

**MINUTES**  
**University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee**  
**May 04, 2023, at 9:00 AM**  
**Facilities, Planning & Construction**  
**ZOOM MEETING**

The University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee (ULVLC) met Thursday, May 04, 2023 for a Zoom meeting online.

**Members attending:**

Gail Hansen De Chapman – Environmental Horticulture - Chair  
Nancy Chrystal-Green – Associate Vice President, Division of 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  
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  
Brandi Renton – Associate Vice President, Business Affairs

**Visitors attending:**

Rachel Mandell – Sr. Planner, Planning, Design & Construction  
Melissa Thomas – Administrative, Planning, Design & Construction  
David Wood – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction  
Stephen Roberts – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction  
Tom Feather – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction  
Frank Javaheri – Director of Construction, Planning, Design & Construction  
Cydney McGlothlin – University Architect, Planning, Design & Construction  
Kaylee August – Office of Sustainability  
Laurie Hall – CHW  
John Burns – Sky Frog, Arborist for Tree Assessment  
Chris Kuonen – Brooks & Scarpa – Design Team

Beverly Frank – BFrank Studio, LLC  
Emily Young - Unknown  
Angelique Hennon – BATS  
Elijah George – Marquis Latimer +Halback  
Jeffery Huber – Brooks & Scarpa

## **I. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes**

**Motion:** Tim Martin made a motion to approve the Agenda and the April Minutes.

**Second:** Adam Dale

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

## **II. MAJOR PROJECTS**

### **UF – 653 Architecture Building Reno & DCP Collaboratory – Design Development** **David Wood**

David introduced himself and the project and stated Laurie Hall from CHW would be presenting. Laurie explained that the project was back in front of the committee based on the motion of the last meeting regarding the 41” Magnolia on the northwest side of the proposed DCP Collaboratory. A bioswale following LID principles will be added to the lawn area as well as additional landscaping along Murphree way. The building location shifted due to the location of a chilled water line, which will now impact the Magnolia tree.

John Burns from Sky Frog evaluated the Magnolia. John provided an assessment of its existing conditions, as well as what could happen if the building was built without removing the tree. The trunk of the tree leans to the southwest and would sit about 2-3ft away from the building wall, meaning that a significant amount of the canopy would need to be removed. The drip line on the hardscape would not need to be removed completely, although some of the branches would need to be shortened due to limb dropping. The mid and top canopy has tip dieback, and this is from the tree having problems getting the water up the tree. John noted that the tree had tip dieback, and that there several potential causes. The magnolia already has trunk and branch damage from a storm or trimming. There was visible decay in the lower trunk and damaged tissue at the base of the tree. John stated that the tree would be unlikely to survive the construction impacts.

Laurie stated that because of the condition of the tree and the location being in a heavily pedestrian area of campus, there is potential risk for the University. The committee asked about the trunk decay and if that could have happened by pruning the tree incorrectly. John said that the cause of the decay is unknown. A large diameter cut had to be made and the tree is not growing very vigorously, therefore the decay is growing faster than the tree.

Laurie summarized the tree impacts of the project. She also mentioned that another concern of the committee was to look at enhancing the existing canopy along Stadium Road. She recommended tree mitigation funds from the project be used to enhance this road. Laurie also asked to confirm that native plants not found in the Landscape Master Plan could be used for the LID areas. The committee asked about a canopy study on Stadium Road and what that would look like. Laurie responded that UF would hire someone like John to assess the trees and then recommend a phased approach for removal and replanting. The cost could be worked out with the mitigation funds of the project. The committee asked that Laurie bring back a proposal for the assessment for the committee to discuss. Laurie asked for a motion to approve the removal the requested trees, approve the site plan, and allow the use of any native plantings for the LID areas. There was also a recommendation to utilize required mitigation funds for the project to fund a canopy study along Stadium Road.

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

**Second:** Maya Fives

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**III. MINOR PROJECTS**

**MP06934 LMP Shared Use Path at Physics – Design Development**

**Stephen Roberts**

Stephen introduced himself and stated he took over the project from after the Design phase to see it through construction. The 16 trees on this project were to be transplanted. The team met on site with Tom Schlick from Grounds. Elijah George is the Landscape Architect and Arborist from Marquis Latimer + Halback. Tom was not sure about the transplanting and the survival rate, currently, in the season.

Elijah stated they moved away from the transplanting and trying to relocate as many of the trees. He showed the project location and provided an update on three areas. Previously, the crosswalk and sidewalk were going to be reconfigured, but they are now not going to change. Therefore, there is no need to remove or transplant the palms in that area. In the second area, there were 4 magnolias behind the Physics building that they think they can work around rather than remove or transplant. In the third area, there are three palms that will be able to remain due to the retaining wall being reconfigured. The project will now be removing 7 palms in lieu of transplanting due to concerns of Lethal Bronzing.

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

**Second:** Adam Dale

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**MP07381 Nuclear Field Building Renovation – Advanced Schematic Design**

**Stephen Caron**

Beverly Frank from BFrank Studio, introduced herself and stated that Stephen Caron was not able to make the meeting so she would be presenting. She showed the existing location of the building and proposed a new covered patio area that will be used for collaborating, gathering outside classroom, etc. There will also be a new entry way created for the building. The existing building is in the surge area of campus and was built in 1960. This building will house EH&S staff members, Pest Control, Fire Protection, and the Dive shop. This started as an interior renovation because a while back there were railroad ties put down at the start of the wooded area. These railroad ties stopped the regular flow of the water going out into the wooded area for drainage. One of the last large storms the water flooded the building and ruined the flooring and finishes of the building. There are some Quonset huts on the back of the building that will have their tops demolished and configured the new patio addition. We proposed putting a covered patio between them for outside classrooms and collaboration areas.

The trees on this site were initially planted too close to the building. A few of the trees are causing issues for the building foundation and causing upheave of the sidewalk and entry area. She showed the trees that were close to the building. She also showed the double trunk tree that is next to the building as well. There are two trees in the addition for the patio that the project would like to remove. The project is asking to remove 7 trees and replace on site or pay into the tree mitigation. There are two other projects going on for this building that will deal with grading and flooding issues as well as the interior renovation for the damage that happened in the storm.

Currently there is no funding for the landscape modifications in this projects scope but there is room on the site for replanting trees or paying into the tree mitigation fund. The committee stated that the trees should be

evaluated by an arborist. The evaluation would give them an idea of the existing condition of the trees. The committee stated that replanting trees on site and at the roadway would be great places for replanting. The committee asked about the grading, mitigation calculations, and replacement trees. There may need to be more information about the site and associated projects. Beverly stated they would get with the other Project Managers to discuss. She will also work with CHW on the landscape plan for the area.

The committee asked for more information and a formal evaluation of the current trees on site. The committee discussed getting an assessment from CHW or from Grounds. The committee spoke about the tree mitigation policy and the need to get more information in the new policy to address some of these questions.

**Motion:** Basil Iannone made a motion to delay approving the project until the committee understands the multiple projects happening on the site and have an evaluation of the trees that are thought to be removed from this project. The evaluation could be from Tom in Grounds or Laurie from CHW so the trees are mitigated correctly.

**Second:** Adam Dale

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

#### **IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **Conservation Area Land Management (CALM) Plan** **Rachel Mandell**

Rachel explained that the plan was ready for committee approval so that the team could move forward with drafting the documents and implementation. She also let the committee know that Kaylee and Angelique were also available for any questions following the presentation.

The previous CALM plan was adopted in 2004 and covers 31 conservation areas on campus totaling 450 acres. The plans demonstrate the university's commitment to maintaining and preserving these spaces. The plan update started in February 2022 with approximately 30 steering committee members. These areas are important because they provide valuable resources for campus, including education opportunities, research, and teaching. They are also part of the stormwater treatment system and a unique aspect of the University landscape.

Rachel explained that the team conducted over 50 guided site visits. They put out yard signs at the conservation areas which opened the door for asking questions and receiving input campus wide. The CALM team presented and received approval from upper administration. The engagement efforts received the 2023 Champions for Change Award. Rachel said that they had been collaborating with the Business Affairs communications team to market the launch of the plan in the Fall.

One deliverable from the CALM update will be a Connectivity Map. The steering committee thought this was very important. All campus trails and conservation area amenities have been collected and mapped. Rachel then told the committee that they are also about to kick off the Lake Alice Watershed Management Plan which they view as an extension of the CALM plan. Two of the primary concerns identified during the update process were erosion and sedimentation. They also frequently discussed flooding and water quality. They see the Lake Alice Watershed Management Plan providing a lot of recommendations for projects and interventions around the stormwater system, which will be heavily influenced by the CALM Plan. Rachel said that they received funding for the design of the Jennings Creek Bridge project from the CITF committee. They have also explored the use of Tree Mitigation funds for invasive species and restoration efforts.

From the update process, the CALM team will provide three deliverables: the interactive CALM plan, the BioGator Inventory, and the Boundary Verification. BioGator is an online living platform that is continually updated and provides research grade documentation of the species in our conservation areas. There are 1.4

million research grade observations already in the platform. The Florida Museum of Natural History is maintaining this tool.

One of the goals of the steering committee set early on was to not have the updated CALM plan read as a report. They wanted something engaging and interactive. The updated plan will use a dynamic platform with several interactive features. Rachel created an online exhibit with embedded applications. There will be one overall CALM plan which speaks to conservation from a campus perspective, as well as 23 site-specific CALM plans which are unique to each conservation area. For consistency, the team established common themes to categorize the problems, solutions, objectives and management strategies.

1. Invasive Species Management
2. Connectivity & Accessibility
3. Boundary Verification
4. Engagement & Community Outreach
5. Ecological Restoration & Stormwater Management
6. Safety & Accountability

The third deliverable is the Boundary Verification work. This effort was to field verify the boundaries of the conservation areas to provide clear, consistent and accurate delineations. Rachel explained that the Trimble accuracy was within inches, and the Lidar was accurate within millimeters. Rachel also explained how BATS created an app to provide live updates to the steering committee so they could be involved in the process.

Rachel asked that the motion today be to approve the updated Conservation Area Land Management Plans and the associated field verified Conservation Area Boundaries.

The committee asked if the boundaries will be marked in some way. Rachel stated they have been working with Grounds to provide cement markers on some of the existing boundaries.

**Motion:** Lucas Majure made a motion to approve as presented.

**Second:** Basil Iannone

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

## **Grounds Report**

**Tom Schlick**

Tom stated there is no Grounds report but he wanted to discuss the campus beautification efforts happening on campus. They are putting in traffic control bollards and devices at the Reitz Union. They are also doing some landscaping to incorporate these devices into the landscape which will take a few days. They will also be working on replanting the NPHC garden. They have everything on campus now so they should be done with that by the end of next week. They have done some tree planting in the McCarty area. They had some plantings go in at Shepard's Park because of tree loss on Gale Lemerand and Museum Road. Grounds planted flowering cherry trees and native pine trees because it is a heavily pedestrian area.

They will be working on the Plaza of Americas with Celebration Bermuda grass in the center area to promote grass growth. Other lawns that will be replaced will be Northeast lawn at Wertheim and the McCarty North lawn. The old Smathers sign area is being regraded, irrigated, and replanted. They did major planting on the northwest side of Grinter. They modified the irrigation in that area and replanted.

Tom said that the committee may see heavy equipment digging because the drainage ditches are being dugout from silt and sedimentation. They are trying to reestablish the drainage ditches before hurricane season begins. They started at Memorial and Museum Road and cleaned out about a foot of sediment.

Tom is also working with Rachel on the boundary markers. They are working on more interpretive signage for areas in Ficke Gardens to describe different things. They are working on the design and then Grounds will fund it and get installed.

The last thing Tom mentioned was restarting their creek dredging operations. They will complete the stretch of the creek that heads east toward the bridge at Center Drive. In the fall they will work on going west toward HPNP and continue to move west through the winter.

## **Chair Report**

**Gale Hansen de Chapman**

Gale stated she had a question for Bart Knowles about parking. Tom said some people were parked in the meadows at Ficke as well during athletic events. They are trying to park in the shade rather than the parking lot. Bart said to call UFPD and they will try to handle it. More signage may be needed. The committee stated the Entomology Building parking area is getting better.

There were many conversations about the parking for the athletic events. Attendees are supposed to go to the temporary parking lot in the back of Fifield Hall. There was also supposed to be shuttles from the garages to the games. The committee discussed if there was an opportunity for educational signage about tree impacts from parking. Bart said he would communicate with UAA and try to get some more signage at Fifield Hall.

The committee asked about the clearing at the golf course and 34<sup>th</sup> street. GRU has a utility easement and needed access for maintenance.

**There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 11:16 AM.**