

MINUTES
University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee
September 07, 2023, at 9:00 AM
Facilities, Planning & Construction
ZOOM MEETING

The University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee (ULVLC) met Thursday, September 07, 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
Linda Dixon – Director, Planning, Design & Construction
Lucas Majure – Assistant Curator, FLMNH
Tim Martin – Associate Professor, School of Forest Resources and Conservation
Brandi Renton – Associate Vice President, Business Affairs
Tom Schlick – Assistant Director of Grounds, Facilities Services

Members not attending:

Fernando Alferéz – Assistant Professor, Citrus Horticulture
Donna Bloomfield – Grounds, Facilities Services
Adam Dale – Assistant Professor, Entomology and Nematology Department
Carlos Dougnac – Assistant Vice President, Planning, Design & Construction
Maya Fives – Student
Brian Keith – Associate Dean, Library Administration
Ryan Klein – Assistant Professor, Environmental Horticulture
Bart Knowles – Major, UF Police Department
Melanie Nelson – Associate Professor, Medicine
Matt Williams – Director, Office of Sustainability

Visitors attending:

Melissa Thomas – Administrative, Planning, Design & Construction
Frank Javaheri – Director of Construction, Planning, Design & Construction
Robert Hatker – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Tamera Baughman – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Savanah Partridge – Planning, Design & Construction
Kaylee August – Office of Sustainability
Laurie Hall – CHW
Caeli Tolar - CHW
Jordan Benton – Facilities Services
Todd Whitehead – Architect on UF-687

Gail stated that before we start the meeting, Rachel asked that she bring up to everyone to think about the date and time of the meeting and if anyone would like to change that, they could discuss it at the next meeting.

I. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

Motion: Tim Martin made a motion to approve the Agenda and the August Minutes adding Lucas Majure to the members not attending area.

Second: Lucas Majure

Motion Carried Unanimously

II. MAJOR PROJECTS

UF – 687 – Broward Dining Renovation and Expansion – Design Development Robert Hatker

Robert introduced himself and stated he was there today for the third and final time presenting to the committee the Broward Dining Renovation and Expansion. He said the presentation would cover the tree impact updates and plant palette for the project. He added that Todd Whitehead, the Architect on the project, would be presenting.

Todd said Caeli Tolar from CHW would discuss the landscape changes and tree impacts. Todd showed the location of the project and the area of the expansion and renovation. The project is headed into 60% construction documents. The expansion is to the south of the existing footprint and the project will also include an ADA pedestrian path connecting to Inner Road. The project will also reconfigure the service drive area in the southwest corner.

Caeli showed the existing site and the buildings adjacent to the project. The project fronts the Arts Axis and doesn't front a campus edge. The ADA accessible path to the east was widened and will continue the path from Yulee Pit to Inner Road. The service drive will need to swing out to the west to allow for trucks deliveries.

Caeli reviewed the tree impacts. Two new trees were proposed for removal (12 and 13 on the graphic) because the service drive needed to be reconfigured. There will be 36 trees for mitigation. The project is proposing replanting 20 trees, and therefore 16 trees x 250.00 = \$ 4,000.00 for the mitigation fund. The Shumard oaks will be planted back in the service drive entrance area. Caeli went over the proposed trees and the plant palette for the site.

The committee asked about the sidewalk with the stairs and if it will be removed to make only one path. There will be a small area of sidewalk and stairs, but the ADA path has been increased to 16' and will include a 16' path to the front entrance of the building. The rest of the pedestrian path to the east up to Inner Road will be a narrower to preserve the heritage trees.

The committee asked why the service drive was being reconfigured. Linda stated the plan to revamp the service drive during the project to help with the future open space. The committee suggested not to plant anymore Shumard oaks on campus because they do not fare well at maturity. The committee also suggested not to plant anymore sable palms or Phoenix palms on campus because of the lethal bronzing. The design team asked for suggestions and the committee responded with white oak or water chestnut trees.

The committee asked about changing the plant palette to include more native plants instead of non-natives. The committee asked if the design team could try to put some shade on the south side of the building.

Motion: Tim Martin made a motion to approve the project incorporating some of the suggestions made regarding more native plants in the plant palette, the reduction of sable palms and not planting the Shumard oaks and considering the white oak alternative.

Second: Lucas Majure

Motion Carried Unanimously

III. MINOR PROJECTS

MP08582 – Steinbrenner Temporary Service Drive – October Installation Tamera Baughman

Tamera introduced herself and stated that she was presenting an information item. There are several projects occurring within the area in question. The Inner Road project, a utility project, completely closed off Inner road. This project also closed off access to the Steinbrenner building. Students utilize this space to bring instruments in and out of the Music building. The DCP Collaboratory project will close off Murphree Way behind the Music building. This project is proposing to install a temporary service drive off Newell Drive that would extend across the open lawn between the Music and Steinbrenner buildings and up against the west side of the Steinbrenner building sidewalk, bordering the southern boundary of the existing UF-644 Inner Road Utilities construction fence. The drive would be approximately 130-140 feet in length and approximately 12 feet wide to accommodate band and music vehicles for the purpose of transporting band equipment. Once these projects are completed, the area would be returned to its existing lawn condition. The only impact would be two light poles that would have to be removed, and once the area is reverted, the light poles would be reinstalled. Tamera met with Grounds and Utilities, and there were no utilities in the area that would be impacted.

There was one tree that needed to be trimmed. There were no tree impacts on this project. The road would not be negatively impacted. This would only be utilized for dropping off or picking up equipment or instruments. There was no parking in this area. Installation is to take place by October 21, 2023. The committee asked what material would be used. Tamera stated that asphalt would be used.

The committee expressed concern that this drive would be used by everyone. The area was in the no-vehicle zone. There might be a need to have bollards that could be removed when the Music program needed to pull in and pull out. They should have a flagman to help them safely exit the drive. In a side-discussion, apart from the temporary service drive, the committee noted the need for a communication plan for the use of Stadium Road. Members had noticed support vehicles and delivery trucks stopped on Stadium Rd until the deliveries were completed, so there should have been some discussion and communication about the travel plans on Stadium Road.

Information only

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Landscaping and Natural Resource Projects

Jordan Benton / Tom Schlick

Jordan stated that she wanted to talk about the upcoming projects that had been discussed in past meetings. The first project was the Ficke Gardens and IFAS Meadow. The marking had been completed, and the materials had been received. Installation will commence soon, and the project coordinated with an archaeologist to ensure any necessary assessments could be performed as needed.

The committee noted that this fence was not in the Landscape Master Plan, but they were considering it as a standard for the IFAS area and the conservation areas.

The next project discussed was Tigert Circle. The area was designed by CHW, but the installation would be done by Facility Services. They were scheduled to begin on September 5th. The construction fences would be present for several weeks. Tom stated that a fence would be put around the circle, and once phase 1 was completed, the fence would be removed. This process would be repeated for the 3 project phases.

The committee inquired about crosswalks for the new area. Gregg Clark and Grounds would meet with Nancy to go over the area, and stated there was funding available if additional crosswalks were needed.

The next few months should include the following projects on Buckman Drive:

1. Facilities Services implementation of the Buckman Drive Campus Beautification Project. Work would occur on the on weekends for the safety of the campus community and to minimize the impact on campus navigation.
2. Removal of holly trees on both sides of Buckman Drive – Scheduled for September 30th.
3. Demolition of existing planters – Scheduled for October 14th.

The committee asked about signage to inform students and faculty about the project. There needed to be some kind of posted notice to reduce the number of phone calls and emails. Facilities stated that they would work on the communication aspect to ensure that students and faculty were aware.

Chair Report

Gail Hansen de Chapman

Gail stated that there were a few things to note. She reminded everyone that new committee members will be attending the next meeting. Also, they would discuss the notion of changing the date and time of the meeting if the committee wanted to make changes.

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