

MINUTES
University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee
July 30, 2020, at 9:00 AM
Facilities, Planning & Construction
ZOOM MEETING

The University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee (ULVLC) met Thursday, July 30, 2020 for a zoom meeting online.

Members attending:

Gail Hansen De Chapman – Environmental Horticulture - Chair
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
Ryan O’ Hern - Student
Matt Williams – Director, Sustainability

Members not attending:

Donna Bloomfield – Grounds, Facility Services
Carlos Dougnac – Assistant Vice President, Planning, Design & Construction
Craig Hill – Assistant Vice President, Business Affairs
Alpa Nawre – Assistant Professor, Landscape Architecture
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
Basil Iannone – School of Forest Resources and Conservation
Amanda – PhD Student-represents all Graduate Students

I. Adoption of Agenda

Motion: Adam Dale moved to approve the agenda.

Second: Brian Keith

Motion Carried Unanimously

II. MAJOR PROJECTS

Campus Master Plan Update

Linda Dixon

Linda introduced herself and stated she was before the committee to talk about the Campus Master Plan update for 2020-2030. She said she would also give an overview of the Campus Development Agreement (CDA). Linda went through the various plans that have been undertaken on campus for the last several years, including the Strategic Development, Framework, Transportation and Landscape plans. She discussed each plan and how the Campus Master Plan (CMP) was where all of these plans are tied together. She said the Campus Master Plan and the Campus Development Agreement are statutorily required, with the CDA being an agreement between the City of Gainesville, Alachua County and UF and the CMP telling the University's host governments and local population the University's growth plans for the next 10 years (updated every 5 years).

The Campus Development Agreement has been in existence since 1998 and has led to the University contributing funding of up to \$34.8 million towards infrastructure related projects in the host governments' jurisdictions. Over the last 5 years the CMP has been amended three times with land use changes accounting for only a 1% change in overall acreage reconfiguration. Both measures show that the University is following its plans.

Linda went over the amount of building GSF the University has undertaken, discussed the projections for enrollment and employment as well as the future projections. She spoke of the parking caps and that the University has exceeded its cap, but that in the near future, ongoing and future projects will be built on lots that will reduce the current excess. The caps on new GSF have not been exceeded on main campus or the Alachua County Satellite Properties.

She went over the proposed land use changes that were being recommended, focusing on ones that impact open space. Committee members discussed these maps and asked if they were to comment on the land use changes and note if they were not in agreement with the changes. Committee members discussed McCarty Woods and whether plant and animal surveys were done to study what was in the woods. Linda stated that surveys may be done when actual development was proposed for the site on developing this site, but at this point there were no planned projects. She said that the Campus Framework Plan had identified the woods as a good infill site. Erik Lewis noted that these woods had been surveyed for plants and animals for the 2005 update to the CMP. Linda went over the changes on the campus perimeter, noting the plan was changing the Buffer Land Use to Urban Park. She said that the new energy plant site will be changed to Utility from Parking and Conservation, with some recreation fields and an area along Lake Alice Creek being converted to Conservation for a net gain in overall Conservation land.

Linda went over the bicycle-pedestrian zone that will take motor vehicle traffic out of the core of campus. Committee members asked about the change from Housing to Active Recreation where Maguire and University Village South currently sit. Linda stated that the housing was in very bad shape and UF would have other housing renovated and updated as needed to address the impact of losing that housing and balancing supply and demand.

Linda went over the Capital Improvements table, which projected building 2.7 Million GSF within the next 10 years. Linda went over the associated map to show the future growth areas, primarily in the eastern core of campus. She showed a map for renovation projects and another of satellite properties and their associated future projects. She showed additional maps and went over the documents that had been included as attachments to the committee.

Adam Dale made a comment. He recommended, "Further modifying Policy 1.4.12 "No tree removal >5" without approval" to say "and no mass removal of any woody planting". This relates back to the mass removal of shrubs alongside the rec field on radio road where the artificial turf is going. That was never brought to LVL and those plants were removed, and now creates a dilemma on who is responsible for replacing/mitigating that removal.

Gail Hansen De Chapman decreed to continue this discussion to the August meeting.

Committee agreed

Lakes, Ponds and Sinkholes

Linda Dixon

Linda went over the material provided in the attachments. She included the Lakes, Ponds and Sinkhole Conservation Land Management Plan and a summary document of existing Campus Master Plan Policies used to evaluate Conservation Areas projects along with additional clarifications from campus faculty on some of the question proposed by the committee at its previous meeting regarding the use of ponds. She showed the definition for Conservation in the Master Plan. Linda said that the committee could use the existing policies or could create a new policy for these kinds of projects.

In the example of the Liberty Pond project, Brian Keith, noted that he supported the project intent to honor veterans but that he did not think this meets the current policy of teaching functions in Conservation Areas should relate to the natural resource. He asked that the Conservation definition be modified to change the word “include” to “are” in describing allowed uses in Conservation Areas. He also asked for a summary map of changes to the open space designations in the proposed 2020-2030 Future Land Use map. Gail Hansen De Chapman suggested the projects in Conservation Areas should demonstrate that they enhance the ecological function of the area or else they should not go forward.

There was discussion on how to judge project impacts, what was justified and how to enforce the policy. Linda said that she would take the committee’s discussion points and develop a new policy for the committee to review at its next meeting. Committee members agreed to take the time to read over the materials provided in more depth and continue this discussion at the next meeting.

No Action Taken. The Committee will continue this discussion at the August meeting in the context of the Campus Master Plan update.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 11:07 AM.