works Director Diaz: Sure.

City Manager Iglesias: This is a project, Mayor, that we could use impact fees on because this is not -- this is an enhancement.

Mayor Lago: Yes.

City Manager Iglesias: This is not maintenance. It's an enhancement.

Mayor Lago: Okay. I'm going to -- I don't want to -- this is Commissioner Anderson's project and the Vice Mayor's project because they're the ones that have been pushing dog parks for years now. I'm just going to add my input based on design and what I think will be a lot more aesthetically

pleasing. I want to maximize as much size of that park. Is that the walkway that's kind of snaking through in between the two different colors of green?

Public Works Director Diaz: Yes, the red dashed line is the existing sidewalk, so the gray is the proposed sidewalk.

Commissioner Anderson: Right. I...

Mayor Lago: I really think that that should be straight sidewalk all the way to the corner, you curb it, and you put the sidewalk just like you have on San Amaro, all the way across, getting all that green space added to the actual space. That's what I think, and that's what I said before, and I think that's what the Commission agreed upon to have as much green space available because you're going to have a lot of dogs, and there's going to be a lot of people in this facility. There's going to -- the dogs are going to be -- want to -- to want to be more in the shade so try to get them under the trees. And I think that is a good opportunity to not have that, you know, that meandering sidewalk, while pretty, I think it's much nicer and more user-friendly if it just goes straight down to the street, makes a direct right, runs parallel with the street, and then comes back up left.

Public Works Director Diaz: So...

Commissioner Anderson: I agree with you. I didn't view this ahead of time.

Mayor Lago: It's okay.

Commissioner Anderson: And when I went by there on Sun -- you know, over the weekend, Sunday, I think it was, a lot of parking on the west end of the park, even double parked.

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: We can...

Commissioner Anderson: But on the east end of the park, the other thing that was parked there were two City vehicles on the other side of the driveway. And I didn't take a tape measure with me, but visually, it appeared that there was room for both the sidewalk and some parallel parking spaces along the road. Correct me if I'm wrong. You guys have the measuring tape. But when I measured from the tennis courts itself all the way to the existing sidewalk at the wide point, it was 40 feet there. And we're showing 28.6. Is there something in between the tennis courts that I don't see? I know there's a hedge, but I didn't count the hedge. I counted from the fence of the tennis courts all the way over.

Assistant Public Works Director Bell-Llewellyn: What this design does, it keeps the fence right inside the property line, so it doesn't go into the right-of-way.

Mayor Lago: I would go into the right-of-way.

Assistant Public Works Director Bell-Llewellyn: Right. That's...

Mayor Lago: I don't have an issue with it.

Assistant Public Works Director Bell-Llewellyn: That's the only question.

Commissioner Anderson: Yeah. I mean, I measured from that...

Vice Mayor Mena: The fence or the (INAUDIBLE).

Commissioner Anderson: If you look at the existing...

Public Works Director Diaz: The fence.

Commissioner Anderson: Sidewalk here...

Assistant Public Works Director Bell-Llewellyn: The fence.

Commissioner Anderson: I measured from here to the tennis court fence, wherever it is, and this was 40 feet.

Mayor Lago: I would have pushed...

Commissioner Anderson: And we've got 28 -- we've got 28.6 here.

Mayor Lago: No, I would have pushed that sidewalk all the way to the street and just make it one straight sidewalk...

Commissioner Anderson: I agree.

Mayor Lago: With a curb, and maybe you can do that later. Maybe you can -- that could be next year's -- in next year's budget about that. But right now, what you do is you put the fence up and you put the little amenities for the park. Maybe we have the funds to even do the sidewalk now as a result of an improvement.

Commissioner Anderson: Do those two things.

City Manager Iglesias: If I can say something, Mayor. What they've tried to do is keep the park in our property. The right-of-way is not our property. We are stewards of the right-of-way.

Mayor Lago: I understand but...

City Manager Iglesias: So, I think they've tried to keep the park on our property because the right-of-way, we're stewards of the right-of-way. Our property ends at the property line. So, I believe that was the Public Works Director intent is to keep the park inside our property, not inside the right-of-way.

Mayor Lago: Well, okay, well, let's talk about that. Okay, so number one, the sidewalk I think would look much more appealing parallel -- that's just my opinion -- parallel to the street, to Valencia Avenue. The meandering sidewalk, while nice, I think it's a waste of money and a waste of time and a waste of design. Number two, I don't have a problem literally having a park on then swale. We're trying to get as much square footage here for people to enjoy themselves. And the Vice Mayor has been working on this for a long time. Commissioner Anderson's now gotten involved over the last year. We need to deliver on something. I just gave you a funding strategy to find the money, and the money should be there. We have a lot of projects that are coming online. Alexan Craft. We have Madeira. We have projects that are about to pay that .5 percent that goes into the parks. That's why we wrote that piece of legislation, that you have the money to do simple posts, something nice, similar to what we have in the Blue Road open space with a picket fence. It'll look nice, and that's basically it, you know.

Commissioner Anderson: Yeah.

Mayor Lago: Unless we need other things, you need to add to it.

Public Works Director Diaz: So...

Commissioner Anderson: Wait.

Public Works Director Diaz: So, I just want to...

City Manager Iglesias: But I just want to say, Mayor, that the right-of-ways (sic) is different...

Mayor Lago: Why is that?

City Manager Iglesias: Than private property.

Commissioner Fors: Yeah, what's the problem with the right-of-way?

City Manager Iglesias: Because we don't own the right-of-way. The right-of-way's that platted easement to run utilities to roads and things like this. We own our property. There are no reversion rights on our property. There are revision rights on right-of-way. If you're not using it for a street anymore -- so it -- so a right-of-way is always treated differently.

Vice Mayor Mena: Who is it reverted to?

City Manager Iglesias: Huh? If -- adjacent property. So, if that right -- so...

Vice Mayor Mena: On the (INAUDIBLE).

City Manager Iglesias: So, are we going to revert it back to...?

Vice Mayor Mena: Aren't we the adjacent property?

City Manager Iglesias: Yes, we are.

Commissioner Anderson: It's being used for...

City Manager Iglesias: But so is the people next door.

Mayor Lago: No, but that's...

Vice Mayor Mena: There's nobody next door.

City Manager Iglesias: Across the street, across the street. What I'm saying...

Vice Mayor Mena: But it would never revert to the other side of the street.

City Manager Iglesias: I understand, I understand. I think you know what I'm saying. It is not -- it is a -- it is...

Vice Mayor Mena: It's in the distinction you're drawing. I'm just saying...

City Manager Iglesias: It is a platted...

Vice Mayor Mena: Because we are the adjacent property owner, I'm not sure I understand what...

City Manager Iglesias: You normally don't revert 20 feet. I guess the Commission can do that, but what I'm trying to say is that what the Public Works Director is doing is he's looking at right-of-way as right-of-way, private property as private property.

Vice Mayor Mena: At a minimum, I would...

City Manager Iglesias: Right-of-way is platted -- is a platted -- for instance, if that were not a street anymore, then it would revert half to us and half to the people across...

Vice Mayor Mena: Right, but that's not...

City Manager Iglesias: Across the street.

Commissioner Anderson: Well, let me...

City Manager Iglesias: Private property doesn't do that. There's no reversion rights on that park.

Commissioner Anderson: Let me ask you this question. We have right-of-way all over the place. We have it down Miracle Mile. We have pavers all over the place we utilize. We activate the space. Right now, all you have is dirt between the trees. That's what you have, and dogs don't mind running on the dirt, so I don't really see the difference between utilizing it for tables and dining and walkways on Miracle Mile versus being able to utilize it for a public purpose here that's been sorely needed for a long, long time.

Commissioner Fors: And I understand the...

City Manager Iglesias: The right-of-way on Miracle Mile can still be walked on, can still be used on, can still be parked on. Whereas things that are fenced off and things like that cannot. So, I'm just saying I think there is a difference. I'm just bringing that up that that is...

Vice Mayor Mena: There's a lot of eyebrows raising. Everybody, talk to us.

Planning and Zoning Director Trias: We're all very concerned about...

Commissioner Anderson: No, wait, wait. You're the only one able to do these eyebrows.

Vice Mayor Mena: Talk to us.

Planning and Zoning Director Trias: Mayor...

Vice Mayor Mena: What's going on?

Planning and Zoning Director Trias: The issue is that we need to follow our own rules. If we don't follow our own rules...

Assistant Public Works Director Bell-Llewellyn: It makes it impossible for...

Planning and Zoning Director Trias: Yeah.

Assistant Public Works Director Bell-Llewellyn: The Building Department and Zoning Department to -- because everybody has these -- the arguments that you all are making as the owners of this park are the same exact arguments that we hear every day from private residents and from developers. And you know, it's less expensive, or the right-of-way, you know, it's adjacent to my property. You know, these are -- we...

Commissioner Anderson: But we can do it for other projects. We encroach on...

Vice Mayor Mena: But this is still a public benefit.

Commissioner Anderson: Seriously.

Vice Mayor Mena: It's not like we're taking it for...

Assistant Public Works Director Bell-Llewellyn: I know, but if you talk to people that aren't going to be using the dog park, I'm sure that they're going to complain because there's always -- even though there's always somebody...

Commissioner Anderson: Well, look at...

Assistant Public Works Director Bell-Llewellyn: Supporting the bending the rule a little bit because, hey, it's for everybody that owns dogs. I'm sure there's another person on the other side that say, well, I like to walk or sit under that tree, and now I can't because you have dogs there. This is -- I'm just telling you...

Commissioner Anderson: No one...

Assistant Public Works Director Bell-Llewellyn: What we see as an enforcement agency every day.

Commissioner Anderson: No one sits and walks...

Assistant Public Works Director Bell-Llewellyn: Every day.

Commissioner Anderson: Under (INAUDIBLE).

Vice Mayor Mena: How much difference would it really make in terms of size? Because at a minimum -- I was going to say, at a minimum, you should push the sidewalk out.

Public Works Director Diaz: Can we put it back?

Unidentified Speaker: Yeah.

Vice Mayor Mena: That sidewalk there on the...

Mayor Lago: Yep.

Vice Mayor Mena: Part that sort of wanders up there. At a minimum, that should go outside that tree.

Public Works Director Diaz: So, the...

Commissioner Anderson: Right (INAUDIBLE).

Vice Mayor Mena: Right, and then at least you could square off the light green part all the way over -- right? -- at a minimum.

Commissioner Anderson: Yeah.

Public Works Director Diaz: So, the reason we meander the sidewalk...

Vice Mayor Mena: Yeah.

Public Works Director Diaz: Is to go around the tree root.

Vice Mayor Mena: I understand.

Public Works Director Diaz: And we can definitely take a closer look at that. There are significant tree roots also adjacent to the edge of pavement, and some of that area...

Vice Mayor Mena: But if you square...

Public Works Director Diaz: (INAUDIBLE).

Vice Mayor Mena: But if you square off the light green -- right? -- you get rid of that sidewalk and you just continue the line -- do you understand what I'm saying?

City Manager Iglesias: If you get very close to...

Vice Mayor Mena: Yes.

City Manager Iglesias: The tree...

Vice Mayor Mena: No, no, no, no, no. I'm talking about the current light green.

Commissioner Menendez: The light green.

Vice Mayor Mena: Just keep going straight.

(MULTIPLE PARTIES SPEAKING IN UNISON)

Unidentified Speaker: Squared off all the way.

Commissioner Anderson: Right.

Public Works Director Diaz: My understanding, Deena, that we're trying to avoid the roots from that tree, right? That's really the...

Assistant Public Works Director Bell-Llewellyn: That one tree has a huge above-ground root system. We went out and measured it.

Vice Mayor Mena: But there's a sidewalk there now.

Commissioner Anderson: We built up the swale there.

Assistant Public Works Director Bell-Llewellyn: We could ramp over it.

Commissioner Anderson: Right.

Assistant Public Works Director Bell-Llewellyn: We could use maybe a, you know...

Vice Mayor Mena: Isn't...

Assistant Public Works Director Bell-Llewellyn: A Flexi-Pave material to ramp up and over the roots. We just can't cut down through the roots.

Commissioner Anderson: Yeah, I know.

Vice Mayor Mena: Isn't there a sidewalk there now?

Public Works Director Diaz: The sidewalk is going nowhere.

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: It's right actually where it's proposed, like that part doesn't...

Public Works Director Diaz: We're keeping the sidewalk in that area right around the existing one -- where the existing one is, so we're trying to avoid getting closer to the tree.

Commissioner Anderson: So, we can ramp it up, you know, add soil...

Vice Mayor Mena: Yeah, but he -- yeah, I don't...

Public Works Director Diaz: But will that incur...

Vice Mayor Mena: But time out.

Public Works Director Diaz: Sure.

Vice Mayor Mena: Time out. Where the current sidewalk is above that tree, the part that hooks up and over the tree, there's currently a sidewalk?

Public Works Director Diaz: Yes.

Vice Mayor Mena: So, let's take one step at a time. The actual dog park, which is the light green part -- or the bright green part can go through there because there's a sidewalk there now, right? Could we just keep the fence going straight instead of going up at the 45-degree angle?

Commissioner Anderson: Correct.

Public Works Director Diaz: Right, and we're saying...

Commissioner Menendez: But Mike...

Public Works Director Diaz: The reason that sidewalk is like that is...

Assistant Public Works Director Bell-Llewellyn: Yes.

Public Works Director Diaz: To avoid the roots of that tree. That's what I'm...

Assistant Public Works Director Bell-Llewellyn: Yes, you can.

Public Works Director Diaz: Go for it.

Commissioner Anderson: You got the pointer?

Vice Mayor Mena: This line keep going straight.

Assistant Public Works Director Bell-Llewellyn: Yes, you can.

(COMMENTS MADE OFF THE RECORD)

Mayor Lago: Yeah, but you're not going -- you're not...

(COMMENTS MADE OFF THE RECORD)

Commissioner Anderson: There is the pointer.

Unidentified Speaker: Here.

Commissioner Menendez: We don't want to hurt trees.

Commissioner Anderson: No, we're going to add swale.

Mayor Lago: Hermes, but we're using -- if we're using...

(COMMENTS MADE OFF THE RECORD)

Mayor Lago: Hold on. Team, team, team. So, if we're using a standard fence and we're not building a wall, you're not going to tear up those roots.

Public Works Director Diaz: The sidewalk -- concrete sidewalk needs to...

Mayor Lago: I'm sorry?

Public Works Director Diaz: The concrete sidewalk needs a base and there needs to be...

Mayor Lago: No, I understand construction. Trust me, I got it. I do it for a living. You don't need to tell me...

Public Works Director Diaz: Right.

Mayor Lago: What I -- I understand.

City Manager Iglesias: And Mayor, remember that we're limited to 2 percent for ADA.

Commissioner Anderson: Yeah. We know the 2 percent.

Public Works Director Diaz: Right.

Commissioner Anderson: We can just grade it so it's soil.

Mayor Lago: I just -- look, okay, I have another place for you. The corner of Valencia and Columbus Boulevard, same location. Empty space currently has no trees in the way, and it has a pretty big location, and it actually has a canopy on it that's on the corner of Valencia and Columbus, plenty of space right on the corner.

Vice Mayor Mena: (INAUDIBLE).

Mayor Lago: Yeah, it's in this park.

Commissioner Anderson: Which park?

Mayor Lago: Right adjacent to this park, the corner of Valencia and Columbus. It's a corner you can put there. There's no parking. There's no nothing right now. It's just dirt.

Vice Mayor Mena: (INAUDIBLE) saw right away (INAUDIBLE) problem.

Commissioner Menendez: Where the playground is.

Vice Mayor Mena: It's where people park now?

Mayor Lago: Maybe. I don't know if it's a right-of-way or not, but I don't know.

Commissioner Anderson: You're talking about...

Mayor Lago: This area right here.

Commissioner Anderson: Columbus or Cordova?

Commissioner Menendez: Columbus. So, that's the southwest corner.

Mayor Lago: Look right here.

Vice Mayor Mena: I think that's...

Commissioner Menendez: Southwest.

Vice Mayor Mena: A right-a-way.

Public Works Director Diaz: You've got the clicker.

Commissioner Menendez: The southwest.

Public Works Director Diaz: I think if you go back a few slides.

Commissioner Menendez: Yeah, yeah, yeah, go back. You could see in the prior slides.

Public Works Director Diaz: Keep going.

Mayor Lago: Columbus and Valencia.

Commissioner Menendez: There.

Mayor Lago: On the swale.

Commissioner Menendez: Left-hand side.

Mayor Lago: You don't want to do it on the swale?

Commissioner Menendez: Lower left?

Vice Mayor Mena: Right here?

Mayor Lago: Yep.

Commissioner Menendez: Lower left.

Mayor Lago: Right there, right there. That are right there.

Vice Mayor Mena: This is wonderful. Can I have this every meeting?

Commissioner Menendez: You're good.

Mayor Lago: We could do it there.

Commissioner Menendez: I'm getting dizzy, Mike.

(COMMENTS MADE OFF THE RECORD)

Commissioner Menendez: I'm getting dizzy. Stop that.

Mayor Lago: From what I remember, that was the area that Ariel Fernandez actually mentioned as an area of possibility. I remember that's...

Vice Mayor Mena: Isn't that smaller?

Mayor Lago: I don't know.

Commissioner Anderson: You're -- oh, you're talking about on the west end.

Vice Mayor Mena: He's talking about right there.

Commissioner Menendez: Right there.

Commissioner Anderson: Okay.

Mayor Lago: You could do something like that.

Commissioner Anderson: How...?

Commissioner Menendez: Southwest.

Vice Mayor Mena: Because this is the right-of-way line.

Commissioner Anderson: How is that --? That's where everybody wants to park by the way. I mean...

Mayor Lago: But it's not parking though.

Commissioner Anderson: Well...

Mayor Lago: I'm just saying.

Commissioner Anderson: It was full. It was full on Sunday.

Commissioner Menendez: Is it less complicated?

Commissioner Anderson: It was packed.

Vice Mayor Mena: That's where everybody parks, yeah.

Commissioner Anderson: Yeah. That -- and it was packed. And then you have the additional problem of...

Vice Mayor Mena: I think it's a good idea. It's just I think it ends up being smaller almost.

Commissioner Anderson: It is smaller, and the other problem is...

Vice Mayor Mena: This would be bigger even if they stay in the...

Commissioner Anderson: Children are going to want to stick their hands through the existing park area.

Vice Mayor Mena: Yeah.

Mayor Lago: I just -- we got to find something here. There's always -- I mean, if we can't use the swale, we got to tighten that sidewalk.

Commissioner Anderson: I see no problem with using the swale. We're already using the swale in this proposal. All we need to do is add soil to go up and over the roots. We're not going to damage the roots, right, Ms. Bell?

Assistant Public Works Director Bell-Llewellyn: We can do that. There are other materials. The flexi pavement can go up and over roots better than digging concrete too.

Commissioner Anderson: Right.

Assistant Public Works Director Bell-Llewellyn: So, I think the question is, do we put the fence in the swale or not. I think that's the question.

City Manager Iglesias: Well, you have the ADA component of 2 percent, so you may have a problem raising and lowering it.

Commissioner Menendez: Yes, Hermes.

Commissioner Anderson: One to twelve, yes.

Public Works Director Diaz: On the west side, the service entrance...

City Manager Iglesias: No, it's not one and twelve, Commissioner. It's 2 percent. It's flat. One and twelve is ramp.

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: On that west corner is our service entrance for the crews to go in and service the park.

Commissioner Fors: And I think...

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: So, then we'd have to move that.

Commissioner Fors: I think the problem with that west corner was...

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: So, that's on the western side.

Commissioner Fors: The problem with the west corner was what -- I think when I looked at it is what Commissioner Anderson's saying that it would have a -- it would make it so there was a fence between the kids directly and the dogs, right?

Commissioner Anderson: And they would put their hands through.

Commissioner Fors: So, they can stick their fingers through it.

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: Yeah, well, I mean...

Commissioner Anderson: They will.

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: You could put a...

Commissioner Menendez: You should put the service entrance -- you said service entrance?

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: Oh, no, yeah. What we were talking about, that corner of Columbus and Valencia, the problem is it's right there. That's where we access...

Commissioner Anderson: Right.

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: Our -- the park through our crew, so we'd have to look at what we'd do there, how we'd get the machines in.

Commissioner Anderson: Yeah.

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: There's not that much machines that we need now.

Vice Mayor Mena: What's the issue with taking the sidewalk outside the tree? We could do that, right?

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: I think if you do...

Assistant Public Works Director Bell-Llewellyn: Repeat that.

Vice Mayor Mena: Taking the sidewalk outside the tree.

City Manager Iglesias: You would need a curb up against the street.

Assistant Public Works Director Bell-Llewellyn: We'll need a curb.

Public Works Director Diaz: We could get rid of the tree and plant something else there. I mean, that's an option.

Commissioner Menendez: Or move it.

Commissioner Anderson: We could plant a whole bunch of (INAUDIBLE) along there.

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: Don't get rid of it, just move it.

Commissioner Anderson: Do it like my swale.

Public Works Director Diaz: I mean, we could have Deena take a look a little bit closer. But with the root system on that -- in that location, we may require the tree to be removed.

Vice Mayor Mena: It's a black olive, you said?

Assistant Public Works Director Bell-Llewellyn: Yeah, it's a black olive.

Public Works Director Diaz: Yes, a black olive.

Commissioner Anderson: I mean...

Public Works Director Diaz: So, maybe...

Commissioner Anderson: Let's -- we -- I think we can slope it. No, I had one oak go over in Hurricane Andrew. I've brought it back up. I added soil around it. You know, you can gradually make these slopes move.

Assistant Public Works Director Bell-Llewellyn: We can make that happen.

Public Works Director Diaz: We can make -- we also need to...

Commissioner Anderson: Okay.

Public Works Director Diaz: Maintain...

Commissioner Anderson: Well, you're not surprised I did that, right?

Mayor Lago: But let's -- so let's do this. I think we've talked about this enough. Look, we're on the same page, correct? We all -- we kind of understand what the Commission wants and what staff wants. I'm more than willing to continue this conversation, but let's do it not on the Commission floor. Let's do it in a sunshine meeting amongst the Commission so we can iron this out, so we can iron this out in the public eye, have a workshop, and finish this already. I'm ready to get started. I just gave you a way to get the funding. I know the funding is there.

City Manager Iglesias: Mayor, the -- just to let you know, the unencumbered amount is \$12,646. We do have other projects that are encumbered that we could use some money from.

Mayor Lago: But I don't want to use any -- I don't want to -- look, you have \$12,000, right?

Public Works Director Diaz: Right.

Mayor Lago: \$12,000. By the time we're ready to go, you know, there should be projects that are paying their permit fees that'll continue to add to that amount, so we should be good. How much do you think a fence is going to cost to put up there?

Public Works Director Diaz: It depends on the fence but...

Mayor Lago: A simple picket aluminum fence.

Vice Mayor Mena: That 275 with chain link on the budget...

Commissioner Anderson: How about a pretty chain link?

Vice Mayor Mena: We're outside when that was -- that's why...

Mayor Lago: I have a feeling that it's not going to cost \$275,000 to do that.

Public Works Director Diaz: That includes the 20 percent contingency, and there's some drainage improvements that need to happen there as well.

City Manager Iglesias: Mayor, the fence -- if I remember correctly, the fence at -- in Betsy Adams was 65,000.

Commissioner Anderson: Well, I...

Mayor Lago: With a 20 percent contingency, you're talking about a project that's now \$275,000, starting with a project around \$220,000.

Public Works Director Diaz: Right.

Mayor Lago: So, that's...

Commissioner Anderson: I...

Mayor Lago: A pretty significant drop.

Public Works Director Diaz: Right. You know, there's a little uncertainty about pricings, so we're kind of -- but yes.

Commissioner Anderson: Well, so I'll add one more two-cent piece. When I was out there measuring, one of our staff members says he knows how to install chain link so take that under consideration.

Mayor Lago: So -- Commissioner Menendez.

Commissioner Menendez: Just real quick. So, again, it's important to move this forward. My biggest concern is related to Catalonia Park. I'd like to move the dog activity to this park. Time is of the essence.

Commissioner Anderson: Right.

Commissioner Menendez: We need to get it done and done as quickly as possible. So, with that question, I'll go back to my question from -- when did we start this discussion? Regardless...

Commissioner Anderson: Months ago.

Commissioner Menendez: Exactly. More or less, timeline, and second, what resolutions can we pass as a Commission that would help streamline the process for you all to get this done. It'll eliminate some of the hoops.

Vice Mayor Mena: May I just say though -- because this idea has been bandied about today -- the Catalonia issue is an enforcement issue. Having this park here, there will still be people that go to Catalonia because they probably live around the block or down the street. So, the idea that this is the cure-all for Catalonia, I don't necessarily subscribe to that. I think that's become a neighborhood dog park, and the people that go there live in that neighborhood.

Commissioner Menendez: Yeah, but my vision is...

Vice Mayor Mena: No, but it's a good idea.

Commissioner Menendez: No, I understand. But my vision is, you open this and you make other one only kids.

Commissioner Anderson: Well, here's...

Commissioner Menendez: And this is the dog park.

Vice Mayor Mena: The other one is only...

Commissioner Menendez: Well, I mean...

Vice Mayor Mena: The other one already is not allowed to have off-leash...

Mayor Lago: Follow the rules.

Vice Mayor Mena: Dogs.

Commissioner Menendez: Right, but regardless of what we've done for the past year, they're still doing what they're doing. But if we make it no dogs once this opens, this is their dog park, it's a lot easier to say -- I think it's just a lot easier to enforce.

Vice Mayor Mena: Yeah.

Commissioner Anderson: Here's the thing. And I jog pass there, I visit there. I talk to the people with those off-leash dogs to try to encourage them not to. I know where they live, okay. They're driving there.

Commissioner Menendez: Yeah.

Commissioner Anderson: They're driving from the North Gables. They're driving from other locations. Most of the people that use that part off-leash when -- before the signage went up aren't doing it anymore.

Mayor Lago: And by the way, and if I may, Commissioner, sorry to interrupt you. That park is also very friendly. Why? Because you can park across the street.

Commissioner Menendez: Yeah.

Mayor Lago: So, you can come from other parts in the City. You can park across the street because there's actual parking at the country club. So, we have to be, again, like the Vice Mayor said, this is about being vigilant, and this is about enforcement. You want to clean up Catalonia Park, which I'm 100 percent in agreeance with you. That's not why I found that park and brought it to the City...

Commissioner Menendez: Right.

Mayor Lago: To acquire it. That was for a neighborhood park. And when I drive by there, the amount of dogs -- I have people who call me and say, "Listen, we don't go to that park because there's feces everywhere."

Commissioner Menendez: Yeah. And little kids are usually rolling around anyways in playgrounds, and you can only imagine that combination is not good.

Commissioner Anderson: No, and I agree. But there's people with children that have dogs that might want to bring their dog in there on a leash.

Mayor Lago: Yeah, that's fine.

Commissioner Anderson: With their kids playing and not let them off the leash because they respect the rules. The folks coming from elsewhere are not. Because the day after I spoke to a particular person, guess what? They were back there again...

Commissioner Menendez: Yeah.

Commissioner Anderson: Doing the same thing.

Mayor Lago: And by the way...

Commissioner Anderson: Their dog was off leash.

Mayor Lago: And I've seen it. When people are not there, the dogs -- or some of the people I see letting the dogs run and all over the children's equipment. And look at our friend over there, the employee of the month nodding his head because he knows it's true. They're using it as like an obstacle course.

Commissioner Menendez: Yeah.

Commissioner Anderson: Right.

Mayor Lago: And it's a problem. So, look, this is what I would like to see if Commissioner Anderson and the Vice Mayor would allow me. I would like to finalize this with a little workshop at anybody's disposal. It can be over Zoom. It could be in person, whatever you're like. I just think that doing this in the Commission is not going to deliver the desired outcome, and I think we need to spend more time on this.

Public Works Director Diaz: And maybe hire a consultant to start working on some more details.

City Manager Iglesias: What I think, Mayor, I think what we can do is maximize the area of the dog park, which is what everyone wants.

Mayor Lago: Yes.

City Manager Iglesias: Look at different alternatives for the sidewalk, whether it's outside. We have to look at the tree issue, and then come back with those alternatives...

Mayor Lago: Okay.

City Manager Iglesias: And look at the tree conflicts to see if we can't get the sidewalk there.

Mayor Lago: What do we have...?

Vice Mayor Mena: Do we really need a consultant for this?

City Manager Iglesias: No, I -- no, we can do it internally.

Commissioner Anderson: I think...

Vice Mayor Mena: I think the marching orders are -- listen, I'm happy to do a Zoom or whatever you guys want. Let's make it as big as we can.

Mayor Lago: Yes.

Vice Mayor Mena: Take the sidewalk outside the tree, put up a nice aluminum fence.

Mayor Lago: That's it. Call it a day.

Commissioner Anderson: Let's get it done.

Vice Mayor Mena: I know...

Commissioner Anderson: Yeah, let's not...

Vice Mayor Mena: I'm thinking that it sounds a little easier than it is, but it shouldn't be that much harder either.

Public Works Director Diaz: We need drainage.

City Manager Iglesias: I think it may be a little easier -- maybe this isn't a little easier, but I think we can handle it.

Vice Mayor Mena: Yeah, that's what I'm saying. It's not...

Unidentified Speaker: So, do you want to just add those (INAUDIBLE)...

Vice Mayor Mena: No, we should -- you guys should come back to us with a plan that reflects that. To the Mayor's point, we can have a Zoom or whatever, and we'll give you a green light. And then it's just about the money, to your point.

Commissioner Menendez: Why don't we give them that and then they can...

City Attorney Ramos: And also remember...

Commissioner Menendez: Run with it.

City Attorney Ramos: You can't vote in a sunshine meeting, so you're going to have the meeting and then you're going to have to wait until the next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Menendez: Yeah, let's amend with that if you're...

Commissioner Anderson: Yeah, let's amend.

Commissioner Menendez: Comfortable with it and just...

Commissioner Anderson: Yeah, I left a blank line.

City Attorney Ramos: We're like filling in the blanks.

Vice Mayor Mena: (INAUDIBLE).

Mayor Lago: Exactly.

Commissioner Menendez: Okay.

Mayor Lago: That was the directive from the beginning.

Commissioner Menendez: Then let's make that...

Commissioner Anderson: Yeah.

Commissioner Fors: So, bring -- just bring the plan at the next Commission meeting and we vote on it.

City Manager Iglesias: We will come back to...

Commissioner Fors: Just draw it.

City Manager Iglesias: To maximize the area.

Commissioner Fors: That's the plan right there.

Public Works Director Diaz: I'm sweating.

Vice Mayor Mena: We're talking about what you just showed us.

Commissioner Anderson: (INAUDIBLE).

Commissioner Fors: Yeah, what you just showed us.

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: We do have to...

Vice Mayor Mena: But with the sidewalk outside the tree...

Commissioner Fors: Yeah, yeah.

Vice Mayor Mena: And square off the park.

Commissioner Fors: Yeah, not an official plan.

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: We do have to take into account the drainage.

Public Works Director Diaz: But this isn't a plan. This is a sketch.

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: You do have drains in there.

Vice Mayor Mena: Yeah.

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: We have to do something with those drains.

Commissioner Menendez: And you'll come back with this regarding the drainage.

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: So, we got to figure that part out.

Commissioner Menendez: Know what we want.

City Manager Iglesias: I think I...

Commissioner Anderson: Move it closer to the tennis court.

City Manager Iglesias: I think I understand...

Commissioner Anderson: That's it.

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: Move it closer -- maybe that's the solution.

City Manager Iglesias: I think I understand what the Commission wants.

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: You could be correct.

City Manager Iglesias: Which is...

Commissioner Anderson: Yeah.

City Manager Iglesias: Maximize the dog park. We have to take out the drainage. We have to put an...

Vice Mayor Mena: Aluminum fence.

City Manager Iglesias: Aluminum fence. We'll put landscaping in. We'll maximize the park and look at the sidewalk and the tree issue, come back with -- let's see what those conflicts are. If there's a tree conflict, then we can tell you there is a tree conflict.

Vice Mayor Mena: Perfect.

City Manager Iglesias: And decide at the next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Anderson: How about circulating the plans to us ahead of time so we can offer our two cents?

City Manager Iglesias: We're happy...

Commissioner Menendez: So, do you want to then amend the...

Vice Mayor Mena: That's it.

Commissioner Menendez: Resolution with that so that we have something that we -- on the record, and then they can tell us what doesn't or, you know, how to get there.

Commissioner Anderson: Do we need a resolution?

Assistant Public Works Director Bell-Llewellyn: Yeah.

City Attorney Ramos: Well, you never need one, but it's helpful to direct staff.

Commissioner Menendez: It does help.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: So, as I've heard from the Manager, so far, it's a resolution directing the City Manager to put together a new plan maximizing the area for the dog park with aluminum fencing, to come back with an updated plan to the City Commission at the next meeting. I didn't hear the sunshine meeting and that discussion.

City Manager Iglesias: Look at -- and also...

Vice Mayor Mena: (INAUDIBLE) the sidewalk that was identified outside the black olive tree that was identified.

Mayor Lago: Yes.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: Relocate the sidewalk.

City Manager Iglesias: With various locations of the sidewalks conflict with the trees and maybe a proposed tree relocation if necessary.

Mayor Lago: Guys, look...

Commissioner Anderson: Well, I don't think we need to relocate...

Mayor Lago: And before you take a vote on this...

Commissioner Anderson: A tree.

City Manager Iglesias: Let's take a look.

Mayor Lago: Before we take a vote on this, okay, look, I appreciate all of you. You guys are doing a wonderful job. This city doesn't run without you. We gave this direction two weeks ago. I know that sometimes we don't want to do things because we see that maybe this is the best thing for the City, but I want to see a design -- and I want to be very clear -- with the sidewalk exactly like the sidewalk in front of my house, exactly, where the curb touches the street. Am I clear? I want to be clear.

Public Works Director Diaz: Alright.

Mayor Lago: Clear, or no? We're clear?

City Attorney Ramos: You got that, Stephanie?

Commissioner Anderson: Right.

Commissioner Menendez: So...

Mayor Lago: Hold on a minute, hold on a minute. I make a motion that on this drawing the sidewalk has to look exactly like the sidewalk on San Amaro, okay. Please do not bring me back a meandering design. Just make it happen, okay? That's number one. Number two, please make it as simple as possible. Picket, pillars, like the Blue Road open space. Simple, simple, simple. I want to see bare bones pricing, okay?

Commissioner Menendez: Dogs aren't people.

Mayor Lago: What else should we add to that resolution?

Commissioner Menendez: Well, the fencing, we got that down.

Mayor Lago: Okay.

Commissioner Anderson: The drainage has to be...

Mayor Lago: The drainage. I need to understand why the drainage needs to be relocated.

Unidentified Speaker: We'll talk about it.

Commissioner Anderson: It's in the middle of the...

Mayor Lago: I got it, but I need you to tell me why. Could we put a baffle of some sort or something that maybe it allows for drainage, but it won't allow for a dog's leg to be caught in it, or for something that --? Can we find some technology where we don't have to relocate the drainage? Maybe there's some sort of grill we can put on it that will make it a little bit more flexible.

Public Works Director Diaz: It gets muddy -- it's my understanding it gets muddy today when it rains, and I think Parks can attest to that.

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: What? What's that? I'm sorry.

Public Works Director Diaz: That that area gets really muddy right now.

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: It does. I think...

Public Works Director Diaz: So...

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: If you have -- as you know, if you just have plain grass there, it's -- the wear and tear on the dogs is going to be tough to maintain.

Mayor Lago: Okay.

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: They were suggesting to put sand. If you put sand in, obviously, you need to move the drains.

Mayor Lago: One hundred percent.

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: Because that sand isn't going to work.

Mayor Lago: But what if we put -- I hate to say this -- but what if we put artificial grass?

Public Works Director Diaz: The price doubles.

Mayor Lago: Huh?

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: Well, the price doubles but...

Mayor Lago: I know the price will go up but...

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: Also, there's -- there are some -- it is tough on certain dogs, especially when you have long hair like that.

Mayor Lago: And it gets hot unless you have the shade.

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: And you will have some, but you won't have it over the whole thing.

Commissioner Anderson: Right. And it's kind of like a rug burn. It kind of like...

Mayor Lago: Yeah.

Commissioner Anderson: Peels the skin off their paws.

Mayor Lago: So, give me a price please for the relocation of the drainage as required.

Commissioner Anderson: I have evidence so...

Mayor Lago: Okay.

Commissioner Anderson: (INAUDIBLE) digging too much.

Mayor Lago: What else do we need?

Commissioner Menendez: Question.

Mayor Lago: Anything else?

Commissioner Menendez: What -- do you -- what would help you all to have added to our resolution that perhaps we're not thinking of? Because I don't think we want to have to do another resolution. Did we cover...

Commissioner Anderson: Landscaping.

Commissioner Menendez: Everything that you think that you need to be able to move forward?

Public Works Director Diaz: No, I think you covered it.

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: I think we got some more direct -- our last discussion, there was a little bit more concept discussion. I think understanding what exactly you want us to do, we'll do.

Vice Mayor Mena: And beyond that, I would just say speak to the sponsor before the meeting so that she can...

Mayor Lago: Yes.

Vice Mayor Mena: Give you her feedback and...

Commissioner Anderson: Or show me...

Vice Mayor Mena: I think she understands.

Commissioner Anderson: A drawing.

Vice Mayor Mena: Yeah.

Mayor Lago: Okay. Can I get a second?

Vice Mayor Mena: There's a motion on the floor. Is there a second?

Commissioner Menendez: I'll second.

Commissioner Anderson: Sec...

Commissioner Menendez: Oh, go ahead, Rhonda.

Commissioner Anderson: Second.

Vice Mayor Mena: Alright, Mr. Clerk.

City Clerk Urquia: Before you vote, a person on Zoom did not want to speak, but they did -- wanted a question asked for the record. It says, does this mean that the dogs will be running directly behind the perimeter of the tennis courts? Will the courts be buffered somehow from the dog park?

Commissioner Menendez: A buffer should...

Commissioner Anderson: There is...

Commissioner Menendez: It should be a buffer.

Commissioner Anderson: Pictured a buffer because you have the poles, okay. We have some very short Podocarpus hedges there. I think we could do a little better than...

Commissioner Menendez: Yeah, some basic buffer.

Commissioner Anderson: Than those.

Vice Mayor Mena: That's a landscaping issue. We'll sort that out.

Commissioner Anderson: You can put something a little fluffier in there.

Vice Mayor Mena: Alright. There's a motion on the floor.

Commissioner Menendez: We have a second. We're ready.

Commissioner Anderson: Yes.

Commissioner Fors: Yes.

City Clerk Urquia: Commissioner Menendez?

City Attorney Ramos: Before you finish voting, do you want a sunshine meeting finally, or no?

Mayor Lago: Whatever the sponsor -- excuse me, whatever the sponsor would like.

Commissioner Anderson: Do we need the sunshine meeting?

Commissioner Menendez: I don't think so.

Vice Mayor Mena: I don't think we need it.

Commissioner Menendez: So, we covered it all.

Commissioner Anderson: Just circulate a diagram, guys.

City Attorney Ramos: Okay.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: Understood. It'll come back.

Commissioner Menendez: Yeah, come back next meeting so...

Commissioner Menendez: Yes.

Mayor Lago: Yes.

Vice Mayor Mena: Yes.

(Vote: 5-0)

Mayor Lago: Thank you, Vice Mayor. Thank you, Commissioner Anderson. Thank you for -- we're going to get this done. I promise, we're going to get this done.

Commissioner Anderson: A baby will be born.

Mayor Lago: We're going to get this done. Alright, moving on to the last item, I-1. Staff -- thank you to staff.

City Attorney Ramos: We have G-2, Mayor.

Mayor Lago: More important than anything.

City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Thank you, great work.

City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Mayor.

City Attorney Ramos: Mayor, we have G-2.

City Clerk Urquia: Yeah. Before you move on, G-2, is also a resolution. Do you...?

Mayor Lago: G-2.

City Attorney Ramos: G-2 is about Catalonia Park.

Commissioner Menendez: Directives.

Mayor Lago: Commissioner Menendez, I mean, the directive is simple. No dogs, enforcement.

Commissioner Anderson: Must be held in the hand. This is to provide the City Manager whatever authority he needs to resolve this problem.

Mayor Lago: And by the way, if I may add something. You know, this brings up a good point. We have neighborhood safety aides, and I had a discussion with staff about using neighborhood safety aides for Code Enforcement since they're driving up the neighborhood. If they see something egregious, they could potentially get in contact with us. I know that our Police Chief did not want that. He did not want to deputize the neighborhood safety aides. I wasn't saying to deputize them. I was just saying something as simple as, if you see something egregious, if you see something happening, you know, get in contact with Code Enforcement, another set of eyes and ears. I lost that battle, even though I think it's a very, very good battle to have. If we're not going to have police officers there or an employee there every single day, who's going to be our resource...

Commissioner Menendez: Exactly.

Mayor Lago: To make sure that people are complying? It's going to be your neighborhood safety aide, who's going to have to get off and say, "Hey, ma'am/sir, could you put your dog on a leash, please?" This is a -- you know, this is a dog-friendly park, but it's got to be on a leash. So, we have to come to the realization who's it going to be that's going to enforce this. Are we going to ask for the police to show up every 30 minutes, every hour? Are we going to have a camera there with somebody on a bullhorn saying, you know, "Put your dog on a leash."? Or are we going to have the neighborhood safety aides? We have to be realistic with ourselves. And by the way, just so you know, put in the back of your mind I still think we should use neighborhood safety aides for Code Enforcement.

Commissioner Anderson: What was that last sentence again? I'm sorry.

Mayor Lago: I still believe that we should use neighborhood safety aides for Code Enforcement. They don't have to be every day writing tickets, but they can at least assist in Code Enforcement. I was told that that wasn't a good idea by the Police Chief. I still think it's a great idea.

Commissioner Anderson: I think they're a wonderful information source.

Mayor Lago: Yep.

Commissioner Menendez: So, I think I agree with what you said with regards to enforcement.

Mayor Lago: How are you going to do it?

Commissioner Menendez: I just don't know what personnel we have available to monitor that since we have to monitor so many things in the City.

Mayor Lago: Yep.

Commissioner Menendez: One discussion I had was about possibly allowing dogs certain times of the day, then after a certain hour -- I'm looking for solutions because we've been at this for a year, and it's getting worse. So, I would love to find at least a temporary solution that can bring some semblance of -- some order to the chaotic -- there's no longer a Catalonia Park. It's Chaotic Park.

Commissioner Fors: Would you vote in favor of banning dogs altogether?

Commissioner Menendez: I'd prefer not to simply because I've seen families walk their dogs to the park on leashes, and right now, Salvadore is not ready, so they don't have a place that they can walk to walk their dog to. So, I'd love to give them an alternative. Once that alternative is there, they have their dog park blocks -- a couple blocks away, then I'm looking into it. But if that's the only way to bring order and make it safe for kids to be there, I'm open for the discussion.

Commissioner Anderson: Let me give you this scenario. Someone's in there playing with their children. Someone's walking their dog. Hello, how are you? Are they now prohibited from going in a park and having a conversation, giving their dog some water, and then walking back out? Is that what we want to do? Because it's not what the neighbors asked me to do because they came in all full force, all seven of them...

Commissioner Menendez: Yeah.

Commissioner Anderson: And met with me. They just don't want the dogs running around off-leash, you know.

Commissioner Menendez: And that's the perfect solution to have that stop. But of course, we've also had the discussions with dog parks about separating the large dogs from smaller dogs. So, if we're concerned about smaller dogs with larger dogs, we should be concerned about smaller children and bigger dogs.

Commissioner Anderson: Well, you know...

Commissioner Menendez: So, I want to find a solution and I think enforcement is key. So, how -- I guess, through the Manager, how can we staff it? What options are there? What...

Commissioner Anderson: I say...

Commissioner Menendez: Resolution?

Commissioner Anderson: I say, quite frankly, the neighborhood safety aides have to be the eyes and ears, and then you send somebody out there. But if the police are going out there, we need to issue...

City Manager Iglesias: I believe that we can use the...

Commissioner Anderson: Warnings.

City Manager Iglesias: Neighborhood safety aides, our Code Enforcement officers and contact the police and start writing citations, and that's the only thing that's going to control it.

Commissioner Anderson: It's the only thing that's going to deter it because I've had that long conversation with those particular individuals that make it their daily routine, daily routine. They're there every single day, and that's why it's become such a flash point, okay. It's not a dog park for dogs to be running off leash. It's not even safe with the rocks in there for them to be running off leash because they're going to get hurt. So, that's why I brought the resolution forward because we need to establish some peace and tranquility in that neighborhood.

Mayor Lago: I'm with you.

Commissioner Menendez: Are we allowed to...?

City Manager Iglesias: We can provide enforcement.

Commissioner Menendez: Are we...?

City Manager Iglesias: I think the only thing that will resolve it -- I'm sorry, Commissioner.

Commissioner Menendez: No, no. Go ahead.

City Manager Iglesias: Excuse me, Commissioner. Go ahead.

Commissioner Menendez: No, it just may create more chaos. But since part of the problem is folks driving to the park, I would imagine so maybe you're not residents. Something also can, you know...

Commissioner Anderson: Some of them live many, many blocks away, and that's why they drive there every day and park on the neighbor's property because they don't want to tear up the grass there now. Catalonia Park since that's been made an issue, we can talk about how to treat that swale in a separate conversation. But right now, we've got to get the dogs off leash out of there.

Mayor Lago: Okay.

Commissioner Menendez: So, can -- what time --? What are the hours of the park compared to our public safety officers? Do they coincide?

Commissioner Anderson: Yes.

Commissioner Menendez: Is the park open later than they are?

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: Our parks are -- I mean, those parks which don't have any lights, it's usually a...

Mayor Lago: Sunrise to sunset.

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: A sunup to sundown type of thing.

City Manager Iglesias: Sunrise to sunset.

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: So, you know, yeah, whenever we have officers on staff, we can -- I mean, you know, we've tried enforcement with our staff. Our staff doesn't have the authority, and it has not been very effective when I send a park ranger.

Commissioner Anderson: No, right.

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: And especially during the pandemic when we had a lot of staff that was each and every park, it still -- it's very difficult with ours. They don't have the authority to have citations or anything else. They have to rely on...

Commissioner Menendez: So, they would have to...

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: Phone calls.

Commissioner Menendez: Call it in to the police.

Mayor Lago: Yes.

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: Yeah.

Commissioner Menendez: And then we'd have the police show up there, but maybe 30 minutes later...

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: Correct.

Commissioner Menendez: They have to go out again.

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: Correct.

Mayor Lago: Yep, that's exactly it.

Commissioner Anderson: But I think it's like anything else. It's like traffic tickets. Start issuing citations, you deter the activity. And what's happened in the past is we're not handing out the tickets, okay.

City Manager Iglesias: We tried for compliance; it didn't work. Now, we can try for enforcement.

Commissioner Anderson: Right.

City Manager Iglesias: And I think that will -- I agree with you, Commissioner.

Commissioner Anderson: Yeah.

Commissioner Menendez: So, I would like to just add one more thing is let's -- whatever resources you need, by all means, we're in favor of moving resources in that direction. But if this doesn't work in the next 30 days, I think we'll know soon enough, or before 60 days, we may need to take more stricter steps.

Commissioner Anderson: So, take it a step at a time. I think once you get Salvadore open, people will go there. You're going to have two parks open.

Commissioner Menendez: I still don't know when...

Commissioner Anderson: The problem...

Commissioner Menendez: Salvadore -- the timeline. I never got the answer.

Commissioner Anderson: Well, yeah, no. And that's why I want it simple. Villa Valencia's going to have a small dog park for small dogs, great place for them to go. Salvadore will be a great place for the big dogs. They're blocks away from each other, so I think we'll see some improvement at that point.

Commissioner Menendez: I hope so.

Commissioner Anderson: Then we can continue our mission.

City Attorney Ramos: Do you want to make a motion? We have a resolution providing direction to the Manager for Catalonia...

Commissioner Anderson: I'll make...

City Attorney Ramos: But what is that, just to enforce?

Commissioner Anderson: Yeah.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: As written, it's to reiterate that dogs are not allowed to be off leash at Catalonia Park and that dog leashes must be actively held by owners in the park. And

directed -- the City Manager's directed to update any signage and increase enforcement as necessary to enact the Commission's direction.

Commissioner Menendez: I still don't know what increase enforcement is in terms of the real world.

Commissioner Anderson: City Manager, what do you need written in there?

City Manager Iglesias: I think that it's fine. I think we can look at Code Enforcement and neighborhood safety aides, have police go by more frequently, and have police provide citations, which is enforcement. I think that will curb it. As more -- as citations are written, I think it will curb that use.

Commissioner Anderson: Yeah.

City Manager Iglesias: I think we've tried getting compliance and that didn't work, and now I think we...

Commissioner Menendez: Do we have signage?

City Manager Iglesias: I think enforcement is the way to do it now.

Mayor Lago: Okay.

Commissioner Menendez: Do we have signage that says if you're not in compliance, you may receive a citation? Or is there something that we can notify?

Unidentified Speaker: Yes.

Commissioner Anderson: There is signage on there.

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: And the reference is the ordinance.

(COMMENTS MADE OFF THE RECORD)

Parks and Recreation Director Couceyro: Yeah, it references the ordinance.

Commissioner Menendez: Okay. I think as soon as you start handing out citations, word will spread.

City Manager Iglesias: Essentially.

Commissioner Menendez: But we need to get this done.

Commissioner Anderson: We do. I looked at the signage. It looked adequate to me. Again, the City Manager -- the purpose of this ordinance -- or resolution is to give the City Manager whatever authority he needs to make it very, very clear that tickets are going to be handed out and no more off leash activity in that park.

City Manager Iglesias: Very clear.

Mayor Lago: Okay, so do we have a motion?

Commissioner Anderson: I'll move it.

Commissioner Menendez: I'll second.

Commissioner Fors: Yes.

Vice Mayor Mena: Yes.

Commissioner Menendez: Yes.

Commissioner Anderson: Yes.

Mayor Lago: Yes.

(Vote: 5-0)

Mayor Lago: Quick question -- well, quick request. Mr. Clerk, for the next Commission, for the Commission in May, which when will that be?

City Clerk Urquia: May 10th.

Mayor Lago: Okay, May 10th. For the May 10th, let's prepare a piece of legislation that I'm going to work on with enforcement, the City Manager, and the City Attorney, and have my colleagues - - if they'd like to assist in any way or form, they can cosponsor it -- to allow NSAs to assist in code enforcement and in certain monitoring, case in point, Catalonia Park, and Valencia, which is also a problem, to help us in this process. I think it's important. I do not want police engaged in code enforcement. It's not the intent. But if there's a neighborhood safety aide who's driving through a neighborhood like mine consistently and sees a habit-forming behavior, boxes, dirty roof, issues that, again, are a detriment to the quality of life here in the City, they need to help. They need to help, or they can either just submit it through the app, or they can submit it to the director at the end of the day. I think it would be important.

City Manager Iglesias: Mayor, I see no reason why we can't do that now.

Mayor Lago: Okay, perfect.

City Manager Iglesias: We will do that now.

Mayor Lago: So, I would like -- I'd like to bring that legislation in May. I'd like to sit down with the Chief, the Director of Code Enforcement, the City Attorney. I want to make sure that we drop -- that we have all the t's crossed and the i's dotted to give us another set of tools for compliance.

City Manager Iglesias: I think there is a difference between calling police or calling Code Enforcement and providing the actual ticket.

Mayor Lago: Yes.

City Manager Iglesias: That's what we don't want to do. I think but to have us aid -- helping that -- in that respect, we will start now.

Mayor Lago: Okay, I don't have a problem with that.