

MINUTES
University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee
March 07, 2024, at 9:00 AM
Facilities, Planning & Construction
ZOOM MEETING

The University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee (ULVLC) met Thursday, March 07, 2024, for a Zoom meeting online.

Members attending:

Gail Hansen De Chapman – Environmental Horticulture - Chair
Nancy Chrystal-Green – Associate Vice President, Student Life
David Conser – City of Gainesville – City Arborist
Adam Dale – Assistant Professor, Entomology and Nematology Department
Linda Dixon – Director, Planning, Design & Construction
Bart Knowles – Major, UF Police Department
Lucas Majure – Assistant Curator, FLMNH
Rachel Mallinger, Assistant Professor, Entomology and Nematology Department
Pawel Petelewicz – Assistant Professor, Agronomy Department
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
Gregg Clarke – Director of Operations, Facilities Services
Ryan Klein – Assistant Professor, Environmental Horticulture
Wesley Littleton – Student
Tim Martin – Associate Professor, School of Forest Resources and Conservation
Cydney McGlothlin – AVP, Planning, Design & Construction
Gerardo Nunez – Assistant Professor, Horticultural Sciences

Visitors attending:

Tom Feather – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Alex Gauthier – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Ronnie Cooper – Director, UF/IFAS Facilities Planning & Operations
Caeli Tolar – CHW
Laurie Hall – CHW
Jordan Benton – Facilities Services
Doug Soltis – Distinguished Professor, FLMNH
John Williamson – RMF Engineering

I. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

Gail asked that the agenda be updated to take off MP07468 – Reitz Union Repair South Terrace Concrete and Seawall and add UF-644 – Reitz Union Lawn/Inner Road Improvements.

Motion: Lucas Majure made a motion to adopt the new agenda and approve the February minutes.

Second: Adam Dale

Motion Carried Unanimously

II. MAJOR PROJECTS

UF-644 – Reitz Union Lawn / Inner Road Improvements

Presenting: Tom Feather

Tom introduced himself and stated he was here today to speak about the UF-644 project. The portion of the project being presented is to install new steam and electrical at the Reitz Union Lawn and Inner Road areas. The project was returning to the committee to discuss a tree near Reid Hall. John Williamson with RMF Engineering lead the discussion.

John provided a recap of the project. The contractor is about to mobilize in this area, and the project wanted to receive tree recommendations. John showed a steam leak that Facilities is currently working to repair. The project wants to create a 6' temporary pedestrian walkway. An existing Weeping Yaupon Holly is being requested for removal to provide the path. The Holly is a 15' tall tree, with 5" and 7" DBH trunks. There is a little decay starting and there are roots exposed.

The committee asked if the Holly tree was originally approved for removal. John said it was not scheduled to be removed, but because of the steam leak and temporary sidewalk, it will be impacted. Tom also noted a palm tree near the Holly that was removed prior to the project starting. The committee questioned if this was necessary. The project team expressed the need to comply with ADA. There are new utilities and a 10' X 10' electrical manhole in the area that restrict where the path can go. The committee asked if the project could replant a Holly on the project site. The committee suggested a few different areas that could be used to replant a new Weeping Yaupon Holly. The committee suggested to slide the Southern Live Oak down in the planter and John suggested on the corner where it is being taking out or in the larger planter. The committee requested at least a 15-gallon Holly.

Motion: Lucas Majure made a motion to approve the project as presented with replacing the existing Weeping Yaupon Holly on site with another at least 15-gallon Weeping Yaupon Holly on site.

Second: Rachel Mallinger

Motion Carried Unanimously

III. MINOR PROJECTS

MP08046 – UF McCarty Woods Conceptual Landscape Plan

Presenting: Alex Gauthier

Alex introduced himself and stated he was here today to talk about the McCarty Woods Conceptual Plan. Caeli Tolar from CHW presented the project.

Caeli showed the location of McCarty Woods and explained that it's a conservation area. The project includes new and restored kiosks, educational signage, and delineating the boundaries. The project also wanted to

highlight the restoration efforts of the volunteer team and the work that has been done to the site. The project also clarifies communications with Grounds regarding maintenance. There are trails and pathways to increase pedestrian access, additional benches and tables and a plant palette for the area. There are no tree impacts. Caeli reviewed the existing conditions of the site and the existing kiosks.

Caeli showed the locations of the proposed kiosks. She also showed the tables and benches. The project provides a clear outline of what is in the conservation area, what the volunteer group is responsible for maintaining, and what is the responsibility of Grounds.

The committee asked about a standard kiosk design and if the proposed kiosk will become the standard. Alex stated the design was reviewed and approved by Facilities and EH&S. Linda explained that, at present, there is no standard for a kiosk in the Landscape Master Plan, but the proposed kiosk is similar to others on campus. The committee asked if there was a plan for maintaining the woods. Doug stated he is paying for an intern through the McCarty Foundation fund. The committee discussed the plant palette. Tom from Grounds asked that the Dwarf Fakahatchee Gras not be used. The committee asked that the Pignut Hickory not be planted near the parking lot or walkways.

Motion: Rachel Mallinger made a motion to approve the project as presented.

Second: Lucas Majure

Motion Carried Unanimously

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Landscaping and Natural Resource Projects

Presenting: Jordan Benton

Tom stated that there weren't many updates for new projects. Both tree trucks were down, so they are doing a lot of under pruning from the ground.

Jordan stated the Tigert Circle work is ongoing and phase three will be completed soon. There will be another upcoming phase on that project.

The project planning is ongoing for the Stormwater Master Plan.

The project with Claire Lewis from Florida-Friendly Landscaping is to create a plan for Malachowsky Hall. The plan will be developed to utilize a variety of native species. The committee stated this has been turned in and presented. Grounds is reserving the right to tone it down a bit. The committee explained the plant list was good and discussed the maintenance. The timeframe for installation was unknown, but assuming in the Summer, and a contractor may be needed.

Linda stated she wanted to give an update on the Lake Alice Watershed Management Plan and a few upcoming public workshops.

1. April 25, 2024 – 4:30 – 7:30pm - Open house format at the Straughan Center – Presenting Draft plans and recommendations.
2. April 30, 2024 – Zoom – lunch hour noon – same content.

Chair Report

Gail Hansen de Chapman

Gail stated she has a couple of items for this report.

1. Someone asked about the tree removal 4 or 5 years ago at the Microbiology building. It was an old research plot. The faculty member left the trees there after their research and

Kevin Heinicka said a new faculty member needed the area for research. It was cleared for them without bringing it to LVL for review.

2. Ryan Klien had some concerns about the tree protection in construction areas. It isn't following the standards of putting up barricades and staying outside of the driplines of the root systems of the trees. He would like to discuss the Tree Mitigation policy and wanted to note that the fees weren't high enough. The committee also wanted to know how the Tree Mitigation Fund is used and spent.
3. The committee has received a few comments about the parking lot behind the Ortho building going to the Land Use committee. The LVL committees' recommendation has been approved by the VP, but it will still need to go to LUFPC. Each committee sends recommendations to the VP for approval separately and stands on its own merit.

The committee asked about the orientation material to give the committee more information about each project. The approvals are given one month behind. Gale asked if we could do the orientation for the new members.

Committee Orientation

Linda Dixon

Linda brought up the orientation material from the website. The charge of the LVL Committee provides recommendations concerning the enforcement of policies regarding the removal of trees and other vegetation, the Landscape Master Plan and Campus Master Plan. This committee provides guidelines for the use of campus lakes, creeks, and ponds in order to preserve their ecological integrity and research capabilities, and the management and well being of natural areas containing non-domesticated plants and animals. The committee provides input on major landscape elements, such as green space and significant landscape architectural features. The committees are a part of a Shared Governance structure. The structure of the committee includes 10 faculty, 1 student, and liaisons. Linda reviewed the website and where the members could locate this material. She explained what projects come to the committees. All Major projects will come to the committees 3 times. Minor projects will usually come one time but may come more if needed. Linda showed where the bylaws are located. She also went over the "Sunshine" laws. All members must vote. The chair has the ability to waive review.

The committee asked if the slides could be sent to all members. Gail requested that committee members let her know if they can't attend and to send her their review of the materials so she can speak on their behalf.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 10:33 AM.