

MINUTES
University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscaping Committee
August 01, 2024, at 9:00 AM
HYBRID MEETING

The University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscaping Committee (LVLC) met Thursday, August 01, 2024, for a meeting hosted in the PDC conference room and 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
Ryan Klein – Assistant Professor, Environmental Horticulture
Gerardo Nunez – Assistant Professor, Horticultural Sciences
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
Adam Dale – Assistant Professor, Entomology and Nematology Department
Bart Knowles – Major, UF Police Department
Wesley Littleton – Student
Lucas Majure – Assistant Curator, FLMNH
Rachel Mallinger – Assistant Professor, Entomology and Nematology Department
Tim Martin – Associate Professor, School of Forest Resources and Conservation
Cydney McGlothlin – AVP, Planning, Design & Construction

Visitors attending:

Rachel Mandell – Sr. Planner, Planning, Design & Construction
Melissa Thomas – Administrative Assistant, Planning, Design & Construction
Frank Javaheri – Director of Construction, Planning, Design & Construction
Andrew Meeker – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Caeli Tolar – Landscape Architect, CHW
Laurie Hall – Sr. Landscape Architect, CHW
Cassidy Zylis – CHW
Blake Kendrick – CHW
Emily Young – UFPD Admin Dept, University Police Department
Marty Dempsey – Sr. Associate Director, Recreational Sports
Latrell Simmons – UFPD, Captain, Support Services Division & Community Services Division
Jordan Benton – Admin, Facility Services

I. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

Motion: Ryan Klien made a motion to adopt the agenda and approve the June minutes.

Second: Pawel Petelewicz

Motion Carried Unanimously

II. MAJOR PROJECTS

UF – 681 – Flavet Field Outdoor Recreation Complex

Presenting: Andrew Meeker

Andrew Meeker introduced the project, noting that it had been presented to the committee previously and was returning for the Design Development phase. He reviewed the project location and key items discussed in other committee meetings. Laurie Hall and Caeli Tolar from CHW were present to provide updates on the project.

Laurie Hall outlined the project's goals, emphasizing the extensive stakeholder engagement conducted so far, with additional engagement planned in the coming month. She presented the site plan, which includes both passive and active spaces. The west end of the site will feature a large open lawn for student use, and efforts are being made to maximize stormwater capture in this area. Laurie also highlighted plans to renovate existing restrooms, upgrading them and adding storage facilities. The project is pursuing a SITES certification.

Laurie discussed the impact on trees, noting that some areas are being reconsidered to protect and preserve trees that were initially slated for removal. The most significant changes from the previously approved plan involve the retention of certain trees on the project site. She explained that some trees, which were in poor health or affected access to Museum Road, still need to be removed. However, the area north of the Bandshell has been adjusted to avoid any tree impacts. Laurie provided an overview of the conditions of the trees that will be removed and highlighted those that will now remain on-site following committee feedback. The landscape plan includes a mix of tree species and native plants. The team will collaborate with Tom from Grounds to ensure that the plan is manageable. A total of 33 trees are set to be removed, with 58 new trees proposed for planting, resulting in a surplus of trees for the project. Additionally, the site will feature some furnishings that are not included in the Landscape Master Plan.

The committee asked about the use of artificial turf, particularly in high-traffic areas where grass struggles to thrive. From a maintenance perspective, artificial turf is preferable due to its durability under heavy use. The committee also asked about the selection of trees for the site, and the design team assured them that they would work with Tom from Grounds to choose appropriate species for the area. Concerns were raised about tree protection and the enforcement of these measures, especially for heritage trees. The design team agreed to enhance protection efforts as needed. Regarding the artificial turf, the committee expressed concerns about potential runoff contamination from rubber pebbles. Tom clarified that sand, not pebbles, would be used beneath the turf, and periodic sand replacement would be necessary to maintain the area.

Motion: Pawel Petelewicz made a motion to approve the project with the additional comments on enhancing the tree protection during construction.

Second: Ryan Klein

Motion Carried Unanimously

III. MINOR PROJECTS

None

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Landscaping and Natural Resource Projects **Presenting: Jordan Benton**

Tom stated there was no report for this meeting.

Chair Report

Gail Hansen de Chapman / Adam Dale

Gail provided an update on a previous project involving a fraternity and a retaining wall that separates their courtyard from the parking lot. The fraternity had been experiencing issues with flooding and leaf drop from two trees that were causing problems in the courtyard. To address these issues, they installed a French drain, a sump pump, and a new concrete retaining wall, spending over \$100,000 on these efforts. After a meeting with Brandi Renton, Linda, and Gail, it was determined that the only remaining solution was to remove the trees. Gail approved their removal, with plans for mitigation. Tom will identify locations within the existing parking lot to plant new trees, which will also help provide shade to the area.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:39AM.