

MINUTES
University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee
April 08, 2021, at 9:00 AM
Facilities, Planning & Construction
ZOOM MEETING

The University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee (ULVLC) met Thursday April 08, 2021 for a Zoom meeting online.

Members attending:

William Barber – Assistant Director, UF Police Department
Donna Bloomfield – Grounds, Facilities Services
Gregg Clarke – Director of Operations, Facilities Services
David Conser – City of Gainesville – City Arborist
Adam Dale – Assistant Professor, Entomology and Nematology Department
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

Members not attending:

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, Facilities Services
Kevin Trejos – Student
Matt Williams – Director, Sustainability

Visitors attending:

Melissa Thomas – Administrative, Planning, Design & Construction
Milo Zapata – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Frank Javaheri – Director of Construction, Planning, Design & Construction
Basil Iannone – School of Forestry Resources and Conservation
Fiona Hogan – Office of Sustainability
Tom Wichman – IFAS Facilities
Jessica Davidson – Jacobs Engineering
Chuson McFadden – Jacobs Engineering

I. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

Motion: Brian Keith made a motion to approve the Agenda and March Minutes.

Second: Alpa Nawre

Motion Carried Unanimously

II. MAJOR PROJECTS

UF – 623 – B, C, D, - Central Energy Plant, Thermal and Utility Infrastructure Milo Zapata

Milo introduced himself and stated he was here today to discuss the UF-623 family of projects. He has Jessica Davidson and Chuson McFadden from Jacobs Engineering here today to go over the project updates.

Jessica started by presenting an overview of the UF-623 f projects and stated today the presentation is concentrating on UF-623C and changes that were at the E-house yard site and the substation site related to the Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD). This presentation shows the trees that the project was able to save. There are additional trees that need to be removed and they were not in the original approval. The original survey of the area didn't show all the trees and these are additional trees that need to be removed related to the HDD design and the location of the water line in this area. The E-house yard area will be graded level and a gravel yard will be provided to allow vehicle access for maintenance. The committee asked if there are any issues in the conservation areas near this project. Linda confirmed the conservation area was revised in the 2020-2030 Campus Master Plan amendment to accommodate this project. There are 72 additional trees that need to be removed and the project is saving 27 trees from the last approval. The net is 45 additional trees to be removed. Most of the trees are sweetgum and sugarberry trees. The committee discussed the wetlands and the buffer. The limits of construction line did not change from the prior approval. The committee asked about the stormwater run-off. The committee asked that UF-623 projects consider planting trees west of the E-House yard. The design team responded letting them know there will be landscaping southwest of the UF-623D Central Energy Plant, near the retaining wall but trees/landscaping are not included in the UF-623C design. UF should coordinate any additional trees, west of the E-House yard, internally within the family of projects. The committee suggested there will be areas where more trees could be planted to offset mitigation near the wetlands and the Central Energy Plant landscaping.

Motion: Brain Keith made the motion to approve the project as presented with 45 additional trees to be removed and mitigated per the policy with consideration to plant additional trees in the Central Energy Plant landscaping and at the south side of the site near the wetlands.

Second: Alpa Nawre

Motion Carried Unanimously

III. MINOR PROJECTS

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Elections (Academic Year 2021-2022)

Gail Hansen De Chapman

Gail stated we needed to elect the chair for this Academic Year. The committee members discussed the options and who would be able to chair. They also discussed the need for a vice chair.

Motion: Brain Keith made the nomination for Gail Hansen De Chapman as Chair and Adam Dale as Vice Chair. Gail and Adam accepted the nomination.

Second: Alpa Nawre

Motion Carried Unanimously

Gail stated she asked to be on the agenda to talk about projects that fall between the cracks, such as the CITF projects and some grounds-initiated projects that do not come before the committee. Gail stated she was going to bring this issue to the Infrastructure Council meeting and reach out to the other chairs of the Joint Faculty Senate Committees. She was also going to be reporting to the Committee on Committees and she was not able to do that yet. In the Infrastructure Council meeting, VP Reynolds spoke about Deferred Maintenance projects. Gail asked about the Deferred Maintenance projects and that Liberty Pond was represented that way. Prior to this meeting Gail forwarded to the LVL committee members the latest correspondence from VP Reynolds reversing his decision about the Liberty Pond fountain recognizing it was not a deferred maintenance project and should not go forward. The committee discussed the master plan policy update and what is considered human intervention. The committee suggested she might ask VP Reynolds to route all projects within his area of influence to the committee involving “human intervention” in Conservation Areas. The committee also discussed the definition of projects and expanding that interpretation more broadly to be not just typical PDC “projects”. The committee discussed the definition of a Deferred Maintenance Projects as a project, (existing building or existing area), involving maintenance that is postponed and still needs to be completed.

Gail discussed a large oak tree on Radio Road that was removed by Grounds and notification that Donna provided about it. Gregg Clarke noted that a replacement tree has been planted. He asked what the committee wants to see in the Grounds Report. The committee spoke about a few projects as examples of what to notify the LVL about, such as camellia plantings at University Gardens. Linda went over the Campus Master Plan policy that specifies criteria for projects that must come to the committee. The committee reviewed its charge, which includes lakes, major landscape elements, greenspace, open space. Gregg Clarke noted that Lake Alice and its tributaries are permitted as a stormwater treatment facility. There are often maintenance activities such as the recent dredging of the creek to prevent flooding. There will be the need to dredge Lake Alice in the future. The committee confirmed they would like to hear about all projects around Lake Alice, including the dredging at Lake Alice before it commences. They also confirmed they want to know about heritage-size trees even if they are hazardous because the committee members get asked about tree removals by other faculty members. Similarly, removal of mass plantings/shrubs should be notified to the committee. For any project around Lake Alice please inform the committee prior to the action, do not wait for the Grounds Report to notify.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM.