

MINUTES
University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee
November 19, 2020, at 9:00 AM
Facilities, Planning & Construction
ZOOM MEETING

The University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee (ULVLC) met Thursday, November 19, 2020 for a zoom meeting online.

Members attending:

Donna Bloomfield – Grounds, Facility Services
Adam Dale – Assistant Professor, Entomology and Nematology Department
Gail Hansen De Chapman – Environmental Horticulture - Chair
Melanie Nelson – Associate Professor, Medicine
Matt Williams – Director, Sustainability

Members not attending:

William Barber – Assistant Director, UF Police Department
Gregg Clarke – Director of Operations, Facility Services
Linda Dixon – Director, Planning, Design & Construction
Carlos Dougnac – Assistant Vice President, Planning, Design & Construction
Craig Hill – Assistant Vice President, Business Affairs
Brian Keith – Associate Dean, Library Administration
Alpa Nawre – Assistant Professor, Landscape Architecture
Brett Scheffers – Assistant Professor, Wildlife Ecology and Conservation
Tom Schlick – Assistant Director of Grounds, Facility Services
Kevin Trejos - Student

Visitors attending:

Melissa Thomas – Administrative, Planning, Design & Construction
Erik Lewis – Sr. Planner, Planning, Design & Construction
Tom Feather – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Milo Zapata – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Tamera Baughman – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Keith Humphreys – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Jim Vignola – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Frank Javaheri – Director of Construction, Planning, Design & Construction
Jessica Davidson – Civil Engineering, Energy Plant Project
Basil Lannone – Office of Sustainability
Chris Johns – Architect Firm, Reitz Union Lawn, Inner Road / Infrastructure Project
Frank Bellomo – GAI Consultant/Landscape Architect
Chuson McFaddon – Program Manager, Central Energy Plant Project
Fraser Ringel - Unknown
Elizabeth Nolder – RMF Engineering, Reitz Union Lawn, Inner Road / Infrastructure Project
John Williamson – Inner Road Project
Laurie Hall – CHW- Landscape Architect
Leena Rosario – CHW
Patrick Eddy – Unknown
Arnaldo Rodriguez – Unknown

JBPro Group – Unknown
Mark Helms – Assistant Vice President, Facility Services
Tim Williams – Walker Architects
Jennifer Meisenhesler – Assistant Director, Utilities & Energy Services
Jay Brown – Professional Group, Inc., Civil Engineering Firm
Tim Boehlein – Unknown
Du Meyer – Unknown
Erik Lycke – Landscape Architect
D Worthen – Unknown
Rosanne Prager – Unknown
Bradley Pollitt – UF
Mike Bryant – Expert
Jenny Burtchalter – Unknown
CJ Allen - Unknown

I. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

Motion: Adam Dale moved to adopt the agenda and approve the minutes.

Second: Melanie Nelson seconded.

Motion Carried Unanimously

II. MAJOR PROJECTS

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

Tom introduced himself and said he as back before the committee as requested to discuss the research planting beds south of McCarty Hall. He noted that the project was approved last month for Design Development, but that the committee had concerns about the two planter beds that are used by the teaching faculty of Horticulture. The design team and CPPI met with the faculty and reached a relocation and replacement plan that the faculty members had signed off on. Frank Bellomo, project landscape architect, went over the plan stating that most of the smaller plants will be moved by volunteers to the courtyard area nearby. He went over the rest of the plant relocations, detailing how they would be handled and said that one Ligustrum would need to be mitigated.

Motion: Adam Dale made the motion to approve the project as presented, with the Ligustrum tree removal at standard mitigation.

Second: Melanie Nelson

Motion Carried Unanimously

UF – 623D – Central Energy Plant **Milo Zapata**

UF – 623B – Thermal Utility Infrastructure **Tom Feather**

UF – 623C – Electrical Utility Infrastructure **Tom Feather**

Milo introduced himself and stated he was the Project Manager for UF-623 project and joining him was Tom Feather the Project Manager for UF-623B and C. He said that project consultants Chuson McFaddon and Jessica Davidson were also online from Jacobs.

Jessica gave the program overview for all three projects, noting that the projects were previously approved but that they were back to provide updates and modifications.

UF-623B – Thermal Utility distribution infrastructure along Museum Road will be closed during construction and there needs to be a temporary access road to continue traffic to Reitz Union Drive. Jessica showed the

proposed road and tree impacts. Committee members expressed concerned about removing trees for a temporary access road and asked about other options. Mark Helms said that they had investigated coming from the north, but that it was not structurally possible due to a steam tunnel. He added that this would be a 50-year fix for the University that must happen. Mark said that they would replant following the Landscape Master Plan and that they will be natives since this is a conservation area.

Motion: Adam Dale made a motion to approve the temporary access road as presented with a stipulation to put wooden barriers around the adjacent trees that would remain including the Live oaks and Magnolias (all trees in the construction area). When the plan for replanting is developed, it will come back to the LVL committee for approval. If any of the Live oaks need to be pruned it will be done by an arborist and the trees are to be mitigated per policy.

Second: Melanie Nelson

Motion Carried Unanimously

UF – 623D – Central Energy Plant

Milo Zapata

UF – 623C – Electrical Utility Infrastructure

Tom Feather

Jessica Davidson (continuing from the previous discussion) said that there were a few trees where a steam tunnel would be connecting Central Energy Plant to the east side of Gale Lemerand Drive that were missed initially and that there is no way around removing these trees. She said that there were existing utilities that must remain in place.

Jessica went over an update to the horizontal directional drilling for the gas line that will go all the way to the substation site instead of how they had presentenced previously shown it beginning just south of Mallory Road. She explained that at the entrance and exit points the drilling would be going down steeply to about 20 feet and then to about 50 feet through most of the 1500 feet to ensure no impacts to the wetlands. She said his would allow them to save some heritage trees near the Central Energy Plant. Jessica continued that the surface level disturbance would be minimal. Committee members expressed concern about gas leaks and asked how they would be handled. Mike Bryant said that HDD pipe was being put down deep and if there were a leak, they would have to install a new line. He said that this type system has evolved and they hadn't many issues with needing to replace the pipes and that it should have hundred year life span. The committee asked for specific language in writing that if there were a leak they would not go into the wetlands and that it say they would need to do a full replacement of the gas line in the same manner as being proposed.

Motion: Adam Dale made a motion to approve the HDD plans as presented with the following stipulations

1. That any event moving forward where there is a need to repair anything that it is be a full replacement rather than to disturb the conservation areas.
2. That the tree removals are approved as presented at standard mitigation.
3. If there are additional tree removals required at the entrance and exit sites of the HDD that they come back to the LVL committee for approval.

Second: Melanie Nelson

Motion Carried Unanimously

UF – 373 – Special Collections Building

Jim Vignola

Jim introduced himself and said he was before the committee seeking approval for Design Development. He went through the project background, scope, and location. The ASD Phase was previously approved with comments. The committee had previously asked that the pedestrian walkway be straightened to promote the

NATL trail. It has now been moved and the landscape will be planted with native plantings to reflect the trail. This is a gateway to the NATL trail and the design team has developed this as a teaching area with signage and seating. There will be a drainage basin that is designed to be a rain garden with recommendation plantings from the committee. We protected the gateway of the NATL trail with some long leaf pine. The design team will be planting native plants in the landscape of the pathway in front of the building.

There were comments about the controlled burns in this area and the engineers have appropriately designed the fire protection system for this project. The committee discussed the future area and suggested that wildflowers and native grasses be used in lieu of the proposed sod. Committee members said that they would prefer Cabbage palms instead of the proposed bamboo on the north side of the building consistent with the Landscape Master Plan and the nearby natural area. This project will come back to the committee once the design team has made the requested changes.

Motion: Adam Dale made the motion to approve the Design Development proposed new plans as presented with the proposed plant selection, but to substitute Cabbage palms instead of timber bamboo and to stay with the native plant pallet. For the area that is being cleared for future expansion, it is suggested to have that planted with native grasses, wildflowers, and other ground covers and it is brought back to the LVL committee before planting for approval.

Second: Melanie Nelson

Motion Carried Unanimously

UF- 638 Student Health Care Center

Keith Humphreys

Keith introduced himself and stated he was before the committee seeking approval for Design Development. He said Tim Williams, architect, would give the overall presentation and Laurie Hall, landscape architect, would cover the landscape portion of the project. Tim went over the location of the project and building envelope. Laurie noted the previously approved tree removal and went over the planting plan that complies with the Landscape Master Plan. She said they would be using Shumard oaks and other native plants consistent with plants around campus. The north and west side of the building would be planted with Cabbage palms to be consistent with the Football project. She said that there were a series of low walls to deal with the grading needed to deal with utilities and that they were proposing low plants consistent. She said that there would be a terrace on the northeast and there would be planters for adding native plants. The committee the addition of umbrellas on the terrace for shading.

Motion: Melanie Nelson made the motion to approve project as presented.

Second: Adam Dale

Motion Carried Unanimously

UF – 669 Shands Ambulatory Addition

Tamera Baughman

Tamera introduced herself and stated she was here today to introduce the Shands Ambulatory Addition project and that the project would be handled by UF Health Shands Facilities. Brad Pollitt spoke about the Outpatient Surgical Center and noted that the laws have changed the rule and they can now have outpatient recovery beds. He said that they would were proposing to construct 10 rooms for these patients, so they can stay in the surgical center for their recovery. The addition will be over the existing parking lot and that the parking lot will be reconfigured to add the parking back by putting the parking on an undeveloped area due north of the existing parking. Brad said there was a large grade drop and that there will be a drainage basin. He said that this northern area of the site has tall, small trees with a cleared understory.

Brad said that the total number of trees to be removed was 111 and that they would planting 26 trees leaving 200 trees to be mitigated. He said that when the planting plan was fully developed, they would bring it back for approval.

Committee members suggested that they plant more Cypress trees on the edge of the basin to offset the tree mitigation. Brad said that the design team would look at making the parking longer to save more heritage trees, but that it may obstruct the streetscaping to replant per the Landscape Master Plan. The committee suggested that they use Dwarf Yaupon holly instead of the holly currently proposed.

Motion: Adam Dale made the motion to approve the proposed design and tree removals at standard mitigation with the recommendations that they also plant trees in the expanded retention basin with Cypress and other appropriate native species and that they use Dwarf Yaupon holly instead of the currently selected holly.

Second: Melanie Nelson

Motion Carried Unanimously

Grounds Report

Donna Bloomfield

Donna went over the tree removals for the month. She showed the trees with a description and location, which included signs for each removal with the stated the reason for removal and whether they were a hazard. She noted that many palms were continuing to die off. The committee asked if some could be tested to see what is happening and why they are dying.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 11:38 AM.