

## MINUTES

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

The University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee (ULVLC) met Thursday, November 02, 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  
David Conser – City of Gainesville – City Arborist  
Linda Dixon – Director, Planning, Design & Construction  
Ryan Klein – Assistant Professor, Environmental Horticulture  
Lucas Majure – Assistant Curator, FLMNH  
Gerardo Nunez – Assistant Professor, Horticultural Sciences  
Pawel Petelewicz – Assistant Professor, Department of Weed Science  
Brandi Renton – Associate Vice President, Business Affairs  
Matt Williams – Director, Office of Sustainability

**Members not attending:**

Fernando Alferex – Assistant Professor, Citrus Horticulture  
Donna Bloomfield – Grounds, Facilities Services  
Gregg Clarke – Director of Operations, Facilities Services  
Adam Dale – Assistant Professor, Entomology and Nematology Department  
Carlos Dougnac – Assistant Vice President, 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  
Tom Schlick – Assistant Director of Grounds, Facilities Services

**Visitors attending:**

Cydney McGlothlin – Assistant Vice President, Planning, Design & Construction  
Frank Javaheri – Director of Construction, Planning, Design & Construction  
Keith Humphreys – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction  
Tom Feather – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction  
Jamie Lindsey – Architectural Designer, Planning Design & Construction  
Savanah Partridge – Intern, Planning, Design & Construction  
Kaylee August – Office of Sustainability  
Caeli Tolar – CHW  
Laurie Hall - CHW  
Jordan Benton – Facilities Services  
Greg Ratter – Siemens  
Julia Chapman – Eniad Architects  
Ruth Perry – RMF Engineering  
John Williamson – RMF Engineering – Contractor for UF-644, UF-644A and UF-644B  
Brim Minteregro – Unknown

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

**Motion:** Lucas Majure made a motion to adopt the Agenda and approve the October Minutes.

**Second:** Nancy Chrystal-Green

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

## **II. MAJOR PROJECTS**

### **UF – 396 – Florida Museum of Natural History Earth Systems Addition – Design Development**

**Presenting: Keith Humphreys**

Keith introduced himself and stated he was present to discuss the project and the building additions that will impact trees on the site. Julia Chapman was in attendance to present as well.

Julia stated that Caeli Tolar was also in attendance to help with presenting. Julia showed the project site within the Cultural Plaza. The existing building will be reconfigured for an addition to the front, as well as a 2-story rear addition which will serve as an administrative space.

Caeli presented the landscape of the rear addition. The project will maintain connections to existing walkways and bike racks. The existing outdoor seating area to the front of the building will remain. The area will be configured to support outdoor classrooms. All furnishings will be updated to comply with standards set by the Landscape Master Plan. Bike racks will be added near the existing bike racks. The southbound sidewalk at the front of the building will connect with the boardwalk leading to the Natural Area Teaching Lab (NATL). The project will also include a southern terrace and a seat wall for additional seating capacity. There will be a Low-Impact Development (LID) area for stormwater management.

There are 3 trees that will be impacted. One of the trees, labeled as #17, is a magnolia tree that doesn't need mitigation. Although 9 trees will be replanted, the total mitigation cost is 29 trees @ \$250.00 each- equaling \$7,250.00. All other trees being impacted were approved in prior meetings.

Some of the trees on site at the 34<sup>th</sup> street driveway will require pruning. This driveway will also be shifting south to align with the existing gate and provide access to the rear of the building. This new access point was determined in order to preserve a heritage Live Oak. The committee asked that the impacted roots be cut out instead of removing them with an excavator. The project team asked if they should trim a few limbs back to the drip line so it is more accessible. The project team plans to have an arborist look at the tree to confirm where trimming should occur. The committee responded that if it is trimmed, the project may not have to cut into the root system. A 17-foot setback should be enough, but the committee suggested that a 6-inch layer of mulch around the tree will prevent the equipment from compacting the root system.

The committee asked about the research being done on wildflower meadows at the Florida Museum. The user group said they were not worried about the area right now and Keith confirmed that once the laydown area was not needed, the project would replant the wildflowers. The committee presented concerns about driving on the existing sidewalk and Keith replied that the sidewalks surrounding the addition would be reconfigured. The project will be pursuing a Gold certification with the Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC). The overall goal is to minimize site impacts and improve existing site conditions. The project is within the Hogtown Creek Basin but remains within the UF Master Stormwater Permit. The intent of the project is to utilize the existing stormwater pond behind the museum, which will require modifications to the existing control structure.

Caeli showed the LID areas for the project site. The plant palette for the site includes recommendations from the user group. The committee noted that the holly fern and leatherleaf fern are non- native species and recommended southern shield fern.

**Motion:**

**Ryan Klein made a motion to approve the project with these conditions:**

- 1. Approval to remove 3 trees with mitigation**
- 2. Remove or reduce oak limb per arborist recommendation**
- 3. Install fence around the oak and protect the root area with thick layer of mulch**
- 4. Plant palette should be all native**

**Second:**

**Lucas Majure**

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**UF – 685 – Holland Law - ESCO Heating Hot Water Conversion – Design Development**

**Presenting: Milo Zapata - Information only**

Milo introduced himself and mentioned that since the project’s initial presentation to the Committee in July, they were able to save some of the trees which were approved to be mitigated. He showed the location of the project. This presentation refers to an addition being made to a larger hot-water piping route presented in July 2023. A solar photovoltaic parking canopy was presented. The canopy will need to have the structural support columns installed which will require modification of the sidewalk. The sidewalk may have to be increased about 2 or 3 feet to allow for the support columns and ADA clearances. The presented solar canopy will provide renewable energy to offset a portion of the electricity consumed at the Holland Utility Plant. The committee asked if this was the first solar canopy on campus. Milo confirmed that it was. Greg Ratter from Siemens stated that there was a lot of interest in installing solar canopies elsewhere on campus. The solar on the south side of the plant will be ground mounted. The committee asked if it will be in the grass area within the previously approved tree impact zone. The energy will be used to heat water for the energy-efficient utility plant. The committee asked if the increased sidewalk would impact parking. Milo confirmed that it will not impact parking and will ensure ADA access. Milo also confirmed that the canopy will have a gutter system so users won’t get rained on.

**UF – 644, 644A, 644B – Reitz Union Lawn/Inner Road Improvements – Design Development**

**Presenting: Tom Feather – Information only**

Tom introduced himself and stated he was here today for the UF-644, UF-644A, and UF-644B projects. This project was designed and is being constructed as one project. This project was approved in October 2020 by LVL for Design Development. The project scope spans across the Reitz Union Lawn, out to Inner Road, and to the lawn space west of Norman Hall.

There will be an impact to the planters at the north end of Reid Hall. John Williams is the leader of the Design team and was present to explain the challenges. John gave an overview of the project upgrades to the steam, chilled water, and electrical lines, but expressed concern with the planters and palms. Ruth Perry of GAI Consultants was also present to discuss the landscape and plantings.

Ruth went over the two planters’ locations and the species within each planter. The piping will need to go under the sidewalk in the area. There was a meeting on site that discussed the utility and piping layout, and its’ impacts to the planters. Grounds agreed to relocate the two sabal palms and the fan palm elsewhere on campus until the project was completed. The sidewalk and planters will also be reconstructed upon completion.

The committee asked that the palms not be replanted in the planters. The committee stated that additional sabal palms should not be brought on campus. The committee agree that the plants should be taller in this area and have a small root ball. The goal is to replace the two impacted Sabal palms with two new Crape myrtles. The committee discussed the different options and problems with different trees, including a Muskogee Crape myrtle. Lucas stated that Crape myrtles are overused and are non-native. The committee suggested a Fringe

tree. Ruth stated this tree is very hard to find but, suggested a river birch, Chickasaw plum, or a large Crape myrtle. The committee stated if a Crepe Myrtle is chosen, it should be single stemmed and pruned correctly, as opposed to being topped annually. The committee does not recommend dogwood or redbud.

The committee asked if it was possible to reduce the east planter size to increase space for cyclists. The design team mentioned the grading of the terrain and confirmed that they are moving the bollard to increase mobility space. Ruth stated that the project team will install two single-stemmed Natchez Crape myrtles.

The teams also discussed the relocation of sabal palms located on Inner Road. The palms will be replaced with Crape myrtles and oak trees. The committee asked if there were native species that could be included. The committee suggested Chickasaw plum be used to replace the Crape myrtles in the previously mentioned planters. The committee also suggested native Hollies. Ruth suggested a Yaupon. Ruth stated that a Chickasaw plum, an Ilic, or a Yaupon would comply with the UF planting palette.

Tom wanted to clarify removing the palms and not replanting, despite previous approval for relocation. The committee stated they can be relocated and braced properly, but new sabal palms should not be introduced to campus. Grounds agreed to remove and relocate the palms.

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

**Second:** Pawel Petelewicz

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

### **III. MINOR PROJECTS**

**None**

### **IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Landscaping and Natural Resource Projects**

**Jordan Benton**

Jordan stated she was presenting an overview of the Tree Mitigation funds. As of July 2022, the fund contains \$160,170.00. The presentation shows funding coming in from construction projects and the purchases going out for a variety of projects.

She was asked to address a previous question about the Flavet Field parking lot and the O'Connell Center tree removals. The removals were deemed necessary to address drainage issues and impediments to utility maintenance. The committee questioned why they were not aware of the removal beforehand. Jordan ensures that in the future, such instances will be communicated in advance so they will have a chance for review.

In service of the Holland Law utilities project, Facilities will need to add a new gas line that will run along Fraternity drive up to Museum Road, adjacent to Harmonic Woods. The Facilities team requested a 10-foot setback along this corridor. The setback will ensure their ability to service the utility lines. This will also increase the safety for sidewalk-users along Fraternity Drive. The committee asked if they can return in December with the list of trees being impacted.

Jordan went over a project list of current and upcoming work.

1. The Tigert Circle Beautification Project is entering phase two during the week of 11/6/2023.
2. Ficke and IFAS Meadow fencing additions will be moving forward.
3. Addition of bollards and chains around the grass area of DSIT
4. Tree work and canopy thinning near the Physics Building, Benton Hall, and Larsen Hall to address drainage issues.

5. Address issues with the live oak at the southwest corner of Garage IV.

The committee asked about the tree work at the Physics Building, Benton Hall, and Larsen Hall. Jordan confirmed that it is primarily pruning or trimming, but there may be some tree impacts. The committee questioned how would trimming and pruning effect drainage. Due to the reoccurring nature of this issue, the committee asked that prior to any work being done it comes back to the committee in December with more information and details regarding the project.

#### **Chair Report**

**Gail Hansen de Chapman**

Gail stated there was no Chair report.

**There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM.**