

MINUTES

**University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee
January 12th, 2017 at 9:00 AM
Planning, Design and Construction Conference Room 235
Stadium**

Members attending:

Gail Hansen De Chapman – Chair - Environmental Horticulture
Harold Barrand - Planning, Design and Construction
Linda Dixon – Planning, Design and Construction
Jeanna Mastrodicasa – Assistant Vice President - IFAS - Via Phone in
Chris Marble - Environmental Horticulture
Liz Storn – Sustainability

Members not attending:

Donna Bloomfield – PPD – Grounds
Gregg Clarke – PPD- Operations
Carlos Dougnac - Planning, Design and Construction
Katerie Gladdys – Art & Art History
Jeff Holcomb – University Police Department
Craig Hill – Business Affairs
Jason Richards - Student
Betsy Ruff – College of Law
Mark Siburt – City of Gainesville
Emma Weeks – Entomology
Tom Wichman – PPD- Grounds

Also attending:

Erik Lewis – Planning, Design and Construction
Frank Javaheri – Planning, Design and Construction
Howie Ferguson - Planning, Design and Construction
Francisco Oquendo – Planning, Design and Construction
Jack Ponikvar – Ponikvar & Associates
Erick Smith – Kestrel Environmental
Christopher Gmuer – Gmuer Engineering
Elisabeth Manley – Manley Design
Clay Sweger – EDA
Larry Teague – Zamia

I. Adoption of Agenda and December Minutes

Motion: **Chris Marble made the motion to approve the agenda and minutes.**

Second: **Jeanna Mastrodicasa**

Motion Carried Unanimously

II. Major Projects

UF-620 – Bee Unit

Frank Javaheri

Frank introduced project architect Jack Ponkivar and showed the site location. He showed photos of the site and went over the previously approved tree removals. Frank continued that they would also like to remove a multi-trunk Live Oak that was just north of the building in order to eliminate future conflicts and that they would be removing the previously approved pines when they do a future addition. Gail Hansen De Chapmen asked about the building footprint location and connection to the existing Entomology Buildings. Frank said that they had moved the building north a bit to align it with the side entrance to Entomology. Gail asked who had inspected the Live Oak. Frank said that no one had, but that Kevin Heinicka had requested to have it removed now, rather than having to work around it during construction.

Jack Ponikvar went over the Bee friendly planting they were considering around the building, with some working as a screening material. Gail said that most of the selected plants would not work well as a screen if they are maintained in the normal tree-form way. Frank showed the photo of the multi-trunk Live Oak they were asking to have removed. Gail said that it did not look healthy in the photo.

Motion: Chris Marble made the motion to approve the project and tree removal with standard mitigation.

Second: Jeanna Mastrodicasa

Motion Carried Unanimously

III. Minor Projects

Delta Gamma Redevelopment

Francisco Oquendo

Francisco introduced Clay Sweger, project manager, who went over the site location on the SW corner of SW 8TH Avenue and SW 13th Street. He showed renderings, project information and site plans for the proposed building and said that they were looking to add a service drive that would be accessed off of 13th Street. Clay said that Transportation and Parking had approved the drive and he showed how it would allow for service vehicles to turn around before exiting to 13th Street. Clay showed photos of the house from 13th and said that one of the trees shown had already been removed due to safety concern. He went over the trees they were requesting to remove including a 36” DBH Heritage Live Oak.

Gail Hansen De Chapmen asked if the two hollies listed in the table were being removed for the new hardscape, which Clay answered in the affirmative. Gail asked if the 36” DBH Live Oak could be saved since it was so far to the edge of the site. Clay went over the site logistics and said that it would need to be removed to allow larger service vehicles to turn on site in order to avoid backing on to 13th Street. Clay said that service trucks are jumping the curb and parking on the sidewalk, highlighting the safety issues with the current situation.

There was discussion of the other Live Oaks on neighboring property next to the Heritage Live Oak, with members expressing concern that the project would come back to ask for additional removals as it progressed. Additionally, members expressed concern about root cutting and trimming of the remaining Live Oaks. Clay assured the committee they would follow the Design Services Standards and that West Panhellenic would not be a suitable substitute for the Service Drive. There was also discussion about the other Sororities on 13th Street and the notion of a shared service access.

There was discussion on how to handle the motion and whether Jeanna Mastrodicasa should recuse herself since she is married to the presenter. At that point, Jeanna took over as Chair in order to avoid having to vote on the matter, given that there were no other voting members present.

Motion: Chris Marble made the motion to approve the project and tree removals with standard mitigation, with the condition that they protect the cluster of Live Oaks on the southern boundary of the property.

Second: Gail Hansen De Chapman

Motion Carried Unanimously

MP-2095 Vet Med Parking

Howie Ferguson

Howie introduced Walker Owen, CHW, Erick Smith, Arborist, and Scott Smith, Transportation and Parking. He showed the site location adjacent to the existing eastern parking lot at Vet Med and said that they were adding around 130 spaces. Scott said that there had been growth in all of the local departments and the addition of the IFAS conference center, which was necessitating the need for additional parking. Howie went over the site plan and trees on the site. Walker said that they were expanding the stormwater pond to address the new impervious and that it would be difficult to avoid some of the trees in a cluster as shown on the plan. Erick Smith said that the cluster of trees in question was made up of primarily Sweetgums and Camphor trees that were mostly in poor shape. Erick continued that the project had worked hard to avoid impacts to the Heritage Live Oaks on site and that the site plan preserves the best of what is on the site. Erick added that he thought that additional trees in the cluster should be removed, since they were doing poorly and were likely just volunteers. Howie said that he was fine with taking them out, but not on replanting, since that would be outside the scope of this project. He added, that he may be back with a utility project that may locate in this area. Howie went over the tree removal list and proposed mitigation plantings.

Linda Dixon suggested taking out the Camphors, since they are an invasive exotic. There was discussion about the stormwater pond, the need for additional shade trees adjacent to the pond and keeping the plantings consistent with the existing parking lot.

Motion: Chris Marble made the motion to approve the project as presented with the condition that they plant additional trees along the stormwater pond parking lot edge, remove invasive exotic trees and keep the plantings consistent with the existing parking lot.

Second: Gail Hansen De Chapman

Motion Carried Unanimously

Chi Omega Remodel

Francisco Oquendo

Chris Gmuer introduced himself as the project engineer and manager along with Elisabeth Manley, landscape architect. He showed the site location, photos and proposed additions on the east side (front) of the building. Chris said they needed to expand the kitchen and dining area as well as add some bedrooms upstairs. He said that the additions would add a new entrance and courtyard to the sorority, noting that the members primarily use the back entrance. Elisabeth went over the landscape plan and said that they were asking to remove a 14" DBH Live Oak in the front to improve access and use of the front of the house. She continued that they were preserving the large 48" DBH Live Oak in front.

Gail Hansen De Chapman asked about any canopy impacts to the remaining Heritage Live Oak. Erick Smith said that the tree has some issues, but that if the sorority balances out the tree with some limb removals, including over the addition that it will live for quite a while. There was some discussion about the setbacks, laydown, trees and mitigation.

Motion: Chris Marble made the motion to approve the project as presented with standard mitigation.

Second: Gail Hansen De Chapman

Motion Carried Unanimously

Alpha Epsilon Phi

Francisco Oquendo

Clay Sweger introduced himself as the project manager and Larry Teague as the landscape architect. Clay said they were looking to add an addition on the north side of the existing structure and showed site photos. He said that they were also looking to make some changes to the parking and landscaping along SW 13th and would need to remove two trees, a Red Maple and a Burford Holly. There was a discussion about the parking along 13th Street and the use of the sidewalk for service vehicles by the three sororities. There was also discussion about what type of trees should be replanted for the mitigation, with Live Oaks being the consensus as already lining 13th on both sides in this area.

Motion: Chris Marble made the motion to approve the project as presented with standard mitigation for the tree removals.

Second: Gail Hansen De Chapmen

Motion Carried Unanimously

IV. Other Business

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM.