

MINUTES
University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee
August 12, 2021, at 9:00 AM
Facilities, Planning & Construction
ZOOM MEETING

The University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee (ULVLC) met Thursday, August 12th, 2021 for a Zoom meeting online.

Members attending:

Adam Dale – Assistant Professor, Entomology and Nematology Department
Linda Dixon – Director, Planning, Design & Construction
Gail Hansen De Chapman – Environmental Horticulture - Chair
Melanie Nelson – Associate Professor, Medicine
Tom Schlick – Assistant Director of Grounds, Facilities Services
Donna Bloomfield – Grounds, Facilities Services
William Barber – Assistant Director, UF Police Department
Brian Keith – Associate Dean, Library Administration

Members not attending:

Carlos Dougnac – Assistant Vice President, Planning, Design & Construction
Craig Hill – Assistant Vice President, Business Affairs
Alpa Nawre – Assistant Professor, Landscape Architecture
Brett Scheffers – Assistant Professor, Wildlife Ecology and Conservation
Kevin Trejos – Student
Gregg Clarke – Director of Operations, Facilities Services
David Conser – City of Gainesville – City Arborist
Matt Williams – Director, Sustainability

Visitors attending:

Melissa Thomas – Administrative, Planning, Design & Construction
Rachel Mandell – Senior Planner, Planning, Design & Construction
Basil Iannone – Assistant Professor, Forest Resources and Conservation
Stephen Caron – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Bill Corbitt – Level Architecture
Catherine Cramp – Senior Associate Director, RecSports
Cydney McGlothlin – University Architect, Planning, Design & Construction
Caeli Tolar – Project Manager, CHW
Andrew Meeker – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Olivia Lee – Unknown
David Sowell – Land Development Manager, DRMP

I. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

Motion: Adam Dale made a motion to approve the Agenda and July minutes.

Second: Brian Keith

Motion Carried Unanimously

II. MAJOR PROJECTS

UF – 670 SW Rec Weight Room Expansion

Stephen Caron

Stephen Caron presented the project. He provided an overview of the proposed 7,000 SF building expansion at the corner of Hull Road and Bledsoe Drive to the northwest side of the Southwest Rec Center building. There were two live oaks that were previously in question, and after having a survey and schematic design completed, only one live Oak will need to be removed. A 24in live oak will not be impacted. Stephen Caron said the project was prepared to pay the mitigation cost rather than replanting due to the steep grade on the North side of the site.

Chair Gail Hansen de Chapman asked if the tree to be saved would need to be trimmed. Caeli Tolar from CHW responded that she visited the site a few months ago and, although she didn't take exact measurements, from her observation it appears that the tree will be fine. She also stated that if any trimming is needed, it will be minimal. The chair asked how tall the addition will be and Stephen explained that the structure will match the roofline of the surrounding structures.

Linda Dixon asked what phase the project was in. Stephen Caron explained that they will be receiving the 60% construction plans in a few weeks. Linda stated that the project would need to come back one more time with the planting plan.

Motion: Adam Dale made a motion to approve the plan as presented.

Second: Brian Keith

Motion Carried Unanimously

UF – 653 DCP Site Selection

Cydney McGlothlin

Cydney McGlothlin presented the proposed project to add an addition to the architecture building. Cydney explained that there are issues with the existing buildings, such as code violations and water mitigation issues. The addition will be roughly 54,000 SF between the Music Building, Architecture Building and Stadium Road. The addition will create a collaboration space for the college. The addition construction wouldn't start until 2023 when funding is available.

There are seven trees that will likely be removed on the site, and two that might be impacted. The two that will likely remain are a heritage magnolia and heritage live oak. Cydney explained that no surveys have been completed yet and that the project will return to the committee when they get further into the design.

Chair Gail Chapman de Hansen asked why the project was not located more toward the Southeastern part of the site. Cydney explained that there is a conservation area that is trying to be avoided and there is also a proposed canopy area that will become more of a project space to be used for lighting studies by the students. Cydney also explained that the exact location of the structure won't be known until there is an architect hired for the project.

Brian Keith expressed concern about the preservation of the conservation area and the need to not compromise the canopy along Stadium Road. Cydney agreed and stated that construction would likely be coming from the

northern edge, but any canopy impacted in this area would need to be replaced. Linda Dixon noted that the only tree in that area is the heritage live oak. Brian explained that he had a concern with the setback of the building and not making Stadium Road a storefront road. He said he would not advocate for more storefront and that there is plenty of it near Little Hall. Gail Hansen de Chapman said that she agreed with Brian and that Stadium Road acts more like a linear park. Cydney McGlothlin agreed.

Gail Hansen de Chapman asked why the proposed structure was not placed closer to the Music Building. Cydney explained that the loading and unloading for the Music Hall occurs in that space and a structure would limit access. Cydney said the project area was as far west as she felt comfortable with. She explained that the project will consider how the service areas and pedestrians will share the space between the expansion and the Music Building, especially since an existing pedestrian connection will be impacted.

The architecture department is writing the program along with Cydney and there are committee representatives from each department. One of the project goals is to make the project a learning opportunity for students in the college.

Cydney stated that she will include the special consideration to Stadium Road in the program.

Motion: Brian Keith moved to approve the site selection with the anticipated tree removals and standard mitigation.

Second: Adam Dale

Motion Carried Unanimously

III. MINOR PROJECTS

MP06556 Lake Wauburg North Shore – Waterfront Equipment Building Andrew Meeker

Andrew Meeker returned to the committee in response to their previous motion on the project to address the stormwater mitigation concerns. He recapped the scope of the project for an equipment building at the north shore of Lake Wauburg.

The design and engineering team considered the use of pervious hardscape materials but determined that it would not be an appropriate choice. This decision was made because of the existing water table, the hillside seepage issues, upfront costs and the ongoing maintenance costs. Andrew discussed a second project he is working on at Lake Wauburg regarding the stormwater issues.

The project team considered expanding the swale. They were able to increase the footprint of the swale by adding 500 cubic feet of volume to it. They also added vegetation within the swale with native plantings and mitigation trees. Andrew recommended that the committee approve the modifications to the tree mitigation plan and the stormwater mitigation plan.

Chair Gail Hansen de Chapman asked why there were so many boulders in the basin and asked about the slopes. She then asked why the swale wasn't sodded and Andrew stated it could be a maintenance issue and that the stone would act as an erosion control measure. Chair Hansen de Chapman also stated that the plantings should be clustered, not sporadically spread across the swale. Linda Dixon added that it would be easier to maintain if the plants were clustered. Andrew explained that there is not a landscape architect on the design team but that he would be happy to cluster the plants for the project.

Basil Iannone asked for more information about where the water seepage occurs as it relates to the project. Andrew Meeker stated that the seepage area was to the right of the proposed development site.

Linda Dixon asked about the inlet in the planting area. She wanted to know if it would be raised up to encourage some standing water or if it was lowered for water to go through. Andrew stated that the inlet was an existing pipe and that it would remain as is. He said that it is flush with ground level. Chair Hansen de Chapman said it would act more like a detention area and is not meant to be a retention area.

Motion: **Melanie Nelson made a motion to approve the modifications to the tree mitigation plan and the storm water mitigation for the project.**

Second: **Brian Keith**

Motion Carried Unanimously

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Grounds Report

Tom Schlick

Tom Schlick showed the Marston Science Library garden that is difficult to maintain due to having too many species and cat's claw. The target is to clear the area and put down pine straw. The trees and hummingbird bush will not be removed. Later the area will be replanted with an appropriate plant palette. Linda Dixon asked if Tom would come back to the committee with the planting plan before it is executed. Tom said that he could and that the plants would be similar to what was put in at Norman Hall.

In front of Library East there is a project at Prosser Gardens. There will be a complete renovation of the irrigation system. Tom explained that removing the existing plants allowed the windowsills to be aired out and provided access for an upcoming window repair project. The plants that will be going into Prosser Gardens will be low enough to allow air circulation to the windows to help avoid rot.

Brian Keith asked about the removal of a magnolia tree to make room for a memorial. Tom Schlick said there were several issues with the magnolia. Brian explained that the magnolia was in a bad place for servicing the building. Tom Schlick asked to limit magnolia trees in building designs.

Adam Dale asked for background information on the Prosser Gardens project. Linda Dixon explained this was the first time it has come to the committee. Adam said he was surprised that it had already happened without being discussed. Adam Dale said that he would like for the plant palette in this area to be different than what it looks like all over campus. Tom Schlick informed Adam that we couldn't because the funding came from a donation. Linda Dixon said the plantings are in line with the plantings recommended for the historic district in the Landscape Master Plan.

Adam Dale said that we need to be mindful of the value that students and people put into the landscape on campus. Adam expressed concern that all of the plants going into the landscape are exotic plants and to expect pushback from the community. Basil Iannone agreed with Adam. Brian Keith asked Linda if this was a comment that should be made for the Landscape Master Plan plant palette. Linda responded that the plant palette for the historic district was more focused on the historic aesthetic than the other areas of campus. Chair Gail Hansen de Chapman suggested that native azaleas be used.

Tom Schlick then presented the grounds report. He warned that more palm trees were going to be coming down, largely due to bronzing. Many pine trees that needed to come down were subject to bad locations and bad soils. Linda Dixon explained that tree protections near construction sites was a topic being discussed within the department and asked Tom to highlight trees that are coming down for those reasons.

Tom said that it was a relatively light month but to expect more in the next grounds report.

Landscape Master Plan Amendments

Rachel Mandell

Rachel Mandell explained that there were a few proposed amendments to the Landscape Master Plan. The first was an amendment to the fencing standards to add a regulation that incorporates brick columns and another standard to allow post and chain fencing to surround landscape beds.

The next amendment was to the bike rack standards to remove the circle bike rack since it is not compliant with SITEs standards. It is proposed to be replaced with a silver Peak Rack which has wider slots to accommodate electric bikes.

Another change was to remove components from the Concrete Standards in the Landscape Master Plan and refer users to the UF Design and Construction Standards instead.

A proposed Major Vehicular Gateway standard was suggested to be added for campus entries along major roads, such as Archer Road and 34th Street. The design is relatively consistent with the existing vehicular gateway standard, except the proposed design adds brushed aluminum lettering, up-lighting, and a slightly larger scale to be noticeable by faster moving traffic.

Next, the root barrier regulations were proposed to be simplified by removing the model number and replacing it with the product specifications.

Additionally, an update was suggested to the Bollards standards to specify that decorative bollards did not need to be use in out-of-site or back-of-house service and dumpster areas.

There were two discussion items that Rachel brought up to the committee. The first was for memorials and she suggested adding a note specifying the location of new memorials. The second was to discuss the plant species in the plant palettes provided in the Landscape Master Plan.

Chair Gail Hansen de Chapman asked if there were any additional regulations for memorials. Rachel responded that what was presented was the only regulation in the Landscape Master Plan. Linda Dixon added that there was a policy in the Campus Master Plan and that memorials are required to go through the CPECC process. Linda added that those processes also need some work. The Landscape Master Plan more so regulates what memorials should look like. Chair Hansen de Chapman suggested doing the pavers.

The committee asked if the electronic information boards on campus were going to be taken out. Linda Dixon said that they would eventually all be removed from campus.

Basil Iannone asked about the plant recommendations for the palettes in the Landscape Master Plan. Rachel said the committee could take some time to look at different species and return with some ideas at the next committee meeting.

Chair Gail Hansen de Chapman said she would send a reminder e-mail to ask the committee members to prepare a list of trees that they would like to see more of on campus to bring to the next committee meeting.

Melanie Nelson asked if any other bike racks were considered. Rachel responded that the Peak Rack was the same as the other precincts on campus. Additionally, the Peak Rack meets several of the standards for certifications that many campus projects pursue. It is also compliant with the Bicycle Friendly Campus standards. Brian Keith asked if the standards dictated a color. Rachel responded that it would be required to be silver. Linda explained that the Landscape Master Plan regulates the color of accessories based on their location on campus.

Motion: Brian Keith made a motion to approve the changes submitted for approval and the location specification for memorials, and to defer the plant list discussion.

Second: Melanie Nelson

Other Business

Brian Keith

Brian Keith asked about coming up with a volunteer model for the conservation areas on campus. He requested a clearer path for if someone wanted to visit or learn more about a conservation area. He said that there could be a webpage that defined who was responsible for that area. It would be beneficial to have a model that could be replicated and sustainable. He would like to revisit the conversation once new members have been added to the Lakes, Vegetation and Landscaping Committee. Chair Gail Hansen de Chapman explained that Matt Williams with the Department of Sustainability has been working on this topic. Linda Dixon explained that this has been discussed and it is on the radar. Matt Williams is on the committee so he may be able to provide an update at the

next committee meeting. Chair Gail Hansen de Chapman said the topic could be added to the agenda as 'Other Business.'

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 10:39 AM.