

**MINUTES**  
**University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee**  
**March 06, 2025, at 9:00 AM**  
**HYBRID MEETING**

The University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee (ULVLC) met Thursday, March 06, 2025 for a meeting hosted in the PDC Conference room and online.

**Members attending:**

Gail Hansen De Chapman – Environmental Horticulture - Chair  
Nancy Chrystal-Green – Assistant Vice President, Student Engagement  
Linda Dixon – Director, Planning, Design & Construction  
Ryan Klein – Assistant Professor, Environmental Horticulture  
Tom Schlick – Assistant Director of Grounds, Facilities Services  
Matt Williams – Director, Office of Sustainability

**Members not attending:**

Fernando Alferez – Assistant Professor, Citrus Horticulture  
Gregg Clarke – Director of Operations, Facilities Services  
David Conser – City of Gainesville – City Arborist  
Adam Dale – Assistant Professor, Entomology and Nematology Department  
Wesley Freeman – 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  
Gerardo Nunez – Assistant Professor, Horticultural Sciences  
Monika Oli – Master Lecturer, Microbiology and Cell Science  
Pawel Petelewicz – Assistant Professor, Agronomy Department  
Brandi Renton – Associate Vice President, Business Affairs  
Latrell Simmons – UFPD, Major, Support Services Division & Community Service Division

**Visitors attending:**

Adam Hall – Sr. Planner, Planning, Design & Construction  
Melissa Thomas – Administrative Assistant, Planning, Design & Construction  
Frank Javaheri – Director of Construction, Planning, Design & Construction  
David Wood – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction  
Tamera Baughman – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction  
Missy Williams – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction  
Tom Feather – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction  
Kate Farmer – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction  
Jennifer Meisenhelder – Associate Director of Construction, Planning, Design & Construction  
Jamie Lindsey – Architectural Designer, Planning, Design & Construction  
Laurie Hall – Sr. Landscape Architect, NV5  
Scott Knight – WSI  
Jordan Benton – Assistant Director of Business Operations, Facility Services  
Elizabeth (Izzy) McAlister – Project Manager, JBPro  
Amy Gooden – WSI

## **I. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes**

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

**Second:** Nancy Chrystal-Green

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

## **II. MAJOR PROJECTS**

### **UF – 689 – Hamilton Center for Classical and Civic Education** **Presenting: David Wood**

David Wood introduced the project and stated Laurie Hall with NV5 is here today as well to discuss the project. This is one of three projects ongoing in this area and he reviewed the relation to this project. The site of the project is in the Historic District of campus. This is a renovation of the old Infirmary building. David reviewed the project scope and stated the basement will be exposed to the east side and will impact landscaping. The committee asked if this project was just going to be a renovation, and David stated the west side will be open and demolished with an addition on the end. Gail Hansen de Chapman asked if the building will be in the same footprint and David stated yes.

Laurie Hall from NV5 reviewed the tree impacts to the project. There are multiple heritage trees on site. Gail asked if there was a list of trees that will be impacted. There is a 42" live oak, a 30" magnolia and a 30" Podocarpus that may be impacted. There is also a Hickory tree a little farther away that may also be impacted. Laurie stated this is Programming and there will be a tree assessment on the project and we will know more after that has been completed. The project will be coming back two more times to the committee with more detailed information about the tree impacts.

The committee asked about what trees they know of now that will be impacted and Laurie stated the Podocarpus and the Magnolia for sure but the Live Oak and the Hickory probably not, but they won't know for sure until the assessment of the trees. She showed the condition of the Magnolia with the large cavity in the trunk of the tree. She stated this tree has severe damage and needs to be removed. She stated will have more information on this tree with the assessment as well. The committee discussed the Podocarpus tree and stated they had never seen one this large and Ryan Klein will investigate whether this tree is considered a state champion. The committee was not concerned with it being non-native because this tree is used as a teaching tool in several classes. The committee asked about the Fletcher Drive changes and how it would affect this project. It was stated that those changes will be explained in Tom Feathers project.

**Motion:** Nancy Chrystal-Green made a motion to approve the project in the Programming Phase, with a caveat that the Design Team investigate saving the 30" Podocarpus.

**Second:** Ryan Klein agrees with caveat added.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

## **UF – 702 – Utilities Infrastructure Upgrades**

### **Presenting: Tom Feather**

Tom Feather introduced the project and stated it will impact all eight underground utilities. The project will be designed to address the aged infrastructure and additional demands that will be placed on the utility systems from the Hamilton Center, the Disability Resource Center, and the Stadium renovation. Tom showed an overview of the area to be impacted, but the full impact is not yet known. There will be future road closures on Stadium Road and Fletcher Drive. Full road closures are expected at times during the utilities work with closure overlap of both roads expected. Tom stated phasing of the improvements will be challenging while maintaining services to all surrounding buildings being served by the utilities.

Linda Dixon gave an overview of the One-Way Pairs study. It is a concept design that will include one-way travel Southbound on Fletcher with an added bike lane. This will make us consistent with the existing city road traffic connecting to campus. The change in direction on Fletcher will address the safety issues for students and the traffic flow for the Disability Resource Center.

The committee asked about the Stadium Road corridor and if the work zone would extend into the landscaped areas. Tom stated that the goal is to keep all the utilities in the roadway or sidewalks, but the design is not completed. The project is in Programming Phase and will be coming back to the committee. He stated he would know more about the impacts once he comes back at the Advanced Schematic Design phase. The project will implement the Landscape Master Plan and the One-Way Pairs study as much as possible. Fletcher Drive will convert to Southbound and Buckman will be one-way Northbound once the One-Way Pairs project is fully implemented.

The committee asked about funding of this project. Tom stated at present it is not funded, but the project will have to move forward to accommodate the demand of the upcoming building projects of the Hamilton Center, the Stadium renovation, and the new Disability Resource Center. The committee asked about the anticipated duration of the project, and Tom stated approximately 2 years is his best guess, with significant road closures.

**Motion:** Ryan Klein made a motion to approve the project as presented for the Programming Phase.

**Second:** Nancy Chrystal-Green

### **Motion Carried Unanimously**

## **III. MINOR PROJECTS**

### **UMP09448, MP09449, MP09450, MP09451 Trusler Hall, Simpson Hall, Graham Hall, Graham Commons & Pool**

#### **Presenting: Kate Farmer**

Kate Farmer introduced the project and did an overview of the scope. The project will demolish Trusler Hall, Simpson Hall, Graham Hall and Graham commons to make room for new dorms. Presently there are 622 beds for students, and it will increase to 2200 beds when complete. The project is not funded currently, but the site needs to be construction ready once it is funded. There are several trees on the site but there hasn't been a tree study preformed yet. Once funding is in place a full arborist evaluation will be completed. This information will be brought back to the committee to discuss the landscaping impacts.

The project will do the demolition during Fall semester. Kate showed the boundaries of the project and pointed out the stormwater connection and the challenge of the grade changes on the site. The committee asked if the boundary map showed where the new buildings would be located or could they be located anywhere within the presented boundary. Kate stated it could be anywhere on the site. Parking and trees may also be impacted on the site. Kate reviewed the Housing Master Plan. It shows 1, 2, and 4 of a 10-year capital plan.

The committee asked about the parking lots and Linda stated they are mostly used by students. They will be able to park at Garage 14. The committee asked about the displaced students, Kate stated that housing is very involved with this project and ensuring all students are accommodated.

**Motion:** Ryan Klein made a motion to approve the project as presented.

**Second:** Nancy Chrystal-Green

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**MP08959 – Jennings Creek Headwall and MP08959A – McKnight Stabilization**

**Presenting: Milisa (Missy) Williams**

Missy Williams introduced the projects. She showed the location of the headwall, just south of Museum road near Beaty Towers, for the Jennings Creek headwall project. The section of the pipe in that area will need to be replaced. This is in the conservation area and erosion is threatening the trees and the roadway. She will also be working on the McKnight stabilization project while doing the headwall for the Jennings Creek project. Both projects will involve replacing failed structures, stabilizing the slopes, and managing the vegetation in the conservation areas.

Scott from WSI provided additional details and went over the proposed design approach and tree preservation efforts. First, the focus will be on removal of the invasive plants with the intent to save as many trees as possible. There will be a survey of the area this week and WSI will be working with JBPro to complete this work. They will also flag the invasives and natives with different colors, so they are easy to identify. The project will also replant natives. The project will also do site signage for both areas. The committee stated this area may need to be widened. There is a problem with this area, and it was pushing up against the sidewalk. The committee asked about the Jennings bridge. Linda stated the design of the bridge will be within Missy's project but there is no funding for that to move forward as of now.

**Motion:** Ryan Klein made a motion to approve the project as presented.

**Second:** Nancy Chrystal-Green

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

**Landscaping and Natural Resource Projects**

**Presenting: Jordan Benton**

Jordan stated we will be showing a list of tree removals from the month prior. The committee discussed the tree removals and their locations. The committee asked about the Palms dying. Tom stated it was from the steam, disease and post-construction impacts.

Jordan did an overview of a few ongoing projects, and they are as follows:

1. Landscaping and irrigation in DSIT front field. There has been additional planting. This week we will add straw.
2. There will be median work once DSIT is completed.

The committee asked about the change to planting instead of Bahai. The BOT requested more planting in the open field in front of DSIT. There was a design created, and Grounds is almost completed with the work.

Gale Lemerand and Stadium Road project will also be ongoing. We expect to be completed by football season. We will complete the following in this area and monitor it during the season for use:

3. Most of the site will be leveled with new compost from UF
4. New irrigation will be installed
5. The Monument will be moved onto a new platform
6. Vegetation will be installed last

Next, we overseeded the pollinator fields with native blues and purples. The committee asked if FDOT mixes are being used? Tom responded we are using a Southeast mix. He also stated that thousands have been saved in mowing expense, while we are creating a good environmental habitat. We will also be helping with the invasive removals on the Jennings Creek and McKnight project while working with WSI and JBPro on the site signage. This summer there will be a project at the University Auditorium. There are 2 Elm trees on the west side in planters that need to be removed. The trees are too big for the planters are causing damage. The planters will also be removed. The committee asked about this being an area that people or vehicles will cut-through, and Tom stated if it became a traffic problem, he could add tables and seating to block vehicle cut-through.

## **Chair Report**

**Gail Hansen de Chapman**

Gail stated she didn't have a report. Ryan wanted to discuss the trees that are damaged or show stress from Construction projects in the past. He wanted to know if UF has any resources on heritage trees in the Construction projects. Can we ask for an extended warranty to try and protect the trees? Linda responded that most of the time when the tree dies it is past the warranty. She stated if it is going to be a risk, then it may be better to remove the tree and replace it with 2 trees. Frank stated that we usually have a 1-year warranty. If the tree was identified has a heritage tree within the project and was asked to be saved and protect, then we may be able to have them replace it but, they are not required. Sometime the root damage is the effect long term. The committee stated there will likely be an increase in this issue. Frank stated that sometimes there are issues with the tree protection within the projects, but we are working on that issue. Gail asked Tom about an update on Maguire Village, because everyone is seeing the fence going up around the area. Tom stated that currently there is a duct bank the team is working on in that area. Maguire should be starting at the end of the month with asbestos abatement first.

**There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 10:16AM.**