

MINUTES

**University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee
June 8th, 2017 at 9:00 AM**

Planning, Design and Construction Conference Room 235 Stadium

Members attending:

Gail Hansen De Chapman – Chair - Environmental Horticulture
Gregg Clarke – PPD- Operations
Linda Dixon – Planning, Design and Construction
Katerie Gladdys – Art & Art History
Jeff Holcomb – University Police Department
Jeanna Mastrodicasa – IFAS
Betsy Ruff – College of Law
Mark Siburt – City of Gainesville
Tom Wichman – PPD- Grounds

Members not attending:

Harold Barrand - Planning, Design and Construction
Donna Bloomfield – PPD – Grounds
Carlos Dournac - Planning, Design and Construction
Craig Hill – Business Affairs
Chris Marble - Environmental Horticulture
Jason Richards - Student
Liz Storn – Sustainability
Emma Weeks – Entomology

Also attending:

Erik Lewis – Planning, Design and Construction
Robert Hatker – Planning, Design and Construction Jack Ponikvar – Ponikvar & Assoc.
Monique Heathcock – CHW
Laurie Hall – CHW
Caeli Tolar - CHW

I. Adoption of Modified Agenda and May Minutes

Motion: Jeanna Mastrodicasa made the motion to approve the agenda with additions and the minutes.

Second: Betsy Ruff

Motion Carried Unanimously

II. Minor Projects

MP02396 Bus Pullouts

Robert Hatker

Robert went over the utility work that was being done on Gale Lemerand and Stadium Road. He introduced Laurie Hall from CHW and said they were before the committee to ask for a few tree removals related to a traffic / pedestrian safety study that had been done for Gale Lemerand. He that they were hoping to include some of the recommendations as part of the Gale Lemerand repaving that will take place after the new utility lines are installed. Laurie discussed the safety study's recommendation for bus pullouts on both sides of Gale

Lemerand along with a median, adjacent to Graham Hall and Reitz Ravine. Laurie said that two trees would need to be removed for the buss pullout on the east side, a Heritage Magnolia and a Spruce Pine and showed photos of both. She said that they were also looking to remove three small hollies along an adjacent service drive that was also being necessitated by the utility work connection to the new NEXUS building. She said that in order to maintain two way traffic the three trees would need to be removed.

Gail Hansen De Chapmen asked if the pedestrian safety was the reason for the bus pullouts and the median. Laurie said that it was. Robert went over the logistics of the crosswalk. Greg Clarke asked if they had considered putting flashing pedestrian signals at the crosswalk. Robert said that had not been considered as part of this project, noting that it was primarily mill and resurfacing project. Gail asked if Gail Lemerand was being widened to accommodate the median. Monique Heathcock said that the median would fit in the current right of way and showed images of the crosswalk. There was general discussion on the benefits of the median as a safety measure and whether it should be all concrete to include vegetation with irrigation being required. Betsy Ruff said that she would prefer ground cover and if not that then brick pavers. Gail said that she had noticed that cars do not stop for pedestrians at this crosswalk.

Katerie Gladdys asked to see the maps and layouts again and Laurie went over them in more detail. There was some discussion the width of the road and proposed median. Katerie asked if the travel lanes could be shifted to allow for the bus pull out to be moved west, which would help save the two trees being proposed for removal on Gale Lemerand. Lori said that she was not sure, but felt that the height differential and root impacts would be too severe. Linda Dixon asked about the number of trees being mitigated. Laurie said that it would be 3 trees for the Spruce, 8 for the magnolia and 6 for the hollies. Linda suggested that the mitigation could be used for a new streetscape along Gale Lemerand. Tom Wichman said that it was an opportunity to bring in some younger trees. Laurie said that finding good size Spruce Pines may be difficult. Gail ask Tom for input on putting back trees. Tom said he liked the idea of putting back Spruce pines. Katerie said that she felt the existing, large trees would be missed and that the committee should try and save a few. Katerie continued that she was not sure how the bus pullout helped the safety of pedestrians using the crosswalk. Jeff Holcomb noted that it would help with cars backing up, which he said can get very long. There was more discussion about the crosswalk, trees, median, and pedestrian safety. Betsy saying she would prefer pavers to be used in the medians. Robert said that they would have to look at price options for the median. Erik Lewis suggested that if pedestrian safety was paramount, then the project should consider a raised table similar to what had been installed on Stadium Road between Weimer Hall and the Florida Gym. He reminded the committee of the long-term desire to have continuity along the campus roads and that since the University is the process of moving forward with a landscape master plan, it may be premature to design this section of the roadway trees, noting that Live Oaks are the tree in place between the stadium and O'Connell Center. He continued that while he respects the historical fact that Noel Lake had put them on both sides of the road, he felt that there are better street trees with canopies that the landscape master plan could help decide. There was more discussion of the issues.

Motion: Betsy Ruff made the motion to approve the tree removals with mitigation with the condition that it look at the option of including a raised table in lieu of the median, put mitigation money aside for the future tree scape as called for the landscape master plan for this stretch of Gale Lemerand, and that if the median is built, brick pavers be included if they are cost efficient.

Second: Jeanna Mastrodicasa

Motion Carried Unanimously

III. Other Business

Landscape at Hull and 34th Street

Tom Wichman

Tom said that they were doing some landscape sprucing up on the corners to 34th Street and Hull Road. He showed photos of the site and said that they were putting in orange and blue flowers in the beds. He showed some photos of three Magnolias that he said were starting to hide the marquee sign that advertised events for the Cultural Plaza and UAA and asked about the feasibility of removing them.

Betsy Ruff asked which ones were blocking the sign. Tom said all three. Linda Dixon asked if the view from the turn lane on 34th was being blocked. Tom said that it wasn't. Linda suggested that it might be good for people driving not to be able to see the sign given the speeds on that stretch of 34th. Katerie Gladdys suggested

that the trees provide a screen to the neighboring student housing. Mark Siburt asked for the size of the trees. Tom said that were about 7-8 DBH. There was general discussion about trimming them up and the need for the committee to see what was proposed as the replacements for the trees. Tom said that he would develop some ideas and present at the next meeting.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:55 AM.