

**MINUTES**  
**University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee**  
**June 01, 2023, at 9:00 AM**  
**Facilities, Planning & Construction**  
**ZOOM MEETING**

The University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee (ULVLC) met Thursday, June 01, 2023 for a Zoom meeting online.

**Members attending:**

Gail Hansen De Chapman – Environmental Horticulture - Chair  
Nancy Chrystal-Green – Assistant Vice President, Student Engagement  
Gregg Clarke – Director of Operations, Facilities Services  
Adam Dale – Assistant Professor, Entomology and Nematology Department  
Linda Dixon – Director, Planning, Design & Construction  
Basil Iannone – Assistant Professor, Forest Resources and Conservation  
Brian Keith – Associate Dean, Library Administration  
Bart Knowles – Major, UF Police Department  
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 Alferéz – Assistant Professor, Citrus Horticulture  
Donna Bloomfield – Grounds, Facilities Services  
David Conser – City of Gainesville – City Arborist  
Carlos Dougnac – Assistant Vice President, Planning, Design & Construction  
Maya Fives – Student  
Ryan Klein – Assistant Professor, Environmental Horticulture

**Visitors attending:**

Rachel Mandell – Sr. Planner, Planning, Design & Construction  
Melissa Thomas – Administrative, Planning, Design & Construction  
Robert Hatker – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction  
Tori Hughes – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction  
Stephen Caron – 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  
Savanah Partridge – Planning, Design & Construction  
Kaylee August – Office of Sustainability  
Laurie Hall – CHW  
Caeli Tolar - CHW

Todd Whitehead – Architect for UF-687  
Bill Pearson - Project team member for UF-687  
Lily Crawford – Student  
Matt Mueller – UF Chartwells  
Will Marshall - Unknown  
Chris Carlson - UF

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

**Motion:** Adam Dale made a motion to approve the Agenda and the May Minutes.

**Second:** Tim Martin

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

## **II. MAJOR PROJECTS**

### **UF – 687 Broward Dining – Schematic Design**

**Robert Hatker**

Robert introduced himself, the project, and stated Todd Whitehead (Architect) and Laurie Hall (Landscape Engineer) were available to help with questions. There were also representatives of Business Services with on the call to help with questions if needed. Todd Whitehead presented the project.

Todd showed the tree canopy to the east and south of the site. The north of the site is an obstacle because of the Inner Road project. There is also an ADA pedestrian path issue that will be addressed throughout construction. The proposed addition is approximately 7,800 square feet and will be a “cornerstone for dining.” The target seating count is 875 to 900, and the increase in bed counts due to the new undergraduate residence hall makes this project a top priority. The design team looked at different options for the project and the obstacles for each of those options from a cost perspective and sequencing perspective. The design team walked the site in an attempt to provide various configurations for the addition but didn’t find anything that worked in the original footprint. The design team looked toward the southwest side of the site, the north side of the site, on top of the existing footprint, and the south side of the site. Because of the tree canopy containing heritage trees along the east side, it was not explored. The design team is now looking at the south. There is tree canopy in this area, but it is the best site for the project. An ADA compliant pedestrian path will be added in this area so it would be a great space to establish the front door of the facility

Laurie Hall explained the landscaping and the ADA pedestrian path. Laurie explained that the south side of the site was determined to be the best option for the expansion although there are some smaller significant trees in the area. The team has the responsibility of creating a successful corridor north and south, and an ADA compliant pedestrian path. Laurie showed the location of the pedestrian path on the east side of the project and how it will move through the adjacent area.

She then showed the tree impacts on the site. There are live oaks that are planted close together, so their canopy is very high and their DBH range from 17in to 20in. She identified the heritage trees on the site and went through the trees for removal. The most significant are the Live oaks, a Shumard oak, Loblolly pines, and a 22” Magnolia. She summarized the mitigation and there are 11 trees, with 4 being heritage. The project will return to the committee with the final landscape design when completed.

The committee asked if the path could be configured differently to save more of the heritage trees and perhaps creating switchbacks through the trees. The design team explained that moving away from one tree would impact others, which is how they came up with the current proposed path. Laurie stated the design team will continue to look at ways to reconfigure the path to save some of the heritage trees.

The committee asked about the seating and the team stated that goal was up to 900 interior seats. There will be some outside seating as well, but that is not counted in the interior seating goal.

The project team again explained that the north side of the site is restricted from construction because the ADA pedestrian path for the Inner Road construction cannot be impacted during the duration of that project. That is the reason nothing is designed for the outside area of the north of the project.

**Motion:** Tim Martin made a motion to approve the suggested removals with a consideration of winding the ADA pedestrian path thru the heritage trees where possible.

**Second:** Brian Keith

### **Motion Carried Unanimously**

## **III. MINOR PROJECTS**

### **MP08096 Campus Landscape Design Enhancement Plans – Design Development** **Melanie Heflin**

Laurie Hall from CHW introduced herself and stated that Melanie was not able to attend and that she and Caeli Tolar from CHW would be presenting today. The CHW team was hired to provide conceptual landscape enhancement designs for select areas on campus and to also bring the identified areas into compliance with the Landscape Master Plan and new Wayfinding Plan. They have identified 8 or 9 projects on campus that will be considered phase 1 of the project. The CHW team is working with Facilities Services during design and construction. The first three projects are as follows:

1. Northeast Gateway near Tigert Hall
2. Southeast corner at Gale Lemerand Drive and Stadium Road
3. The stretch of Museum Road from 13<sup>th</sup> Street to Gale Lemerand Drive

Caeli presented the first site at the Northeast Gateway near Tigert Hall. The project will include landscape enhancements in the area. Caeli showed the areas of additional landscape enhancements and site furnishings which need replacement. At Gerson Hall and the surrounding areas, they will be adding intentional landscaping, planter space, tables, chairs, and benches. There will be umbrellas added at Tigert Hall to provide shading for the faculty, staff, and students to create a more park-like setting. They will also modify the hardscape and landscape in high traffic areas.

The second project is the Southeast corner of Gale Lemerand Drive and Stadium Road. Certain areas on site will be cleaned up and revitalized. The scooter parking will be removed, and the Crape Myrtles will be replaced with trees that will provide more shade. The area will be reconfigured to have a more park-like setting. The current seating area is in full sun, so this will be relocated and replaced with the Landscape Master Plan standard. Laurie talked through the plant palette for the project and explained that they will work with Facilities Services to suggest plants that have proven to be successful on campus, are resilient to the campus environment and can bring more color to the area.

Caeli stated the third project was the stretch of Museum Road. The project will be providing street trees where possible to not interfere with new and existing utilities. Some of the trees on this road have been replaced with the ongoing projects in this area, such as DSIT.

The committee shared that they liked the park-like setting. The committee asked if a single type of tree was desired or if the team could alternate the trees. The project team said they could alternate the trees, perhaps between live oak and bluff oak. Diversity in the street trees will be better than planting one species in case of disease.

The committee asked for anything but Crape Myrtles at the Tigert Hall area, but it looks like most trees in the area are Crape Myrtles. They are being removed with this project. The existing tables at Tigert will be utilized elsewhere on campus and be replaced with tables that have umbrellas. The committee was appreciative that the project was coming before the committee prior to be implemented since it will be completed by Facilities Services.

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

**Second:** Adam Dale

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

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

**Stephen Caron**

Stephen introduced the project and explained that he would be discussing the trees that had been previously inquired upon by the committee. He gave an overview of the project and explained prior flooding issues. He reviewed the project scope and noted that the project is looking at ADA compatibility for the existing building.

Laurie Hall from CHW presented the tree impacts. The first tree for removal is a Loblolly pine at the front of the building. It is growing into the canopy of a Swamp Chestnut oak tree. It is also too close to the building, and it may be problematic to the foundation of the building in the future. The next tree is a multiple trunk Pignut Hickory tree. It is a five-trunk tree. The tree mitigation should be a 4:1 because of the multiple trunks. There are issues of it growing together it was showing some damage looking down into the trunks. The 21” water oak is next to the building and will need to be removed due to its proximity to the building. The 24” live oak is a heritage tree and will be too close to the proposed addition. A water oak and a sweetgum adjacent to the project site will need to be removed. The 12” water oak will need to be removed because of the damage to the trunk and it is growing into the slab. The total mitigation to be paid by the project is \$4,500.00. Currently, there is no funding for replanting back on the project site for trees and landscaping.

The committee stated there are areas where the trees could be replanted on site and next to the streetscape along Surge Road to maintain the wooded area. The committee asked how the Loblolly pine would be removed. They suggested having an arborist handle the removal of that tree in order to not damage the Swamp Chestnut. The oak with the fence growing through it shouldn’t be mitigated. The Pignut Hickory tree will need to be mitigated as multiple trees. The committee stated it should be 5 non-heritage trees, and therefore the mitigation will be changed to 5:1. The committee asked if there could be some structural pruning to help with the lean of the Swamp Chestnut since there will be an arborist looking at the Loblolly pine removal. Stephen suggested the team have the arborist look at the viability of the tree while they are removing the Loblolly pine. The trees will need to be removed by a skilled arborist.

**Motion:** Tim Martin made a motion to approve the proposed removals with two modifications: 1. The Pignut Hickory tree to be mitigated as 5 non-heritage trees. 2. When the arborist is removing the Loblolly Pine that they consider pruning the Swamp Chestnut to mitigate the risk of the lean.

**Second:** Basil Iannone

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

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

##### **Graham Pond – Landscaping and Natural Resource Practices**

**Tom Schlick**

Tom questioned what site issues need to be presented to the committee. There needs to be a better distinction between what exactly a stormwater project is, as well as what is conservation and what is not conservation. When the projects are planned, safety, aesthetics, and function of the project are paramount.

When Facilities previously looked at Graham Pond, they found that the basin had lost 9 feet of depth due to run-off silt from upstream projects in the surrounding areas. Tom stated sediment accumulation resulting from upstream construction projects negatively impacted the pond's ability to hold stormwater. Addressing the accumulation was necessary to prevent further deterioration of functionality as a critical part of the University's stormwater infrastructure. There have been 1,185 cubic yards of silt material and two trees removed. They have also restored the contour of the bottom of the pond back to a bowl and restored some of the water capacity.

The heritage oak tree at the corner of Reitz Union is in very bad shape. It will be removed this summer because of safety concerns. This project will be moved up as soon as possible, and it will be replaced with a large live oak once construction is completed.

Hume Pond will need to be dredged to address the silt buildup. This buildup needs to be addressed because it will go into the Lake Alice Watershed. Facilities is working alongside the Lake Alice Watershed Master Plan team because it requires a scheduled maintenance plan. The pond is accumulating silt and sedimentation that will eventually need to be addressed. There will be an increase of information and communication regarding Facilities Services projects.

The committee asked if there is an area upstream that can be addressed so sedimentation doesn't occur. Gregg Clark stated that some of these issues are caused by prior construction projects. A decrease in pervious areas due to construction have increased the volume of stormwater. Projects need to prioritize their effect on stormwater and if it is impacting other areas. The committee said that these effects should be addressed at the time of project proposals to help mitigate the stormwater concerns on site.

The committee asked when a project should or should not be presented to the committee. The ongoing maintenance of campus is not required to come before the committee. If there are water bodies or trees impacted by construction projects or if it is in a conservation area, it will need to come before the committee. The chair receives notification of the project and makes the decision on whether it should be presented before the committee for review.

##### **Grounds Report**

**Tom Schlick**

Tom stated there is no Grounds Report.

##### **Chair Report**

**Gail Hansen de Chapman**

Gail stated there is no Chair Report.

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