

MINUTES
University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee
June 06, 2024, at 9:00 AM
Facilities, Planning & Construction
ZOOM MEETING

The University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee (ULVLC) met Thursday, June 06, 2024, for a Zoom meeting online.

Members attending:

Gregg Clarke – Senior Director of Operations, Facilities Services
David Conser – City of Gainesville – City Arborist
Adam Dale – Associate Professor, Entomology and Nematology Department
Linda Dixon – Director, Planning, Design & Construction
Ryan Klein – Assistant Professor, Environmental Horticulture
Rachel Mallinger – Assistant Professor, Entomology and Nematology Department
Pawel Petelewicz – Assistant Professor, Agronomy Department
Tom Schlick – Director of Grounds and Natural Resources, Facilities Services

Members not attending:

Fernando Alferex – Assistant Professor, Citrus Horticulture
Nancy Chrystal-Green – Associate Vice President, Student Life
Gail Hansen De Chapman – Environmental Horticulture - Chair
Bart Knowles – Interim Chief, UF Police Department
Wesley Littleton – Student
Lucas Majure – Assistant Curator, FLMNH
Tim Martin – Professor, School of Forest Resources and Conservation
Cydney McGlothlin – AVP, Planning, Design & Construction
Gerardo Nunez – Assistant Professor, Horticultural Sciences
Brandi Renton – Associate Vice President, Business Affairs
Matt Williams – Director, Office of Sustainability

Visitors attending:

Rachel Mandell – Sr. Planner, Planning, Design & Construction
Melissa Thomas – Administrative Assistant, Planning, Design & Construction
Frank Javaheri – Director of Construction, Planning, Design & Construction
Stephen Caron – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Dwayne Isaacs – Sr. Director, Reitz Union
Caeli Tolar – Landscape Architect, CHW
Laurie Hall – Sr. Landscape Architect, CHW
Savanah Partridge – Intern, Planning, Design & Construction
Elisabeth Manley – Kimley-Horn and Associates
Kaylee August – Office of Sustainability
Cassidy Zylis – CHW
Blake Kendrick - CHW

I. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

Motion: Rachel Mallinger made a motion to adopt the agenda and approve the May minutes.

Second: Pawel Petelewicz

Motion Carried Unanimously

II. MAJOR PROJECTS

None

III. MINOR PROJECTS

MP07468 – 686 – Reitz Union – Repair South Terrace Concrete and Seawall **Presenting: Stephen Caron**

Stephen Caron introduced the project, which was previously presented to the committee in January 2023. The project, located at Liberty Pond south of the Reitz Union, involves removing the existing lower concrete terrace and repairing the sea wall. He detailed the project's location and the conditions of the area. The sidewalk from the Reitz Union to Museum Road, which runs along the east side of the parking garage, will be used for heavy equipment access. Additionally, the project includes underground components servicing ongoing projects, including a lift station manhole and directional bore out to Museum Road, located 4-5 feet below tree roots and vegetation.

Caeli Tolar explained that they had previously received approval from the committee for the removal of 27 trees in January 2023. However, additional scope changes, including a new boardwalk and lift station, necessitate the removal of nine more trees. However, none of these are heritage trees. They plan to mitigate the removals with 46 replacements, proposing to plant 26 trees on-site and paying \$5000 for the remaining 20.

The landscape plan includes native understory trees and plant species, such as Bald Cypress, Red Maple, Basket Oaks, Walters Viburnum, and White Fringe Trees. Ground cover plantings will provide slope stabilization. The landscape design aims to plant as many trees as possible on site as well as the façade of the Reitz Union parking garage.

Stephen noted that ADA compliance will be ensured for the ramp near the seawall, which was another aspect of the project. Light fixtures and footcandles will be added to meet code and life safety requirements.

The committee asked about the trees quantity of trees being replanted, and if it was a space constraint. Caeli confirmed the space constraint. The committee also discussed the DBH of the cherry laurels and location of the camphor tree. Caeli stated they are 4" cherry laurels and the camphor is located in the area where the lift station is going to be located, which is necessary for the overflow operation of the fountain project. The function of the lift station is for overflow on the fountains. The committee also discussed screening the bus station area. Grounds stated that the mitigation in the funds could be used to screen the area between the buses and Liberty Pond.

Motion: Rachel Mallinger made a motion to approve the project with the stipulation that the removal of trees in the lift area only be removed pending the approval of the fountains and that mitigation funds be earmarked for plantings along McCarty.

Second: Ryan Klein

Motion Carried Unanimously

MP04860 – Reitz Union Elevator Upgrades / South Terrace Renovations

Presenting: Stephen Caron

Stephen Caron introduced himself and stated that this project is a phase II of the water features. He showed the location of the project at Liberty Pond. The proposal includes providing six water features to represent six different branches of the military, with plaques indicating each branch of service. The water features, which will be attached to the new seawall, are self-contained and will not impact the pond's conservation area. Additionally, an ADA ramp will be constructed at the bottom left-hand corner of the site near the lift station. The user group stated this area will now be called the Veteran Garden.

The lift station is designed to handle water overflow during rain and to drain the water features for maintenance. The water will be channeled into the lift station and then directed south of Liberty Pond. Stephen showed the features' locations and the proposed seawall railing. The water features, made of stainless steel, are 18 inches high and 4 feet wide with a 2-foot radius. They will have LED lights that change colors only during Veterans Holidays and special events.

The committee asked if there are still plaques at the site. Dwayne explained that plaques and logos were previously displayed but were removed due to unawareness of certain rules. Only one plaque remains now, as they aim to recognize and support the University's veterans, including faculty, staff, and students. The committee discussed past presentations regarding a fountain and lighting, emphasizing that the conservation area should not have any fountain or lighting in the pond itself.

The committee inquired about the water, asking if it was reclaimed and if it contained chlorine. Stephen confirmed that the water would contain chlorine, similar to pool water, to prevent bacteria and algae growth. Overflow water from each feature will drain into the lift station and be pumped to a sanitary sewer manhole at Museum Road. Chlorine will be added directly to the water features to maintain water quality. The committee also asked about the lighting schedule. Dwayne stated the lights will be on a timer, operating from 9:00 AM to 11:00 PM, and no additional lighting will be added to the pond area. Preventative maintenance instructions will be provided to user groups to ensure proper pond maintenance.

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

Second: Pawel Petelewicz

Motion Carried Unanimously

MP06572 – Reitz Union Liberty Pond Boardwalk Outlook Social Space

Presenting: Stephen Caron

Stephen Caron explained that the project has been in development with the user group for a while. The project is located at Liberty Pond, south of the Reitz Union. It includes constructing a 16' x 19' rectangular outlook adjacent to the ADA ramp. The outlook will provide space to sit and observe the natural surroundings at Liberty Pond. The railing will match the adjacent areas' black wire railing system. Stephen showed a drawing illustrating the slope under the outlook toward the pond. The outlook area will be built on concrete piles, with the main structure made of pressure-treated wood and decking equivalent to Trex product. The project aims to enhance the existing wildlife and promote wellness initiatives for student life by creating a relaxing and rejuvenating space.

This project, along with the seawall replacement project, is under review by the Saint Johns River Water Management District. CHW is coordinating with the district as one concrete pile falls within the conservation area. There are no other impacts from this project. Disturbances in the area will mainly occur within the seawall project's scope of work. The disturbed areas will be graded and improved compared to existing conditions. The committee asked about tree impacts, and Stephen confirmed that there are no additional tree impacts beyond those previously approved for removal.

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

Second: Ryan Klein

Motion Carried Unanimously

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Landscaping and Natural Resource Projects

Presenting: Jordan Benton

Tom began presenting and stated they are currently working on three projects.

1. Union Lawn Drainage – it is recovering well.
2. Weil Hall – Removing the scooter parking. They are starting on the north side of the Stadium and will finish the rest after Football season.
3. Rec Field – Leveling and resodding.

Chair Report

Gail Hansen de Chapman / Adam Dale

Adam stated there was no report for today's meeting. The meeting ended early.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 10:19AM.