

MINUTES
University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee
February 11, 2021, at 9:00 AM
Facilities, Planning & Construction
ZOOM MEETING

The University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee (ULVLC) met Thursday, February 11, 2021 for a zoom meeting online.

Members attending:

William Barber – Assistant Director, UF Police Department
Donna Bloomfield – Grounds, Facility Services
Linda Dixon – Director, Planning, Design & Construction
Gail Hansen De Chapman – Environmental Horticulture - Chair
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
Matt Williams – Director, Sustainability

Members not attending:

Gregg Clarke – Director of Operations, Facility Services
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
Kevin Trejos - Student

Visitors attending:

Melissa Thomas – Administrative, Planning, Design & Construction
Erik Lewis – Sr. Planner, Planning, Design & Construction
Milo Zapata – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Tom Feather – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Frank Javaheri – Director of Construction, Planning, Design & Construction
Fiona Hogan – Office of Sustainability
Cydney McGlothlin – UF Architect, Planning, Design & Construction
Steven Vann – Project Manager, College of Engineering
Melanie Heflin – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Ronnie Cooper – Project Manager, IFAS
Frank Tipton – Project Manager, IFAS
Joey Mandese – Vertex Construction
Frank Bellomo – GAI Associates
Chris Jones – IBI
Randy Sorensen – Landscaping, Jacobs
Fraser Ringel – HDD Expert, Jacobs
Adam Gayle – Design Team
Au Myra – Unknown

Jennifer Lyons – Unknown
Jessica Davidson – Jacobs
Chuson McFaddon – Jacobs
Jose Ramos – Unknown
Patrick Eddy – Unknown
Robert Mooney – Unknown
352-262-2069 – Unknown
352-294-0813 – Unknown

I. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

Motion: Brian Keith moved to approve the agenda with putting the Liberty Pond Fountain discussion at the top of the agenda and to approve the January minutes.

Second: Alpa Nawre

Motion Carried Unanimously

Liberty Pond Fountain

Gail Hansen De Chapman

Gail stated she wanted to bring this to the committee today because she received an email about the approval and installation of the Liberty Pond Fountain saying it will go forward despite LVL's recommendation to deny. She responded by email to Curtis Reynolds and is awaiting a response. She wanted to give the committee a chance to voice their concerns about this installation. Brian Keith stated this fountain was approved by LVL in 2008 but then fell into disrepair and was removed. The project to reinstall the fountain came back multiple times to this committee last year and was denied. The committee denied the project based on relevant policies in the Campus Master Plan, and added a new policy 1.4.13 to further clarify the committee's intent with regard to projects like this. This project would be human intervention into the conservation area. We have an approved updated Campus Master Plan, and the committee is grounded in this opinion. The email stated that LVL approved the project but not the fountain component. The committee discussed bringing this concern to the Land Use Committee. A member asked how projects are determined to come to the committee, and Linda Dixon explained that criteria are listed in the Implementation Element policy 1.1.2. Cydney McGlothlin stated that the project is in final contract negotiations and will have all the appropriate studies, permitting documents and environmental impact assessments as a part of the contract. The committee asked if they will be able to see those studies and environmental impact report. Cydney stated "yes" because it is public record. The committee would like to know that their time invested on advising per policies is relevant. The committee also discussed CITF-funded projects in general and their desire to review them before they get too far in the process.

Motion: Brian Keith made the motion that with incredible and profound respect for the importance of recognizing the service of veterans in the State of Florida and our country writ large and their positive impact on humanity in general, the committee would like to immediately reiterate and clarify in writing or voice to VP Curtis Reynolds the committee's concerns about human interventions in Conservation Areas. Additionally and regardless of the outcome of this particular project, the LVL committee would like to immediately relay to the other committees their concerns so that the other members can understand the process that LVL experienced and the work that the committee put into developing and interpreting policies for which it is unclear whether they are enforced.

Second: Alpa Nawre

Motion: Brian Keith moved to review all of the actions that impact lakes, vegetation and landscaping that are not coming before this committee.

Second: Alpa Nawre

Both Motions Carried Unanimously

II. MAJOR PROJECTS

UF – 671 – Harn Museum – American Art Wing

Cydney McGlothlin

Cydney was before the committee for site selection and programming for UF-671 at the Cultural Plaza. The Project Manager will be Keith Humphreys. Cydney discussed the area and future projects. The American Art Wing will be about 20,000 square-foot addition and 3 stories. The project will create a new drop off for the Harn. The area of the footprint will strive to minimize parking impacts and may impact 3 Shumard oaks, which Donna Bloomfield confirmed are in poor condition. The project will come back at Advanced Schematic Design.

Motion: Alpa Nawre moved to approve the Site Selection and Programming phase as presented.

Second: Brian Keith

Motion Passed Unanimously

III. MINOR PROJECTS

UF-623B, C & D – Central Energy Plant and Utility Infrastructure

Milo Zapata/Tom Feather

Milo introduced himself and gave an overview of the three projects. Jessica Davidson and others from Jacobs will be presenting different areas of the projects. For D, it will be the landscaping and façade update. For B, it will be the temporary Package Plant. For C, it will be the design update for the Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD).

First, Robert Mooney discussed the Central Energy Plant façade and the materials being used on the building. The front face of the building is glass so when walking by students may see into the building to express what is going on in the plant. The outer façade of the cooling towers will be matching the surrounding buildings with brick and concrete. The lower mass is the entrance and administrative section of the building. The design team is doing studies on the glazing and impacts to birds. Randy Sorenson explained the landscaping around the building. There are underground utilities coming out the front of the building so there are no street trees. There is a 12' wide clear pathway and the concrete is 20' wide with pots for planted trees and benches. There will be two live oaks on the front face of the building and fringe trees in the 6' diameter pots along the walk. In front of the building the low bands align with the glazing bands on the building and bringing it down to the ground plane. It is simple but elegant with low plantings. Randy showed what landscaping materials will be planted in the bands. There will be a mow strip by the planting beds for maintenance with river rock. The materials will comply with the design guidelines of the Landscape Master Plan. There will be concrete pavers in the front of the building to highlight the entrance. The decorative fence will be on the southeast corner and the rest of the building will be chain link fence out of public view. From the sidewalk to the road will be stormwater treatment swale with plantings in it. The front façade is protected by the benches and planter pot. A member suggested that benches and bollards alternate between the planter pots to help with securing the front of the building. The committee was concerned about the cooling load, and the design team responded that they are working with mechanical teams on glazing and heat loads. The vertical fins on the building are passive shading. The committee asked about the plan for the roof water, and the design team stated they are looking into that as well. The committee asked about the turf and wanted to see more native

plantings instead of the turf. The Landscape Master Plan uses brick in this zone instead of concrete pavers. The sidewalk, benches, and brick should follow the correct zone precinct of the guidelines.

Jose Ramos presented the design update for the Horizontal Directional Drilling. The depth is about 40 to 50 feet except for each end and it will surface gradually. There should not be any impacts on the conservation area. He showed an aerial view of the design and how it will go through the conservation area.

Patrick Eddy presented the temporary Package Plant being installed in the Frazier Rogers parking lot next to Center Drive and Museum Road. It will impact 14 parking spaces of the lot. He showed the size and scale of the Plant in relation to the area around it. There are no impacts on landscaping expect for trimming/pruning. All pruning will be done by an Arborist. It will be used until the new Central Energy plant is completed, and then moved to another area on campus. The parking lot will be returned to its original status once the Package Plant is not needed.

Motion: Alpa Nawre moved to approve the Energy Plant and landscaping with the following recommendations:

- Reconsider design of the turfed areas with low maintenance native vegetation
- Consider a swale for stormwater between the sidewalk and the road
- Alternate benches and bollards between trees on the east side of the building for security
- Design for security along the north façade
- Consider the building skin for energy conservation/cooling load and bird mortality
- Ensure the street furnishings and materials are consistent with the correct precinct in the Landscape Master Plan

Second: Brian Keith

Motion: Alpa Nawre moved to approve the Horizontal Directional Drilling and Packaged Plant as presented.

Second: Brian Keith

Both Motions Passed Unanimously

UF-668 – Racquet Club Dinning

Milo Zapata

Milo introduced the project and stated he was asking for an approval of the interior renovation with a small addition on the east side of the building. Adam Gayle showed the location of the project and how it will look with the addition. There will be no tree impacts but existing shrubs will be removed. There will be an outside seating area on the southside and a new ADA entry access. The distance from the addition to the curb is 14'. The Landscape Master Plan street cross-sections recommend buildings at a 30' setback. The addition is 55' in length, and the committee asked if there were other design options. There were other considerations of sail shades or if it is an indoor/outdoor or patio garden idea. The designers also considered the north side as a potential indoor/outdoor experience. This facility will be a glass façade to be more open. The committee asked if this area could be an outdoor area. The facility operators wanted to be able to use the space year-round and that is why they wanted a closed area. The committee asked the reason for the addition, and Milo confirmed it was to increase seating. The committee recommended the design could be configured to be used for an indoor/outdoor space. Cydney McGlothlin stated that this project still has to go to the Architectural Review Council. The committee suggested to move the bike racks from in front of the space. The committee further discussed the advantages of an outdoor dining space that could rejuvenate the area.

Motion: Alpa Nawre moved to approve the project concept with a stipulation that the proposed addition be redesigned as an outdoor landscaped space rather than an interior building addition. The outdoor dining would add to the campus experience, activate the sidewalk rather than constrict it, engage with existing open space, and incorporate green space.

Second: Brian Keith

Motion Carried with one opposed (Melanie Nelson)

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

The committee discussed the remaining agenda items and agreed to hold a supplemental meeting to finish the agenda. The tree report will be on the agenda next month.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 11:08 AM.