

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

The University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee (ULVLC) met Thursday, December 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
Adam Dale – Assistant Professor, Entomology and Nematology Department
Linda Dixon – Director, Planning, Design & Construction
Gail Hansen De Chapman – Environmental Horticulture - Chair
Alpa Nawre – Assistant Professor, Landscape Architecture
Melanie Nelson – Associate Professor, Medicine
Tom Schlick – Assistant Director of Grounds, Facility Services

Members not attending:

Carlos Dougnac – Assistant Vice President, Planning, Design & Construction
Craig Hill – Assistant Vice President, Business Affairs
Brian Keith – Associate Dean, Library Administration
Brett Scheffers – Assistant Professor, Wildlife Ecology and Conservation
Kevin Trejos - Student
Matt Williams – Director, Sustainability

Visitors attending:

Melissa Thomas – Administrative, Planning, Design & Construction
Erik Lewis – Sr. Planner, Planning, Design & Construction
Tom Feather – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Tamera Baughman – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Melanie Heflin – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Frank Javaheri – Director of Construction, Planning, Design & Construction
Basil Lannone – Office of Sustainability
Chris Jones – IBI
Frank Bellomo – GAI Consultant/Landscape Architect
Laurie Hall – CHW- Landscape Architect
Chris Doering – Director of Facilities for Housing
Fiona Hogan – Office of Sustainability
Jim Richardson – VMDO
Pete ? – VMDO
Chris Gimuer – VMDO
Alexander Jack – VMDO
Michele Westrick – VMDO
Frances Lengowski – VMDO

Kasey Teimouri – Schenkel Shultz
Tina Gurucharri – Associate Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture
352-294-0655 – Tom Schlick - phone
352-342-7965 – Tom Feather - phone
352-294-0813 – Donna Bloomfield - phone

I. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

Motion: Adam Dale moved to adopt the agenda and approve the minutes with the change suggested to the November minutes.

Second: Melanie Nelson seconded.

Motion Carried Unanimously

II. MAJOR PROJECTS

UF – 656 – Landscape Master Plan

Frank Javaheri / Melanie Heflin

Frank introduced himself and said he is representing for Melanie Heflin, the Project Manager for this project. The project is here today for Advanced Schematic Design approval. This project is for the Landscape Master Plan and details the Newell Gateway and North East Tigert Gateway.

The Newell Gateway is being transformed into a pedestrian gateway through the Historic District. There will be brick and retaining walls. In the entrance area of the gateway there will be bollards in place to discourage vehicular usage. There will be regular curbs at the road with a small area on the curb being mountable by emergency vehicles. There will also be a 12' width sidewalk for a multiuse trail. In creating the symmetry of the trail, a 28" magnolia will need to be removed. The committee spoke about this tree and trying to reconfigure around the tree but reviewing the area, because it is a multiuse trail, it will not be feasible. This tree in the future will inhibit the canopy growth of the two 20" DBH oaks so the design team thought it would be better to remove the magnolia. There is a small 8.5" oak tree that will be removed and replaced with larger oak to match the path and stay in line with the Landscape Master Plan.

The North East Tigert Gateway will be a transformation of an auto court circle drive. This will be a vehicular/pedestrian gateway. There will be impacts on the landscape and a new bus shelter, a new guard house and an upgrade to the Criser lot, Little lot, VIP and service parking area, and an outdoor gathering plaza in the back of Tigert Hall. The auto court will have seating and bollards around it to help with traffic flow. The road will become a one lane entry with a bike lane and there will be three lanes exist. The design team went over the landscaping choices and the layout of the areas and streetscapes. The little lot will be widened to the south and the north allowed the space number to stay the same by headend parking instead of angled parking and the lot will be permeable pavers and the islands will be rain gardens collection areas and curb less to create a more sustainable solution. The seating area in the Tigert Hall gathering will be reconfigured and given an upgrade to refresh this area. The committee asked if there is a way to direct the pedestrian walkway thru the little parking lot. There is a grouping landscape area at the back of Tigert and in need of refresh and a heritage oak tree that will need to be removed because of the design. There will also be a few trees in the parking lots for reconfiguration. There is a total of 88 trees to be removed. There is a proposed plan of 71 new trees will be added. The rest will be with standard mitigation. The committee asked if the design team could try to save more of the long leaf pine trees. The committee also asked about diversity on the plantings. The committee asked to change out some of the Crepe myrtles to Chickasaw plum or a small flowering tree. The project will be coming back for Design Development approval and will be able to see the landscaping changes and a tree removal table. The committee asked for looking at organization of the different species and grouping like species to have a more diverse look. Some of the Cypress trees and cabbage palms will be transplanted but the other trees are being removed. There is a dogwood and some Crepe Myrtles that may be moved if possible if there is a place to move them.

Motion: Alpa Nawre made the motion to approve the plans and tree removals as presented and with standard mitigation. The committee recommended species other than Crepe Myrtle be looked at in

the area at Tigert Hall and Union Road. The Committee requested the project come back to the committee with landscape details at Design Development.

Second: Melanie Nelson

Motion Carried Unanimously

UF – 669 – Shands Ambulatory

Tamera Baughman

Tamera introduced herself and stated she was the Project Manager for UF-669 project and have Laurie Hall from CHW to explain all the changes incorporated into the projects landscape. This is an addition to the Shands Ambulatory Surgery Center. There will be improvements around the site. Laurie showed the location of the addition and the new drop off and pick up area. There will be additional parking added but there is a large grade level change and that will impact most of the tree removals. There will also be changes to the existing water basin. The addition will be built on top of the existing parking lot and a new parking lot area will be added and there will be an expansion to the basin. There is a new footprint in the storm water basin so there are 12 trees that will now be saved in this area. This an existing wooded site and the tree mitigation has changed from last month because of saving these trees. There are three planting areas, one is adding trees along the walkway, in the parking area, and the water basin. The basin there is an opportunity to plant a mix of species and the parking lot we have a mix that are consistent with what is around the existing building. The last area will be adding some cypress and one live oak. We are now providing 60 trees so the mitigation will decrease from prior. Laurie went over some of the user group landscape choices around the building and showed the proposed design. The committee had a question about the cypress because of that area is usually dry. They may be able to plant Florida maple or red maple instead of Cypress. The committee also stated there is a future build out in that basin area. May need to plant more to the north or west instead of the south.

Motion: Adam Dale made a motion to approve the project as presented with consideration of replacing some of the Cypress on the southside and in the basin area with Florida or Red Maple, and ensuring plants are not in an area that is marked for future projects.

Second: Alpa Nawre

Motion Carried Unanimously

UF – 654 – Honors Residential College

Tamera Baughman

Tamera stated she was also the Project Manager for UF-654 and that Alexander Jack from VMDO Architects was here to discuss the changes. Alexander went over the location and the quad areas for approximately 1400 beds. He discussed that there are specific areas that these buildings will be built around. The protection of the Yulee pit preserve, the plaza area, restoring the great lawn, and the courtyard area between the buildings. Pete discussed the landscape of the project and started with the existing site and showed the tree removals and the palms that may be able to be transplanted on the site. Some of the trees will be looked at to be transplanted on site or on campus. The 16” sycamore tree will need to be removed because of the utilities and building 4. There is also a Utility building being built on this site and there will be tree removals in this area. This area will have upgraded utilities and the pool will have to be removed. There are a total of 35 trees being removed but they will be doing standard mitigation of 2:1 for the trees that can’t be transplanted. Therefore, 70 trees for mitigation and 29 palm trees will be transplanted. The committee asked about the pines in the pool area and because of the demolition and grading and leveling the area for an open gathering. The committee asked about looking at that great lawn and using the elevation of the area to create a lawn sculpting or landform. The courtyard area is mainly for the honor students and gatherings of the students. The plaza will allow a flow thru campus and will be a bike and pedestrian walkway like a grand promenade and north of the plaza will be set up for hammocks with poles and this area is called the hammock grove. It will have oaks and palms in this area. There will also be a yoga platform looking over the Yulee pit for the students to enjoy outdoor exercise. There is a proposed 68 canopy trees and 33 understory trees, and this should meet the mitigation for

the removals. Chris Gmuer spoke about the historic wetland. There is stormwater runoff that is going to the Yulee pit but this project will now help create a natural feature and feed and restore the hydrological flow of the rain water. The stormwater will drain back to the creek. There will be infiltration gardens to help with the stormwater runoff drainage. The committee asked to make sure the hammock grove is elevated a little so it will not hold the stormwater runoff. The committee asked the design team to look at the south of the great lawn to make sure we do not need additional draining. The plant list is pulled from the Landscape Master plan but will be mixing species in the area to incorporate diversity. Adam stated he liked the low impact design elements and the presented plant palette. He was curious what size trees are proposed in many of these spaces. The committee noted that while the depictions look great, the trees shown are likely much larger than the newly planted trees will be. Second, Adam suggests strongly considering the type of turfgrass planted in the lawn areas. Consider how far it will extend underneath the trees and foot traffic, etc. For example, Bahia can be great for low maintenance, but cannot handle foot traffic. Bermuda is great for foot traffic and low water-use but cannot handle shade. The same turf species is likely not appropriate for all the lawn areas. This project has to remove the pool because of the utilities going in and there funding doesn't allow a replacement pool. The hammock grove was cut off from the great lawn because of the service vehicles, east and west movement passage for bike and pedestrian traffic. The walkway thru can be eliminated but we can look at the area in the hammock grove. There is pedestrian space all along the throughfare for wall seating, café dining, and seating areas for students. Linda took over as chair and the committee voted.

Motion: **Melanie Nelson made a motion to approve the design as presented with the additional tree removals. The project will need to come back to the committee with the landscape plan and plant selections at the Design Development phase.**

Second: **Gail Hansen De Chapman**

Motion Carried Unanimously

III. OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 11:18 AM.