

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-3
January 28, 2020
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

City Commission

**Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Vice Mayor Vince Lago
Commissioner Jorge Fors, Jr.
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Michael Mena**

City Staff

**City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Parks and Recreation Director, Fred Couceyro**

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item G-3 [3:16:51 p.m.]

Update on repairs to Salvadore Park
(Sponsored by Vice Mayor Lago)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Next item is G-3, Salvadore Park.

Vice Mayor Lago: I just have a simple PowerPoint presentation, I just wanted to present it to my colleagues. A little bit of a current situation in Salvadore Park and some of the things that were brought up by residents. Fred, talk to me about Salvadore Park. I'm getting calls from residents. I know that my colleagues also in regard to the courts and the pickle ball court. The big issue there is the concern that if we are bringing pickle ball in, are we going to take away one of the existing courts?

Parks & Recreation Director Couceyro: The courts that we have there now are, they are just practice ball courts and for racket ball. We've gotten a lot of requests at the tennis center next door

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for pickle ball. Pickle ball is – we haven't really been hit by the train as hard as other communities had, but it's coming.

Vice Mayor Lago: I've got a few phone calls.

Parks & Recreation Director Couceyro: Right – and so we saw this as an opportunity to try it out, its not incredibly high cost capital item. It's a smaller capital item, so we are going to resurface it and part of that resurfacing is fixing the walls and the paint.

Vice Mayor Lago: I think you'll be pleasantly surprised. I was looking up pickle ball and its an interesting sport and a lot more people are getting involved.

Parks & Recreation Director Couceyro: We do have some pickle ball now. We do it at the Adult Activity Center, at the Biltmore we had a few courses we do it with our kids. I've done a staff thing. So, we will build a court right there in that area and then as part of the improvement project, we are going to touchup and repair the stucco on the paint on the wall.

Vice Mayor Lago: When are you planning on...

Parks & Recreation Director Couceyro: I just received a PO last week, so hopefully, I was waiting for, I was hoping I could come with some great news and tell you that the contractor is starting this day, but the vendor, we are still waiting on him to give me a date, but its coming up in the next few weeks.

Vice Mayor Lago: Their biggest concern was if we are going to implement pickle ball that we wouldn't lose one of those wall courts.

Parks & Recreation Director Couceyro: You are going to be able to use the wall court, we are not going to remove that wall that's a big item. There are a couple of other things that we are planning on doing at Salvadore, much bigger scope that we've already had one neighborhood input meeting on what we are going to do on that grass area.

Vice Mayor Lago: Which gets a lot of mud.

Parks & Recreation Director Couceyro: Well right now, we always have to resod it, we just resodded it now, its grass right now, but because of the trees and because of the heavy wear and tear. So, we are looking at doing an ADA playground, all inclusive, and one of the inputs we got from the neighborhood is, even though you are going to put that playground in there, we still want

an open space. So, we are working with a designer to design the play area so that you could still have a space in the middle and still have the elements.

Vice Mayor Lago: You mentioned about heavy wear and tear, I don't live anywhere near there, right next to St. Phillips, but my kids love to go to that park.

Parks & Recreation Director Couceyro: Its probably the most heavily used parks. So, the main playground that's up for replacement and we are working on design and we are going to have a community meeting coming up, I'm just waiting for the vendor, similar to what we did for Jaycee Park.

Vice Mayor Lago: I don't know if it's the shade or the play structure. The play shades are pretty antiquated, but they just love going to Salvadore Park.

Parks & Recreation Director Couceyro: Well it's a quaint park. You do have the trees, the shade.

Vice Mayor Lago: The shade is incredible.

Parks & Recreation Director Couceyro: Yes, the shade is nice, and you have a pavilion there too.

Vice Mayor Lago: The big mud pit though. I know that you guys struggle with that.

Parks & Recreation Director Couceyro: Today its grass. We are going to see how long the grass keeps up.

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you for the update.

Commissioner Keon: On the pickle ball, do people reserve courts or they play as long as they want to play. How do you control the use of the pickle ball court?

Parks & Recreation Director Couceyro: Well right now the way we do it in the Adult Activity Center, you have a set time, and we have reservations, people come, and they play during that time. So, I'm going to work with our tennis people, with Robert, and set up how we are going to do a use protocol. We are in the process of how we are going to program that, whether we are going to do specific times and then we'll control access to the courts, and they'll be run through the tennis center. That's what our hope is.

Commissioner Keon: They'll access it through the tennis center?

Parks & Recreation Director Couceyro: No, no, we'll have staff that will reserve it through them, we'll have information. Now, depending on what the request as we go, operation, we might have some open play time, we'll just keep it open and see what happens. But there is also going to be some practice wall time, because that wall is still going to be used.

Commissioner Keon: They become heavily used once they are there and available.

Parks & Recreation Director Couceyro: Pickle ball will become – its one of the leading trends in recreation, so we are going to start small and see where that takes us.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Great. Thank you. Thank you, sir.

[End: 3:21:34 p.m.]