

MINUTES
University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscaping Committee
September 05, 2024, at 9:00 AM
HYBRID MEETING

The University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscaping Committee (LVLC) met Thursday, September 05, 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
Fernando Alferez – Assistant Professor, Citrus Horticulture
Linda Dixon – Director, Planning, Design & Construction
Ryan Klein – Assistant Professor, Environmental Horticulture
Adam Dale – Assistant Professor, Entomology and Nematology Department
Matt Williams – Director, Office of Sustainability
Tom Schlick – Assistant Director of Grounds, Facilities Services
Wesley Freeman – Student
Latrell Simmons – UFPD, Major, Support Services Division & Community Services Division
Rachel Mallinger – Assistant Professor, Entomology and Nematology Department
Jordan Benton – Director, Facility Services

Members not attending:

David Conser – City of Gainesville – City Arborist
Gerardo Nunez – Assistant Professor, Horticultural Sciences
Brandi Renton – Associate Vice President, Business Affairs
Lucas Majure – Assistant Curator, FLMNH
Tim Martin – Associate Professor, School of Forest Resources and Conservation
Cydney McGlothlin – AVP, Planning, Design & Construction
Monika Oli – Master Lecturer, Microbiology and Cell Science

Visitors attending:

Rachel Mandell – Sr. Planner, Planning, Design & Construction
Rick Falcon – Administrative Specialist, Planning, Design & Construction
Frank Javaheri – Director of Construction, Planning, Design & Construction
Laurie Hall – Sr. Landscape Architect, CHW
Emily Young – UFPD Admin Dept, University Police Department
Carrie B. Bush – Assistant Vice President, Administration and External Relations

I. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

Motion: Adam Dale made a motion to adopt the agenda and approve the August minutes.

Second: Ryan Klein

Motion Carried Unanimously

II. MAJOR PROJECTS

UF – 318 – Dental Science Building Addition & Renovation Presenting: Frank Javaheri

Frank Javaheri introduced the project, pointing out that it consists of two phases. The first phase involves constructing a new building and relocating people from the existing DS building into the new one. The second phase will be the renovation of the existing building. The project is expected to take four to five years. The addition is expected to impact the west parking lot, which is primarily used for accessible vehicles. The lot also holds several trees that will potentially be impacted by the addition, however there is not an accurate number currently because the footprint has not been established yet.

Gail suggested hiring an arborist to evaluate the condition of the trees on the site, as their condition could influence future decisions. Ryan proposed considering the trees from the start of the project, rather than removing them due to changes in plans. Frank agreed to Ryan's comment and suggested waiting until the building's footprint is known before making decisions about the trees. Adam suggested having the arborist's evaluation from the beginning to avoid unnecessary changes. The committee agreed to consider the trees' condition from the start and to wait until the building's footprint is known before making final decisions on the project.

Adam, Frank, and Gail discussed the landscape master plan for the Health Science Center. They agreed that the north side of the center would be enhanced, with the south portion's tree condition and needs to be evaluated. They also discussed the need to simplify and enhance the entry to the Dental Science area, with the aim of making it a main entry to the Health Science Center. Frank mentioned that they would be discussing parking plans with TAPS next week, and Gail suggested that more accessible parking spaces might be needed close to the building depending on the footprint. The committee agreed to wait for the architect's input before finalizing the plans.

Ryan emphasized the importance of protecting trees on the site during construction, highlighting the need for proper enforcement of protection measures. Frank agreed,

attributing the responsibility to the construction manager and project manager to insure proper handling of the trees. The committee also reiterated on the need for more detailed information about the project, including the building's footprint and potential impacts on trees and parking spaces. The motion was seconded by Adam and approved by the committee.

Motion: Gail made a motion for approval of the site for the project, with Rachel adding a request for consideration of perimeter trees and the involvement of an arborist.

Second: Adam Dale

Motion Carried Unanimously

III. MINOR PROJECTS

None

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Landscaping and Natural Resource Projects

Presenting: Jordan Benton

Jordan, Tom, and Ryan discussed the removal of palm trees on campus due to disease and hazardous conditions. Tom suggested that road construction and water issues might be contributing factors. They also discussed the issue of Bradford pears, which they deemed undesirable due to their tendency to drop debris and lean towards the road. The committee identified six trees as lost or likely to be lost due to steam. They also discussed upcoming work on the Malachowski Hall site, which will involve irrigation and landscape changes.

Concerns were raised about the impact of irrigation work under established trees on their health, and the committee agreed to monitor the situation and consider appropriate actions. Adam, Thomas, Jordan, Ryan, and Gail discussed the challenges of maintaining a property with multiple entities and the importance of informed decision-making for long-term maintenance. Thomas explained the difficulties of rerouting irrigation systems due to limited space and the need for straight lines and angles. The committee agreed that rerouting irrigation systems is not always feasible and can sometimes lead to reinstalling half of it again. They also discussed the issue of underground utilities being densely packed, which can create further challenges. Jordan suggested that they could investigate

the specific scenario Adam brought up and use it as a learning experience for future locations.

Chair Report:

Gail Hansen de Chapman

Gail initiated a discussion about the need for a campus arborist/urban forester position, an issue that has been ongoing for years. She mentioned that Tim Martin had drafted a position description and shared it with Brandy Renton, the interim VP of Business Affairs. Gail requested research on cost savings from having an urban forester, and she also asked for any other ideas to keep the momentum going. Adam requested a copy of Tim's document for further discussion. Gail also mentioned that other top institutions have similar positions, and the need for an official campus arborist, a position that has been contract-based for over a decade. The committee agreed to continue the discussion and possibly meet with Brandy.

It was also agreed that the position should be priced at a level comparable to larger cities to attract and retain talent. The committee also acknowledged the challenges of limited resources and the importance of having a long-term arborist to maintain the urban forest. They discussed the potential benefits of having an arborist, such as better enforcement of construction site inspections.

The committee also discussed the financial implications of outsourcing arborist services and the potential benefits of having an arborist on staff. They agreed on the need for a more proactive approach to managing the campus trees, rather than being reactive. The team also discussed the need for an updated tree map and the potential for an urban forester to manage the entire forest.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 10:09AM.