

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

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

Members attending:

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
Melanie Nelson – Associate Professor, Medicine
Matt Williams – Director, Sustainability

Members not attending:

William Barber – Assistant Director, UF Police Department
Donna Bloomfield – Grounds, Facilities Services
Carlos Dougnac – Assistant Vice President, Planning, Design & Construction
Craig Hill – Assistant Vice President, Business Affairs
Brian Keith – Associate Dean, Library Administration
Alpa Nawre – Assistant Professor, Landscape Architecture
Brett Scheffers – Assistant Professor, Wildlife Ecology and Conservation
Tom Schlick – Assistant Director of Grounds, Facilities Services
Kevin Trejos – Student

Visitors attending:

Melissa Thomas – Administrative, Planning, Design & Construction
Rachel Mandell – Senior Planner, Planning, Design & Construction
Frank Javaheri – Director of Construction, Planning, Design & Construction
Milo Zapata – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Tom Feather – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Keith Humphreys – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Basil Iannone – Assistant Professor, Forest Resources and Conservation
Walter Bone – RLA
Brant Cotterman – Haskell
Jenny Burkhalter – Haskell
Andrew Meeker – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Doug Jones – Director of History Museum
James Blythe – Unknown
Tim Hoeft – Straughn Trout Architects
Emily Camacho – Unknown
Tom Wichman – IFAS Facility Operations
Catherin Cramp – Unknown
Eric Luycke – Haskell

Holly Blake – Jacobs
Jose Ramos – Jacobs
Fraser Ringel – Jacobs
Chis Wave – Unknown
Bill Corbitt – Level Architecture

I. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

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

Second: Melanie Nelson

Motion Carried Unanimously

II. MAJOR PROJECTS

UF – 373 FLMNH Special Collections

Brant Cotterman

Brant Cotterman from Haskell stated that he was here today to present on behalf of Jim Vignola. He displayed a revision of the original site plan which included a truck turnaround area behind the current Florida Museum. The reason for adding the truck turnaround area is to accommodate deliveries. The scope of the project and location has not changed.

The proposed plan is to remove 145 trees due to the western expansion of the drive lane, the necessary regrading and relocation of the dumpsters. Brant showed the currently approved mitigation plan. The new mitigation plan includes replanting 19 trees and mitigating 271 trees for a total mitigation deficit of \$67,750.

The committee discussed the differences between the previously approved and proposed plan. Longleaf pine will be planted to compensate some of the tree removals in the area. The committee asked if the building footprint had changed to which Brant explained that the building footprint is the same.

The committee questioned why the truck turnaround area was not considered in the previous plan. It was explained that there was originally a plan in place to use smaller vehicles and alternate delivery areas, but this would be very labor intensive and expensive for the Florida Museum. The committee discussed the vehicular maneuvering required with the proposed truck turnaround and future expansion of the Collections building. Doug Jones stated the future building expansion is not for another 20 to 30 years, but at that time the addition to the front of the museum will be large enough to accommodate exhibit components delivered by large trucks.

The committee asked about the number of trees being planted on site and Eric Lycke responded that several large oak trees will be preserved. The committee then asked if trees could be added to the edge line of the turnaround area since it will be 20 to 30 years before the future expansion is built. The committee explained that there is an edge condition and the wildlife will thrive in the area in the interim of the expansion. Lycke responded that trees could be planted but that they will need to be removed for the later expansion. The committee discussed what the scenario would look like if the project was not approved and the smaller vehicle option would have to be used. The user group responded that the truck turnaround is needed due to the cost and labor intensiveness of the smaller vehicle alternative.

Motion: Adam Dale made a motion to approve the proposed plan leaving the meadow area as it is in terms of the plant makeup and extending the native ground cover under the long leaf pine planting.

Second: Melanie Nelson

Motion Carried Unanimously

UF – 394 PK Yonge Elementary School

Keith Humphreys

Keith Humphreys explained that the elementary school is having issues with flooding. The ongoing construction at PK Yonge has resulted in a few buildings and walkways being removed in the empty dirt area. The campus slopes north to south causing runoff to drain towards the elementary school. The stormwater drains run close to the building and there are trees along the path of the proposed larger system and regrading plan. The whole line of trees will need to be removed to accommodate the installation of the larger system. PK Yonge requested that the mitigation trees be replanted on site because of areas needing trees to provide shade for the students.

The committee asked about the slope and regrading of the area to place a larger pipe. It was explained that the grading will redirect stormwater away from the building. The committee asked about a bioswale in the open field as an alternative and Keith explained utilizing the existing line and pathway of the piping system was the best option to mitigate additional impacts long term.

The tree removals proposed will require 22 replacement trees and PK Yonge would like to plant the trees on site. There are additional trees needed for upcoming projects in the area and the committee requested to see the planting plan.

Motion: Adam Dale made a motion to approve the proposed tree removal with the requirement that PK Yonge replant 22 trees as mitigation and bring back the replanting plan to the committee with labeled species.

Second: Melanie Nelson

Motion Carried Unanimously

UF – 623B Thermal Utility Infrastructure

Tom Feather

UF – 623C Electrical Utility Infrastructure

Milo Zapata

Milo Zapata introduced himself and Tom Feather as the Project Managers of these projects. Milo stated that the project engineers from Jacobs would be presenting the updates. Fraser Ringel provided background on the projects and stated the discussion today would focus on the Thermal and Electrical portions.

Holly Blake, Sr. Civil Engineer, presented the thermal utility project update. She explained that the surveys were now completed and therefore they can provide a better understanding of the lines and impacts of the thermal utility project. A chilled water line will be installed open cut underneath the Bartram Carr Woods conservation area near Center Drive to connect two existing water lines. This option will provide a loop system for chilled water and will be the least impactful. Five trees will need to be removed or impacted but none are considered heritage trees. The chilled water line will be moved closer to the road based on the recommendations of the last committee meeting.

A new steam line by the Dental Sciences parking lot will remove 3 palm trees in the sidewalk crossroads. Holly recommended the project sod this area upon completion. A steam pipeline and vault will be installed in the parking lot between Center Drive and the Lacy Rabon Chilled Water Plant. This may impact a 15” oak in the parking lot median area but the contractor will be asked to protect the tree as much as possible. The committee stated because the tree is young and located in an island, it should be resilient to the construction.

Jose Ramos, Sr. Civil Engineer, presented the electrical utility section. This project involves converting overhead electrical to duct or buried electrical and will not impact any trees. The project will remove existing light poles and replacing them with poles from the Landscape Master Plan upon completion. There will be two new ground-mounted transformers at the Physics building and the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The committee asked what the pad for the transformer would be made from and Jose responded that it would be concrete. The committee questioned if the concrete pads and conduits would impact trees and it was explained that the team would be mindful of that when selecting the location.

Frank Javaheri expressed concern about the access road to the garage being closed to traffic during the construction. Frasier Ringel explained that the construction will be completed in phases to maintain access to the garage.

Linda Dixon stated that there was a total of five trees impacted at 2:1 mitigation. Fraser said that the University is responsible for mitigation.

Motion: Adam Dale made a motion to approve the proposed removals, to protect the live oak, to not heavily prune any structural roots and to carefully do the electrical infrastructure work without disrupting any tree zones.

Second: Melanie Nelson

Motion Carried Unanimously

III. MINOR PROJECTS

MP06556 Lake Wauburg Waterfront Equipment Checkout Building **Andrew Meeker**

Andrew stated he was there to present the Lake Wauburg Waterfront Equipment Building. The scope is to construct a 300 square foot storage building for waterfront equipment check in/out. Andrew displayed the project site and went over the area at Lake Wauburg. The project is to construct a centralized building for the user groups.

There will be no impacts to the Lake Wauburg Conservation Area Land Management Plan and Andrew discussed the due diligence conducted in developing the plan. He discussed the footprint of the building site in relation to the general area and highlighted an existing drainage ditch on one side of the building. He showed the site plans and explained the proposed grading and pavement areas surrounding the structure.

The committee asked why there was concrete surrounding the entire building. Andrew explained that the project plans to utilize all exterior space of the building. The project includes installing water fountains and lockers for the users of the facility and equipment racks. Linda Dixon asked if pervious materials were considered rather than concrete. Andrew responded that they feel it should be a hardscape material due to maintenance and safety concerns.

The canopy of the tree that will be impacted and removed is a 20" sweetgum that was damaged from a tornado in December 2019. Andrew showed a picture of the sweetgum to show the damage. Also at the project site are two sabal palms that will be transplanted. The project will also be planting a bald cypress and a live oak.

The committee questioned if additional stormwater retention in this area was not required. Linda Dixon expressed concern that no Low Impact Development techniques were incorporated into the project. Andrew stated that they are not triggering any stormwater requirements based on the scope of the project. The committee asked if the dry well for the water fountains was sufficient and Andrew explained that the code allows for the water fountains to run into the ground and EH&S said it was acceptable. The committee asked if adding a retention basin or bioswale could assist in allowing runoff to be filtered and slowed before entering the lake. Andrew showed concern in the amount of space available within the construction footprint and the potential impact to additional trees. Frank Javaheri suggested adding a bioswale by expanding the existing storm ditch to the west of the building. Andrew explained the small budget of the project and financial restrictions associated with adding stormwater mitigation measures. Basil Iannone asked if an alternate material could be used for the golf cart parking area and Andrew stated that there were high maintenance costs associated with pervious materials.

Motion: Melanie Nelson made a motion to approve the tree preservation and mitigation summary as presented but come back to the committee with strategies around stormwater mitigation that might include expanding the swale or using other materials.

Second: Adam Dale

Motion Carried Unanimously

MP06579 Lake Wauburg Boatlift Dock

Andrew Meeker

Andrew stated he was there today to talk about the new boatlift dock at Lake Wauburg. The scope of the project is to design and construct a new, covered boatlift dock with two slips for water safety boats. Andrew showed the original boatlift dock that was damaged in the 2019 tornado. The new boatlift dock will be an expansion off the existing swim dock. Previously, the plan was to construct the new boatlift dock fronting the lake near the sailboat dock. The plan later evolved to build the new dock off the existing swim dock to minimize impacts to the natural environment and to save money.

Andrew discussed the proposed plan of the boatlift dock. There is a lifeguard post currently on the swimming dock and the proposed location of the boatlift will provide easy access to a safety boat if needed. Andrew then showed a few renderings of the proposed structure and how it will tie into the swim dock. The project does not require the removal of any trees or stormwater mitigation.

Motion: Melanie Nelson made a motion to approve as presented.

Second: Adam Dale

Motion Carried Unanimously

Prosser Garden

Donna Bloomfield

No Report

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Lake Alice Discussion

Gale Hansen De Chapman

Gale explained that at the last committee meeting there was discussion about who would implement a management or maintenance plan for Lake Alice. She explained that one still needs to be written and she wanted to know how we initiate the process to write a plan and who needs to be involved. Linda Dixon said that she had a meeting with Matthew Williams and that PDC and the Office of Sustainability are putting together a strategy. She explained that EH&S will have a role as well. Gale responded that the committee has expressed a need for the plan and wanted to confirm that there wasn't anything else that the committee needed to do at this point. Matt Williams said that they will inform the committee on who is involved in the plan to ensure that there are not any gaps.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 10:42 AM.