

MINUTES
University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscaping Committee
February 06, 2025, at 9:00 AM
HYBRID MEETING

The University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscaping Committee (LVLC) met Thursday, February 6th, 2025, for a meeting hosted in the PDC conference room and online.

Members attending:

Gail Hansen De Chapman – Environmental Horticulture - Chair
Gregg Clarke – Director of Operations, Facilities Services
Linda Dixon – Director, Planning, Design & Construction
Matt Williams – Director, Office of Sustainability
Nancy Chrystal-Green – Associate Vice President, Division of Student Life
Ryan Klein – Assistant Professor, Environmental Horticulture
Fernando Alferes – Assistant Professor, Citrus Horticulture
Tom Schlick – Assistant Director of Grounds, Facilities 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
Cydney McGlothlin – AVP, Planning, Design & Construction
Jordan Benton – Director, Facility Services
Rachel Mallinger – Assistant Professor, Entomology and Nematology Department
Monika Oli – Master Lecturer, Microbiology and Cell Science
Adam Dale – Assistant Professor, Entomology and Nematology Department
Latrell Simmons – UFPD, Major, Support Services Division & Community Services Division
Wesley Freeman – Student

Visitors attending:

Rick Falcon – Administrative Specialist, Planning, Design & Construction
Frank Javaheri – Director of Construction, Planning, Design & Construction
Milo Zapata – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Kate Farmer – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Thomas Feather – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Jamie Lindsey – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Trent Weller – Facilities Operations Specialist, UF School of Music
Chloe Miko – Student
Marley Concha – Student

I. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

Motion: Ryan Klein made a motion to adopt the agenda and approve the December minutes.

Second: Fernando Alferez

Motion Carried Unanimously

II. MAJOR PROJECTS

UF-672 – New Music Building

Presenting: Milo Zapata

Milo Zapata presented a project for the new music building, which is in its Programming stage and involves renovations to the existing music building or the construction of a new facility. The project consists of a 39,000 gross square foot building aimed at creating modern and efficient teaching labs and faculty studios. The project involves two sites: the existing music building and a parking lot area. Both sites are in the academic research future land use and are within the historical impact area. The project's scope includes utility infrastructure and pedestrian crossways. The landscape master plan will consider the impact on open space connections. Gail asked about the music department's preference, to which Milo responded that both sites have pros and cons. The choice of site will be recommended by the shortlisted architects and selected by the University. Linda mentioned that, through this process, we are seeking outside expertise for site evaluations which is a departure from our usual process. The committee was asked to provide feedback on the two sites under consideration. They discussed the potential of building a structure on a parking lot instead of an open green space. Gail noted that the parking lot seemed to have more trees than the green space. Ryan raised concerns about parking and suggested that the university should consider additional parking options. Linda mentioned that the university has plans for future parking garages in the campus master plan. Nancy and Gail agreed that the current green space was underutilized, while Nancy also suggested that the new green space near the architecture expansion could be a better spot for student congregation. Ryan emphasized the need for creativity in replanting larger trees and incorporating underground planting systems to ensure future growth.

The committee discussed the potential development of a parking lot into a future building site, with a focus on the proximity to the McCarty Woods conservation area. They considered the need for bird glazing and buffer zones to avoid encroachment into the conservation area. The possibility of keeping the music department's buildings closer to

the existing music building was also discussed, with the consensus being that it would make more sense to do so.

The committee discussed the challenges of fitting the music department's requirements into a new building site. The architectural team was tasked with assessing the feasibility of adding a 400 to 500 seat auditorium to the site.

Motion: Nancy Chrystal-Green made a motion to approve the program phase and move forward with the project, with the final decision on the site to be made by the university's BOT. The selected architectural team will return to the LVLC with advanced schematic and design development information.

Second: Ryan Klein

Motion Carried unanimously

III. MINOR PROJECTS

None

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Landscaping and Natural Resource Projects

Presenting: Thomas Schlick

Tom reported that the installation of the Malachowski Hall landscaping was going well, with the sod installation expected to be complete by the end of the week. He also mentioned that they had removed a damaged bridge in the Reitz Ravine and were planting trees and grass in its place. Tom also mentioned that they were working on a presentation for the conservation area fencing project, which would involve 10 locations by the time it's finished. He will bring back details on the fencing project at a future meeting. Matt raised a concern about the removal of the bridge in the Reitz Ravine, questioning whether the committee had been notified in advance as per their usual protocol. Gail confirmed that the committee should be kept in the loop about such projects.

Chair Report

Gail Hansen de Chapman

Gail mentioned that she was still gathering information about peer institutions with similar roles to their own for Urban Forester and Land Managers.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM.