

From: [Mauricio Valencia](#)
To: [City Clerk](#); [Anderson, Rhonda](#); [Menendez, Kirk](#)
Cc: [Mauricio Valencia](#); [Camila Valencia](#)
Subject: Catalonia Park Unusable!
Date: Monday, March 28, 2022 10:20:16 PM

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to you as both a frustrated parent and dog parent. The situation at Catalonia Park has rendered the park almost unusable! It is absolutely incredible that because of irresponsible dog owners, the rest of the local neighbors can't enjoy this wonderful park!

I live 2 blocks away and my 3 children love to run around the park. However, not a trip goes by where they don't come home with dog feces on their shoes. Furthermore, the design of the park, specifically the limestone slabs, are an absolute health hazard! On two separate occasions, my little ones have slipped on the stones and have almost fallen in between them. Luckily, they escaped serious harm and left with only a few scratches and bruises. But it could have been much worse!

And now for the dog parent part. My wife, myself and our dog were absolutely thrilled that Catalonia Park was being developed. Our Winston finally would have a spot to run around carefree. Sadly, the joy lasted only a couple of months. It was / still is so sad to see the complete lack of disrespect that other dog owners show with regards to their dogs' feces.

Because of the above mentioned reasons, I strongly support the agenda item which would create a space for dogs at Salvadore Park. This would provide the much needed relief for Catalonia Park so that others could use the park for its intended use without having to worry about being covered in feces.

Also...should the agenda item be approved, I would like to provide some feedback as to how to improve both future sites.

Future Salvadore Dog Park

- have a look at Key Biscaynes Village Green Park. We have gone several times and the implementation of artificial turf is a wonderful idea as it is virtually indestructible by dogs.
- the grass at Catalonia Park has been replaced how many times in 2 years? That can't possibly be cheap
- taken ideas from Key Biscayne and other cities dog parks...it's a great idea to separate the space for large and small dogs
- Key Biscaynes dog park has flexible hoses to hose down any stubborn feces...owners use it quite often

Future Catalonia Park

- replicate the park the city built on Granada and Alhambra! It is always filled with kids and it has a great layout.

-Mauricio Valencia

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sylvia McCabe](#)
To: [City Clerk](#); [Anderson, Rhonda](#); kmenendez@coralgables.com
Subject: Catalonia Park
Date: Monday, March 28, 2022 1:28:50 PM

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

We would like to give input and an explanation about Catalonia Park. Originally, there was a group hired by the City of Coral Gables to coordinate with the neighbors in our area their plans for Catalonia Park. We expressed our views for this lovely little area. The main emphasis was on the design, keeping the original turtle (which was sold to a neighbor by the City of Coral Gables.) We had a couple of very well attended and spirited meetings and all the neighbors were in agreement it would be a passive park for children to play. Never were dogs mentioned in the initial plan. My husband and I own two dogs so it is not about the fact that people do not like dogs.

The problem is the people who have been coming to the park. No rules are followed, large dogs, small dogs, all sizes of dogs are being brought by their owners to the park. The rule clearly says that dogs are to be on a leash. Dogs are not put on a leash. At times, there have been loud yelps emanating from the park, big dogs fighting and running uncontrolled, little dogs also loose without any supervision from their owners. The neighbors on Catalonia have called the police and they have been helpful. The moment the police leave, dogs are again taken off the leash. Also, the Coral Gables Parks Department has come a few times when we have called. Some of the people in the park were very rude to the persons who came to let them know about the rules.

Most of us here are long time residents, but many of our new neighbors have young children and many of us have grandchildren. We cannot use the park. The park is covered with feces from dogs of visitors who do not live in the area and also neighbors do not pick up after their dogs. Children cannot be in the park due to the lack of sanity from the poop that some dog owners do not pick up. I have spoken many times to the ladies that babysit with young children after school. They said it was too dangerous to have the children at the park for fear of dogs running and knocking over the children. Also, the park grass has to be redone because of the dogs running back and forth on the grass....this is our tax money being used, unnecessarily. In conclusion, this issue needs to be resolved. We are suppose to have lovely "pocket" parks in Coral Gables, not a unsanitary area that is not able to be used by the residents.

Dr. and Mrs. Phil M. McCabe
725 Catalonia Avenue
Coral Gables, Fl. 33134
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [ileana leonard](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Catalonia Park
Date: Monday, March 28, 2022 12:59:15 PM

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To whom it may concerned

I'am in support for Catalonia Park be used only for children instead of dogs. I live around the corner of the park. I have two small grandchildren of my own and have not been able to let them in because of the dog feces everywhere and the disgusting smell. Also, the park should be used only for Coral Gables residents banning outsiders coming to the park, they park their cars on the street blocking Anderson. Sometimes we've passed walking by around 7 pm and there are people there smoking marijuana. There should be a lock at the gate and an ID key given to Coral Gables residents only.

The only way to keep our area beautiful is to keep it safe and protect it.

Thank you

Mr and Mrs Leonard
740 Palermo
C Gables, Fl 33134
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Carolina Galindo](#)
To: [City Clerk](#); [Anderson, Rhonda](#); [Menendez, Kirk](#)
Subject: Catalonia Park
Date: Sunday, March 27, 2022 10:00:20 PM

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Good Evening

I am a resident of Coral Gables, I live at 441 Valencia Ave. I have two children ages 3 and 1.5 years old. They love to play at Catalonia Park, however, it's become very difficult for me to take my children there due to the poop that I always find when I arrive. It's become a health hazard and my kids have ended up smeared with poop on numerous occasions. I have several pictures that I can share with you. In addition to this, dog owners do not follow the rules and all the dogs are unleashed. I have even had dogs grab my kids' toys and water bottles. I don't feel this park to be safe for small children, especially the hygiene aspect where dogs poop and pee all over the park. The grass is always damaged as well and it requires constant maintenance, which is costly.

This park is very important to me because I live in a Condo and, of course, don't have a backyard or green space. I am aware that Commissioner Rhonda Anderson would like to designate an area at Salvadore park for dogs and I support her 100%. Please consider Catalonia Park to be exclusively for children.

Thank you

Carolina Galindo
305-606-0187

From: [Elisabeth Perdigon](#)
To: [Anderson, Rhonda](#); [City Clerk](#); [Menendez, Kirk](#)
Subject: Catalonia Park
Date: Monday, March 28, 2022 1:39:22 PM

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Commissioners,

I came home from work for lunch today to find a letter from a presumed neighbor tucked into my door. This letter addressed how upset many people are about how Catalonia Park has become a problem dumping ground for dog feces and that children cannot use the park, as it is a health hazard. The letter mentions a commission meeting for Tuesday, at which will be discussed a designated area at Salvadore Park for dogs, so Catalonia park may be used by children. While I think it would be wonderful to have a designated area at Salvadore Park for our pets, I don't feel Catalonia Park should just be for the children. Salvadore Park offers so much more for children, then just grass to run around on and a couple of turtles to climb on. I do have children. And they wholeheartedly prefer Salvadore Park.

I also do have a dog who loves this park and hanging out with other dogs. It is also a nice way for the neighbors to get to know each other. And the times I have seen children in there, they love to watch the dogs play. Please do not take this park away from the dogs. There are many more parks for the children to play in that are not too far away.

Thank you for your time,
Liz Perdigon

From: [MARIA ALONSO](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Cc: [Menendez, Kirk](#)
Subject: Catalonia Park
Date: Monday, March 28, 2022 11:26:45 AM

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor and Commissioners, as a Coral Gables resident of 40 years, I am in full support of designating the Catalonia Park a Children's park with no dogs allowed.

I had to stop taking my grandchildren to the park due to the amount of dog poop everywhere.

I appreciate the city's efforts in re-sodding the area but still dog owners do not follow the rules. Therefore, you will not see any children in that park.

Please designate another park for dogs. Thanks.

Maria A. Alonso
711 Catalonia Avenue

From: [Camila Correal](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Catalonia Park
Date: Monday, March 28, 2022 9:55:19 PM

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Commissioners,

I am a Coral Gables resident, and mother of three (3) active children under 4.5 years old. We live at 742 Sevilla Avenue.

I support the agenda item creating a space for dogs at Salvadore Park. This will provide relief for Catalonia Park so that others, including children, may use this park without getting covered in dog feces. It's a health hazard that unfortunately we have experienced more times than we can count on both hands.

Thank you,

--

Camila Correal Valencia, Esq.

From: lpkries@aol.com
To: [City Clerk](#)
Cc: [Anderson, Rhonda](#); [Menendez, Kirk](#); jfirs@coralgables.com; [Mena, Michael](#)
Subject: Catalonia Turtle Park
Date: Tuesday, March 29, 2022 2:47:42 PM

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Commissioners,

Hello again. This is a reminder of the concern my husband and I as well as most of our Catalonia neighbors have about our park. We love the park and many of us have been involved with the initial planning both at the park site and the review of development plans at meetings at the Youth Center. It was always meant to be a small, neighborhood "people" park, not a dog park.

I live across Anderson from the park and have a good view of the park from my window. By late afternoon it looks like a kennel for large dogs and owners who let their animals run free of any leash. The dogs of all sizes have not only destroyed the sod but pooped throughout the park making it a nasty or prohibitive area for children to play. The dog owners seem oblivious.

We do not have a dog but most of my neighbors do and all support making the park "dog free". Any thing you can do to take this back to its original plan would be appreciated. By the way, the neighborhood was never consulted when the plans were altered to include leashed dogs.

In keeping with the efforts to close this park to dogs, we support the efforts to have a dog area in Salvadore Park and if that doesn't work out somewhere, please.

Suggestions:

- Declare it a dog free park and post directions to the nearest dog facility
- Remove the dog water fountain and poop bags from the park
- Patrol the park, a full-time person is ideal
- Remove the fence if liability permits

Also traffic calming measures on Anderson and Catalonia were discussed a while back. How's that coming?

Thanks to all of you for your concern and help. We would love to have an in-person meeting at the park to discuss these issues.

From: hergal@gmail.com
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Comm Meeting March 29, 2022 Catalonia Park
Date: Sunday, March 27, 2022 3:33:55 PM

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Comission Meeting

I live near Catalonia Park and the dual use Dogs and children has no worked despite the City's best efforts. Its become a dumping ground for dog feces and its become a health hazard. Anyone enetering will likely get smeared. We can no longer take children as the dogs took over and children have to run on the street and sidewalks. It should be the other way around. Incredibly the dogs won They are now more important than the children.

Thank you

Hernan Galindo

[Hergal@gmail.com](mailto:hergal@gmail.com)

01-305-903-8900

From: hergal@gmail.com
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Commission Meeting Mar 29 Agenda Item Salvadore Park Dog space
Date: Sunday, March 27, 2022 3:20:05 PM

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Commissioners

I Support the agenda item creating a space for dogs at Salvadore Park. This will provide relief for Catalonia Park so that others including children may use this park without getting covered in dog feces. It's a health hazard.

Thank you,

Hernan Galindo

818 Catalonia Ave

[Hergal@gmail.com](mailto:hergal@gmail.com)

01-305-903-8900

From: [maria teresa sproul](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Commission Meeting Mar 29 Agenda Item Salvadore Park Dog space
Date: Monday, March 28, 2022 9:04:25 AM

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Commissioners

I Support the agenda item creating a space for dogs at Salvadore Park. This will provide relief for Catalonia Park so that others including children may use this park without getting covered in dog feces. It's a health hazard.

Thank you,

Maria Sproul

520 Marmore Ave.

From: hergal@gmail.com
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Commission Meeting March 29 Agenda Item Slavadore Park Dog area
Date: Sunday, March 27, 2022 5:57:22 PM

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Commissioners

I support the designation of a Dog area at Salvadore Park which will be considered at the Commission Meeting.

The city needs to find a solution to avoid combining a dog and children area in some parks. Please include my support in the residents comments at the Commission meeting.

Thank you

Hernan Galindo

818 Catalonia Ave

[Hergal@gmail.com](mailto:hergal@gmail.com)

01-305-903-8900

From: lpkries@aol.com
To: [City Clerk](#)
Cc: [Anderson, Rhonda](#); [Menendez, Kirk](#); jfors@Fcoralgables.com; [Mena, Michael](#)
Subject: Fwd: Catalonia Turtle Park
Date: Tuesday, March 29, 2022 3:16:36 PM

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Forgot to sign the original message

Linda and Larry Kries
748 Catalonia Ave.
305 444-4040

-----Original Message-----

From: lpkries@aol.com
To: cityclerk@coralgables.com <cityclerk@coralgables.com>
Cc: randerson@coralgables.com <randerson@coralgables.com>; kmenendez@coralgables.com <kmenendez@coralgables.com>; jfirs@coralgables.com <jfirs@coralgables.com>; mmena@coralgables.com <mmena@coralgables.com>
Sent: Tue, Mar 29, 2022 2:47 pm
Subject: Catalonia Turtle Park

Dear Commissioners,

Hello again. This is a reminder of the concern my husband and I as well as most of our Catalonia neighbors have about our park. We love the park and many of us have been involved with the initial planning both at the park site and the review of development plans at meetings at the Youth Center. It was always meant to be a small, neighborhood "people" park, not a dog park.

I live across Anderson from the park and have a good view of the park from my window. By late afternoon it looks like a kennel for large dogs and owners who let their animals run free of any leash. The dogs of all sizes have not only destroyed the sod but pooped throughout the park making it a nasty or prohibitive area for children to play. The dog owners seem oblivious.

We do not have a dog but most of my neighbors do and all support making the park "dog free". Any thing you can do to take this back to its original plan would be appreciated. By the way, the neighborhood was never consulted when the plans were altered to include leashed dogs.

In keeping with the efforts to close this park to dogs, we support the efforts to have a dog area in Salvadore Park and if that doesn't work out somewhere, please.

Suggestions:

- Declare it a dog free park and post directions to the nearest dog facility
- Remove the dog water fountain and poop bags from the park
- Patrol the park, a full-time person is ideal
- Remove the fence if liability permits

Also traffic calming measures on Anderson and Catalonia were discussed a while back. How's that coming?

Thanks to all of you for your concern and help. We would love to have an in-person meeting at the park to

discuss these issues.

From: [alex.policastro](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Cc: [Anderson, Rhonda](#); [Menendez, Kirk](#)
Subject: Park at Anderson and Catalonia
Date: Monday, March 28, 2022 10:47:58 PM

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I'm writing this email because I have concerns about the park on the corner of Anderson and Catalonia.

Currently, it is designated both for people and for dogs.

I'd like to ask you to reconsider, and make it a people park, and not a dog park.

The dogs pee everywhere, which makes the grass unusable for people, especially children. The grounds are saturated with urine.

The dogs also poop there, and a lot of the owners do not bother to pick up after their dogs.

This also makes the grass unusable for people since there's dog poop everywhere.

My children have stepped in dog poop multiple times.

The dogs are not leashed inside the park, so we've had issues with overly playful dogs that grab our kids' toys/water bottles/etc. They're then returned to us covered in dog slobber, which means our kids can't use their toys or drink from their water bottle until we've cleaned them at home.

This is a beautiful green space, with plenty of shade, in the heart of a residential area full of families.

My children love playing there.

People can take their dogs to pee and poop anywhere along the route they walk, but there aren't many places like this park for kids to play in, especially so close to the residential areas. It's so convenient to be able just walk down the street to take the kids there without having to load them into the car to drive somewhere.

I hope you designate Salavadore park for dogs, so that Catalonia park can be a people only park.

Thank you,
Alex

Sent from my Galaxy

From: [Luisa Kelly](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: re.: Salvador Park
Date: Monday, March 28, 2022 7:08:22 AM

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I support the agenda item to create a special place only for dogs at Salvador Park. The situation with dogs and children at the new Catalonia Park is a real problem and totally dangerous for a health issue.

Hope the city can resolve this problem as soon as possible.

Thank you, Luisa Kelly

From: [Camila Correal Valencia](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Salvadore Park and Cataonia Park
Date: Monday, March 28, 2022 9:53:47 PM

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Commissioners,

I am a Coral Gables resident, and mother of three (3) active children under 4.5 years old. We live on 742 Sevilla Avenue.

I support the agenda item creating a space for dogs at Salvadore Park. This will provide relief for Catalonia Park so that others, including children, may use this park without getting covered in dog feces. It's a health hazard that unfortunately we have experienced more times than we can count on both hands.

Thank you,



Camila Correal Valencia, Esq.
M. 305.725.7006
2601 NW 104 Court
Doral, FL 33172

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