

MINUTES
University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee
July 09, 2020, at 9:00 AM
Facilities, Planning & Construction
ZOOM MEETING

The University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee (ULVLC) met Thursday, July 09, 2020 for a zoom meeting online.

Members attending:

Gail Hansen De Chapman – Environmental Horticulture - Chair
Donna Bloomfield – Grounds, Facility Services
Gregg Clarke – Director of Operations, Facility Services
Adam Dale – Assistant Professor, Entomology and Nematology Department
Linda Dixon – Director, Planning, Design & Construction
Brian Keith – Associate Dean, Library Administration
Alpa Nawre – Assistant Professor, Landscape Architecture
Ryan O’ Hern - Student
Matt Williams – Director, Sustainability

Members not attending:

Carlos Dougnac – Assistant Vice President, Planning, Design & Construction
Craig Hill – Assistant Vice President, Business Affairs
Francisco Oquendo – Assistant Director, Planning, Design & Construction
Brett Scheffers – Assistant Professor, Wildlife Ecology and Conservation
Tom Schlick – Assistant Director of Grounds, Facility Services
Joe Wu – Assistant University Librarian, HSC Library

Visitors attending:

Melissa Thomas – Administrative, Planning, Design & Construction
Erik Lewis – Sr. Planner, Planning, Design & Construction
Tom Wichman – Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS)
Stephen Caron – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Tom Feather – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Frank Javaheri – Director of Construction, Planning, Design & Construction
Stuart Cullen – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Elizabeth Nolder – RMF Engineering
Chris Wedge – IP
Laurie Hall – CHW
Bill Smith – UAA
Fiona Hogan – Office of Sustainability
Fritz Ballard – Unknown
Chris Jones – RMF Engineering
Frank Bellomo – Unknown
John – Walker Architects
Kavindri Ranasinghe - Mayor’s Council’s Office

I. Adoption of Agenda and June 2020 Minutes

Motion: Alpa Nawre moved to adopt the agenda with adding one item and approving the June minutes.

Second: Adam Dale

Motion Carried Unanimously

II. MAJOR PROJECTS

UAA-60 – Soccer & Lacrosse Facility Improvements **Stuart Cullen**

Stuart introduced himself and stated he was before the committee seeking approval for Design Development. He went over the project location, background, and status. He said there was an existing maintenance facility that they will increase in size to accommodate both Soccer and Lacrosse. They will also be adding common areas between the two buildings. The facility will include locker rooms, coaches' offices and team common space.

The proposed tree impacts were the removal of 20 Cabbage Palms and 4 Live Oak trees. The palms will need to be removed because of the new utilities going in for the new building. The design team will look for opportunities for replanting or relocating to try to minimize the mitigation. The crape myrtle trees will need to stay as proposed because of the restriction in space between the building and the road. This area allowed a few palms to be planted in the front of the building to offset mitigation. Stuart said he was working with Grounds to relocate the existing palms and trees and if they were not able to be relocated, they will pay into the mitigation fund.

Motion: Adam Dale made a motion to approve the project as presented with relocation of the palms & oak trees if possible, with standard mitigation on any not able to relocate.

Second: Alpa Nawre

Motion Carried Unanimously

UF-644- 644A-644B – Reitz Union Lawn Inner Road Improvements **Tom Feather**

Tom introduced himself and gave an overview of the projects. He said that UF-644 was the roadway improvements project, which converts Inner Road from one-way to two-way traffic and will be constructed in accordance with the Landscape Master Plan. He said UF-644A includes underground steam and an electrical duck bank along Inner Road, while UF-644B includes chilled water, steam and electrical improvements that will run through the Reitz Union Lawn.

Tom stated he was working with RMF Engineering on this project. The committee asked if the existing piping will be left in place. Elizabeth Nolder with RMF stated yes, they will not dig up the existing steam, it will be abandoned in place. John from RMF Engineering went through the changes that will be made to Inner Road and the tree impacts. Chris Jones discussed the tree impacts and the tree mitigation summary and discussed the layout of the new trees. The Committee advised that they would prefer the relocation of the existing palm trees instead of removal and replacement.

Motion: Alpa Nawre made a motion to approve the project as presented with standard mitigation and to relocate the cabbage palms in the presented location

Second: Adam Dale

Motion Carried Unanimously

III. MINOR PROJECTS

MP04860 – Reitz Union South Terrace Renovation

Stephen Caron

Stephen introduced himself and that he was before the committee for the Design Development approval. Stephen went over the committee previous motions on the project and explained that they were trying to come up with another option than a fountain or lighting. He went through the slides showing what was presented in previously and what was now being proposed.

He went over the scope of the project which included seating, umbrellas, lighting and electrical in the terrace area of the Reitz Union courtyard at Liberty Pond. He said the water jets were removed from the project and that they were now proposing a fountain that has 6 verticals to represent the different branches of military. The fountain has lighting that is on a timer that can be adjusted. It will provide white noise and irrigation for the pond.

Committee members discussed the conservation area and the need to address adding a manmade structure to the pond. Members expressed concern about the lighting inside the conservation area that light might affect the nocturnal species. Committee members noted that they need to be careful when they start affecting the conservation areas.

The members went back and forth, about what was correct or standard for ponds or sinkholes. The members discussed that there may be the need to add a more specific policy on restrictions or regulations for ponds and sinkholes. Linda said that if the committee develops and approves a new policy it can be incorporated into the Campus Master Plan.

Motion: Brian Keith made a motion to deny the water feature today, but can return to LVL once an updated policy has been put in place.

Second: Alpa Nawre

Motion Carried Unanimously

MP05700 – Maguire Field Synthetic Surface

Stephen Caron

Stephen introduced himself and showed the site location on Bledsoe Drive and Radio Road. He said that grass field would be replaced with synthetic turf. He said that due to the large amount of the sports activities that happen each semester the synthetic turf will hold up better and be playable more of the time.

He said that the work for this project will all be within the fence line and showed the storm water drainage system that will remain in place. Stephen said project received approval from the St. Johns Water Management District. There will be a 20' wide main entrance created to enhance the area and be more inviting to visitors. The proposed fence will be made of chain link black, vinyl covered, fencing.

Stephen said that an arborist viewed the project and was creating a report for the tree canopy; he stated the entire tree canopy needed to be trimmed back because of the encroachment onto the field. He said that they were not requesting any tree removals were being requested, but that they were seeking approval to trim the trees from encroaching onto the field. He said the stormwater system would only allow a certain amount to drain into the existing storm water piping and that the overflow would go into the Hogtown Creek.

Committee member asked that all future synthetic surface projects should be something that is approved by the committee moving forward.

Motion: Adam Dale made a motion to approve the proposed fence replacement and tree trimming based on the Arborist report and recommendations.

Second: Alpa Nawre

Motion Carried Unanimously

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Campus Master Plan Update

Linda Dixon

Linda said that she needed to go over proposed Future Land Use changes was one of the main items she needed to discuss and to look over those materials referencing Conservation Area polices. The committee agreed to have a special meeting prior to the August LVL meeting.

Campus Master Plan update was tabled to the next LVL meeting in August.

Grounds Report

Tom Schlick

Gail stated there was no Grounds report.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 11:21 AM.