

MINUTES
University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee
September 10, 2020, at 9:00 AM
Facilities, Planning & Construction
ZOOM MEETING

The University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee (ULVLC) met Thursday, September 10, 2020 for a zoom meeting online.

Members attending:

William Barber – Assistant Director, UF Police Department
Donna Bloomfield – Grounds, Facility Services
Gregg Clarke – Director of Operations, Facility Services
Gail Hansen De Chapman – Environmental Horticulture - Chair
Linda Dixon – Director, Planning, Design & Construction
Brian Keith – Associate Dean, Library Administration
Alpa Nawre – Assistant Professor, Landscape Architecture
Melanie Nelson – Associate Professor, Medicine
Tom Schlick – Assistant Director of Grounds, Facility Services
Kevin Trejos - Student
Matt Williams – Director, Sustainability

Members not attending:

Adam Dale – Assistant Professor, Entomology and Nematology Department
Carlos Dougnac – Assistant Vice President, Planning, Design & Construction
Craig Hill – Assistant Vice President, Business Affairs
Brett Scheffers – Assistant Professor, Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

Visitors attending:

Melissa Thomas – Administrative, Planning, Design & Construction
Erik Lewis – Sr. Planner, Planning, Design & Construction
Jim Vignola – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Stephen Caron – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Milo Zapata – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
David Wood – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Frank Javaheri – Director of Construction, Planning, Design & Construction
Sean Mountain – Project Manager, IFAS
John Toner – User group – UF IT
Mike Mironack – Director of Facilities Operations, Reitz Union
Nancy Crystal Green – UF
George Murphy – BCJ Architects
Laurie Hall – CHW
Caeli Tolar – CHW

I. Adoption of Agenda and June 2020 Minutes

Motion: Brain Keith moved to adopt the agenda with the change of not electing chair as Gail has renewed and will continue to be Chair. Also approving the August minutes.

Second: Kevin Trejos with committee agreeing seconded.

Motion Carried Unanimously

II. MAJOR PROJECTS

UF – 632 - Data Science and Information Technology Building

Jim Vignola

Jim introduced himself and stated he was before the committee for the Design Development phase. Also on-line were George Murphy of BCJ Architects and Laurie Hall of CHW (Landscape consultant) to go over some of the finer details. Jim reviewed the background, location and scope. The building is a 7-story building and there are 4 user groups for the building. He also went over the ASD phase committee motions and their comments.

Laurie reviewed the landscaping changes to address the comments from ASD Phase. The landscape drawings now include additional tree plantings as requested at ASD. To address the other issue of directing pedestrians to the walkways. Some additional shrubs and ground planting are now included to direct the pedestrians at the corners. Committee members suggested that more emphasis should be placed on the corners utilizing slightly larger plantings. Committee members suggested that options to prevent pedestrians crossing at midblock across from the Reitz Union. Laurie said that the open green space will be partly planted with perennial peanut alongside the Bahia grass to add interest to the field. Tree removal includes (57) regulated trees requiring (114) for mitigation. Tree removals also include (17) heritage trees. A total of (131) trees required for mitigation. Forty-two new trees will be planted on site and (89) trees will be mitigated at a cost of \$22,500.00. Laurie also reviewed the tree choices using the Landscape Master Plan. Erik Lewis suggested that they look at other tree options beyond Live oaks, since each project coming forward lately tended to be planting them and noted that Sycamores were on the western portion of the site.

Jim noted that there are other adjacent projects included the reworking of the service drive and its pedestrian connection to the new parking garage, as well as the utility work along Museum Road. Once the Traffic analysis study is completed for the service drive connection to Museum Road and designs have progressed, the projects will be brought to the committees.

There will be a groundbreaking December 3, 2020. The Project is seeking Design Development approval and LEED Gold.

Motion: Alpa Nawre made the motion to approve the project as presented.

Second: Brian Keith

Motion Carried Unanimously

Grounds Report

Tom Schlick

Tom introduced and Donna Bloomfield who went over the tree removals for the month. She showed the trees with a description and location. On the signs for each removal it stated the reason for removal and whether they were a hazard. There were a few large heritage trees that had to be removed this month and committee members asked whether Grounds does an automatic replacement. Tom said that they don't put them back in the same spot. He continued that the LMP guides where trees are placed or strategically planted in other areas. Tom said that they are holding off replanting around the infrastructure projects going on because he doesn't want to plant and then must remove them. Tom said that there are areas of campus that are over planted and then other areas that need more trees.

David introduced himself and said Laurie and Cali from CHW and John Toner from the user group were joining him. He stated he was before the committee for Design Development phase approval.

Cali showed the project location. She said that the mechanical yard had a few trees for removal and that there was an elm tree that was asked to be replanted. She said that they were looking at matching what is on site and will coordinate with Facility Services. They are looking at a variety of Live oaks, elms, magnolias, and cedar trees. There will be 11 tree removals, which is 22 trees for mitigation and 4 trees for the heritage sugarberry tree.

There was discussion about the tree types proposed around parking, with it being noted that elms do not always provide the best shade. Laurie asked for suggestions from Grounds and she said she would meet them on site to determine the best replantings.

Motion: Alpa Nawre made the motion to approve the project as presented with the switching out of tree types based on the meeting with Grounds and to look at relocating the magnolias.

Second: Kevin Trejos.

Motion Carried Unanimously

IFAS – 20082 – Chiller Plant Expansion

Sean Mountain

Sean introduced himself and stated he was before the committee to present a Chiller Plant Expansion. He said that there was a multi-trunk tree that will need to be removed. The measurement was done on the 4 largest trunks and the mitigation would be 4 total trees at \$500.00 dollar each tree and that they would like to plant replacement trees on the blueberry project site. Grounds agreed to plant the trees for this mitigation when the blueberry project is completed.

Motion: Alpa Nawre made the motion to approve the project as presented.

Second: Brian Keith

Motion Carried Unanimously

MP04860 – 0686 – Reitz Union Terrace Renovations

Stephen Caron

Stephen introduced himself and he was back before the committee to talk about the Reitz Union Terrace Renovation. He went over the location and previously approved project scope of replacing the military memorials, railing and addition of shade umbrellas on the terraces. Stephen that they were seeking approval for the replacement of the water fountain in Liberty pond. He said that their previous presentation they were told to hold off until a meeting on Conservation Area policies regarding the treatment of water bodies on campus was held. He said that since the meeting was held he was coming back to seek approval on the water fountain.

Mike Mironack from the Reitz Union wanted everyone to understand this is a very active place. He said that the south terrace is used by everyone on campus. He said the proposed fountain has 5 streams to recognize the military branches of services coming together in unity. He noted the adjacent roadway to the pond having a bus depot and that the fountain would provide a white noise buffer. The fountain has a light package will not greatly impact the Conservation Area as much as the existing Reitz Union Building.

Committee members spoke about the policies regarding Conservation Areas and sinkholes from the meeting on the Campus Master Plan (CMP) update. There was discussion about the fact that this is a Conservation Area and that the lack of maintenance and alterations to the shoreline doesn't mean that it stops being an area worthy of protection. Committee members noted that a few different research faculty were consulted and they felt that adding a water feature to a sinkhole pond would disrupt the ecosystem in the pond. Alpa asked to receive the research documents from the consulted faculty, since she had missed the CMP update meeting. Erik said that it was online with the attachments for the second July meeting.

Motion: **Brian Keith** made the motion to deny the water feature in the pond for this project.

Second: Alpa Nawre

Motion Carried with 1 nay from Kevin Trejos (student)

III. OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM.