

MINUTES
University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee
February 22, 2021, at 9:00 AM
Facilities, Planning & Construction
ZOOM MEETING

The University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee (ULVLC) met Monday, February 22, 2021 for a zoom meeting online.

Members attending:

William Barber – Assistant Director, UF Police Department
Gregg Clarke – Director of Operations, 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
Matt Williams – Director, Sustainability

Members not attending:

Donna Bloomfield – Grounds, 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
Melanie Nelson – Associate Professor, Medicine
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
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
Frank Bellomo – GAI Associates
Chris Jones – IBI
352-342-7965 – Unknown

I. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

Motion: **Brian Keith moved to approve the Agenda.**

Second: **Alpa Nawre**

Motion Carried Unanimously

II. MAJOR PROJECTS

UF – 656 – Landscape Master Plan Implementation – Newell & Tigert Gateways Melanie Heflin

Melanie introduced herself and the Landscape Master Plan Implementation of the Newell and Tigert Gateways for Design Development approval. Frank Bellomo from GAI and Chris Jones from IBI gave the presentation.

Frank stated the Newell Gateway would be a plaza area with brick pavers and walls. They are focusing other design to address safety concerns on University Avenue. The project will implement a vertical curb and gutter system instead of the mountable curb. There will be bollards placed across the plaza close to the road to prevent vehicular traffic in the plaza area. The team is working with DOT on a new traffic signal and crosswalk adjacent to this gateway.

At the Tigert Gateway, the entry/exit was reconfigured to accommodate the bike lane on the exit. There will be an auto court for drop off with bollards and seating. The Criser parking lot will have winged elm on the islands and live oaks. The project will create stormwater planters and some small crape myrtles trees in the medians with a row of permeable pavers to address stormwater runoff. Some long leaf pine and other trees marked to be removed will now be saved. In the medians of Little parking lot, the project is proposing red maple. There are existing oaks that can now be saved on site. The new mitigation is 145 trees and the project will be addressing them with plantings and standard mitigation. The Little parking lot will have the permeable pavers on the north and south lanes of the parking. There will be stormwater planters in the median areas for this lot as well. The VIP parking in the back of Tigert has brick pavers and added handicap parking to have it all in one place. The gathering area in the back of Tigert will be configured as a meeting or gathering space. The committee was concerned about the Podocarpus shrubs because of needed maintenance. The committee asked if the design team could look at something else in our standards that may work with less maintenance. Bollards were added behind Tigert at the road to help secure the gathering area from vehicular traffic and create a safety barrier.

The committee asked about the security for the pedestrians on 13th Street. Frank show the aerial of the area to show the brick wall and pillar on each side of the intersection. The committee suggested looking at the security of the area for pedestrians. The committee was concerned about the landscape at the facade of Tigert viewed from Union Road. Five cabbage palms will remain in that area and one cabbage palm will be added for uniformity. There are two ligustrum trees that will be transplanted on campus by Facilities. The old cabbage palms will be removed. There is a Magnolia that will remain and azaleas will be added in the planting bed with the existing giant border grass that will remain.

Motion: Brian Keith made the motion to approve the project as presented.

Second: Alpa Nawre

Motion Carried Unanimously

III. MINOR PROJECTS

Agronomy – New Field Building Frank Tipton

Frank introduced himself stated he was here today to present the Agronomy Complex. They are proposing to add a 30' x 50' field building. In order to accommodate the new building, there are a number of pine trees that need to be removed. All oak trees will remain and have no impact. The main issue of removal is the shading of existing greenhouses affecting research. He showed the trees and the canopy and due to their congested growth are one sided. Frank, Ronnie, and Gail inventoried the trees on a site meeting to discuss the trees. The project would like to remove all pine trees because of the poor quality of the trees and because they are stunting the growth of the existing oaks in this area. For this reason the project would like to have reduced mitigation. The mitigation for this project, IFAS would like to put the other trees at the new Blueberry Building landscape and planting a few (5) live oaks in the field for the south to shade the cattle and livestock. Proposing 44 trees removed at a 2:1 would be 88 trees replaced or \$22,000.00 and the project is requesting a reduction in mitigation. There are other IFAS projects that this mitigation can be used for putting more trees

on other projects. Matt William was concerned about lowering mitigation on projects across the board and asked the committee to be careful doing lower mitigations.

Motion: Brian Keith moved to approve removal of 47 pine trees with mitigation to be trees planted at the Blueberry Research Building and 5 live oaks to be planted in the pasture south of the site.

Second: Alpa Nawre

Motion Carried Unanimously

Autonomy Park @ Energy Park

Steven Vann

Steven introduced himself and stated he was asking for approval of the new Autonomy Park drone enclosure at Solar Park on SW 23rd Terrace. The project will add 10 magnolias between existing crepe myrtles along SW 23 Terrace for additional screening.

Motion: Brian Keith made a motion to approve the project as presented.

Second: Alpa Nawre

Motion Carried Unanimously

Agronomy – Tree Removals

Ronnie Cooper

Ronnie introduced himself and stated he was requesting tree removals next to the buildings at the Agronomy complex. There is a live oak over building 0339 that is a safety hazard and needs to be removed. There is also an unknown tree and a loblolly near buildings that need to be removed because of flooding issues. There are infrastructure issues concerning the unknown tree. The committee concurred that these trees are safety hazards so there will be no mitigation and committee approval is not required. **No action taken.**

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 10:05 AM.