

MINUTES
University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee
February 02, 2023, at 9:00 AM
Facilities, Planning & Construction
ZOOM MEETING

The University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee (ULVLC) met Thursday, February 02, 2023 for a Zoom meeting online.

Members attending:

Gail Hansen De Chapman – Environmental Horticulture - Chair
Nancy Chrystal-Green – Assistant Vice President, Student Life
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
Maya Fives – Student
Basil Iannone – Assistant Professor, Forest Resources and Conservation
Ryan Klein – Assistant Professor, Environmental Horticulture
Bart Knowles – Major, UF Police Department
Lucas Majure – Assistant Curator, Herbarium
Tim Martin – Associate Professor, School of Forest Resources and Conservation
Melanie Nelson – Associate Professor, Medicine
Brandi Renton – Associate Vice President, Business Affairs
Tom Schlick – Assistant Director of Grounds, Facilities Services
Matt Williams – Director, Office of Sustainability

Members not attending:

Fernando Alferez – Assistant Professor, Citrus Horticulture
Donna Bloomfield – Grounds, Facilities Services
Carlos Dougnac – Assistant Vice President, Planning, Design & Construction
Brian Keith – Associate Dean, Library Administration

Visitors attending:

Rachel Mandell – Sr. Planner, Planning, Design & Construction
Melissa Thomas – Administrative, Planning, Design & Construction
Andrew Meeker – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Frank Javaheri – Director of Construction, Planning, Design & Construction
Savanah Partridge – Intern, Planning, Design & Construction
Kaylee August – Office of Sustainability
Marty Dempsey – Staff
Sam Schatz – Staff
Christina Vivona - Staff
Laurie Hall – CHW
Caeli Tolar – CHW

I. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

Motion: Basil Iannone made a motion to approve the Agenda and the January Minutes.

Second: Tim Martin

Motion Carried Unanimously

II. MAJOR PROJECTS

UF – 681 Flavet Outdoor Recreation Complex – Programming & Site Selection Andrew Meeker

Andrew introduced himself and stated he was before the committee for the Programming phase and site selection for the Flavet Outdoor Recreation Complex project. Representatives from RecSports and the landscape architects from CHW were also on the call. He provided an overview of the project location, which is southeast of Flavet Field. Part of the site was previously a tennis court and then was converted to a temporary parking lot in 2018. Part of the parking lot will be reconverted to tennis courts.

Andrew explained that one goal of the project is to reintroduce recreation opportunities that were lost when the Broward Outdoor Recreation complex was demolished for the new undergraduate housing project. The scope for the Flavet Outdoor Recreation Complex will include converting the parking lot back to tennis, repaving and adding pickleball courts, the bleachers area, remodeling the restroom facility and the Graham pool area. The project is pursuing a SITES sustainability certification.

The project is directly south of Graham Woods, which is a conservation area. Sometime Osprey nest on the light poles and the design team will be made aware of that probability. The project site is not known to be within 50ft of a wetland or within the 100-year floodplain.

Understanding the location of heritage trees on site and having an accurate survey during design will be important for this project. The project will aim to save all heritage trees on site. This project will require an amendment to the Future Land Use. It will be changed from House to Active Recreation – Outdoor.

Andrew showed the concept design of the project and how the existing space may be renovated. He went over some of the areas for enhancement and redevelopment. He also mentioned an observation area into Graham Woods.

The project will be constructed in phases. Currently, items such as the skate park and additional pickleball courts are not funded but are shown in the initial design. The temporary parking lot being converted back into tennis courts is part of the 1st phase. Andrew explained that they are hoping the courts are open by the Fall semester, along with the six pickleball courts.

The committee asked if the rest of the temporary parking lot would remain available during the first phase of construction, and if there will be a need for additional parking following the completion of the project. The committee also asked about events at Flavet Field. Andrew and Marty Dempsey from RecSports explained the field is widely used for numerous events, as well as for parking during athletic events. The committee asked about the road going into Flavet field to see if there could be a tree line added along it. Andrew stated he would be looking at the roadway and if it needs to be restructured, it may be possible. The committee asked if there are other areas for parking. There is a parking lot directly south for student parking, as well as plenty of parking available in Garage 14.

The committee wanted to confirm that the heritage trees will be protected. Andrew stated there are three Live Oaks of considerable importance. He showed the location of the heritage trees that will be protected during the project. The committee asked if the project will be coming back with a detailed design, to which Andrew responded they would.

The committee asked about the overlook into Graham Woods. It was explained that the design comes from the Campus Trails Master Plan. Kaylee August from the Office of Sustainability mentioned concerns about stormwater and erosion. Linda Dixon added that this project needs to consider stormwater.

Motion: Tim Martin made a motion to approve the project as presented.

Second: Adam Dale

Motion Carried Unanimously

III. MINOR PROJECTS

MP07341 Reitz Student Union Social Space – Design Development Phase

Andrew Meeker

Andrew provided an overview of the project location, describing the area as it is now and what the scope of the concept plan was from the January committee meeting. He reminded the committee that they recommended addition landscaping on the opposite side of the walkway to unify the project. He showed the proposed landscape plan, which included sable palms being added throughout the social area and how they could tie into the sable palms on the opposite side. Andrew explained that this is not part of the project currently but could be incorporated if another user group could fund it to be completed at the same time.

Andrew also went over the deck area which will be pulling back the seating area toward the east and changing the material to a porcelain paver on a concrete subbase to minimize impacts. The materials were changed to better comply with ADA standards. It will also keep the driplines of the trees protected and have less impact or damage to the trees in comparison to the decking platform.

Three elm trees on the north side of the project site will be impacted due to the shift in the location of the seating area. However, the shift will allow for minimal damage to the larger oak trees in the area. The project intends to replant 22 sable palms to help mitigate some of the trees.

The committee asked about the stormwater impact with the pavers verses the regular decking material. The landscape architects stated there shouldn't be any impacts and that they have checked with their civil engineering team. The committee asked if the pavers are slippery when wet. It was discussed that the pavers are texturized and are safe for outdoor use. The committee asked if there were any other options that are made from permeable materials. The project team explained that with the utility impacts, tree root structures and ADA restrictions, the pavers were the best option.

The committee questioned the dbh required for mitigation. The tree mitigation policy states that a tree with a dbh of 5" or greater would need to be mitigated. The project team asked about relocating the elm trees rather than paying mitigation. Tom Schlick stated that wouldn't be cost efficient. The committee asked about the concrete base and can it be gravel base or something else. Also, the sable palms have been fighting the lethal bronzing disease. It was recommended that sable palms be sourced from North Florida. The committee stated that the trees could also be tested for disease on campus.

The committee suggested that shade be provided for the sidewalk with trees.

Motion: Basil Iannone made a motion to approve the project as presented.

Second: Tim Martin

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Grounds Report - Bat House Woods

Tom Schlick

Tom stated there is no Grounds Report, but that he'd like to speak about invasive species because they are a problem and mentioned the work he proposed doing around the fence at the nursery. He mentioned that a campus wide vision is needed for invasive species and restoration. Rachel asked if anybody on the call had questions for Tom about the project at Bat House Woods, and that hearing none, he should be good to move

forward. As far as needing a Long-Term Invasive Species Plan, Rachel mentioned that they are working on those deliverables and will know later in the year. The committee stated that controlled burns are not the correct approach for all conservation areas.

Rachel asked Tom to tell the committee about his proposed work near the Reitz Union. The west side of the Reitz Union near the Reitz Ravine is a very busy area. Tom said he would like to put up post and chain to stop vehicular travel and parking. It would be wooden post and chain that is 2 feet tall. He also would like to build a berm on the north side to prevent vehicles entering from this direction. Tom explained it's a temporary solution.

The committee asked that Tom reach out to the Director of the Reitz Union so everyone is on the same page of what the need is and how this area will be handled. The committee also asked that Tom reach out to Chris Carlson as well to keep him informed. The committee agreed to have Tom move forward with working on the solutions for this area. The committee asked about stormwater and erosion. It was determined that the berms will not be affected by waterflow that relates to the current water erosion in the ravine.

Tree Removals During December Break

Gail Hansen de Chapman

Gail explained that a few committee members received an email about trees removed along Radio Road during the December break. There was a student that asked why it was done during the break when nobody was on campus. Tom stated it came up in the schedule and that is why it was done during the break. The crepe myrtles were damaged from a hurricane and were suffering after that storm. They needed to be taken out because they were growing in all different directions and were not performing well. All trees that were taken out were under 5" DBH, meaning they don't require mitigation. The committee asked if they could be notified prior to doing the work, preferably through the grounds report provided to the committee. Also, Tom could let the committee members know in an e-mail if something occurs unexpectedly.

Tom said there is a large tree that needs to be taken out south of the Mechanical Building B. It is rotting and leaning over the walkway.

Chair Report

Gail Hansen de Chapman

Gail wanted to discuss the email from Gage, the co-chair of the NATL committee. There were a few trees that were damaged by a skid steer and a few Long Leaf Pines had to be removed. The contractor from DPI damaged the trees and the committee asked if the contractor was talked to about the issues. Gail agreed to respond to Gage.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 10:53 AM.