

MINUTES

**University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee
November 9th, 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
Donna Bloomfield – PPD – Grounds
Gregg Clarke – PPD- Operations
Linda Dixon – Planning, Design and Construction
Jeff Holcomb – University Police Department
Chris Marble - Environmental Horticulture
Betsy Ruff – College of Law
David Steadman – Florida Museum of Natural History
Emma Weeks – Entomology
Tom Wichman – PPD- Grounds
Matt Williams – Sustainability

Members not attending:

Carlos Dognac - Planning, Design and Construction
Craig Hill – Business Affairs
Charles Lockwood - Student
Lacy Crider-Holtzworth – City of Gainesville

Also attending:

Erik Lewis – Planning, Design and Construction
Fred Rowe – Planning, Design and Construction
Clay Sweger – EDA
Elisabeth Manley – Manley Design
Jay Watkins – College of the Arts - Music

I. Adoption of Agenda and September Minutes

Motion: **Emma Weeks made the motion to approve the agenda and minutes.**

Second: **Betsy Ruff**

Motion Carried Unanimously

II. Major Projects

UF-629 - Band Practice Field Upgrade

Fred Rowe

Fred introduced himself and went over the background of the efforts to upgrade the old Pony Field into a suitable band practice field. He said that they had secured funding to put in a full size field on the site with a pavilion. He showed the location and went over the pavilion's features. Clay Sweger introduced the band director, Jay Watkins, and Elisabeth Manley, the project's landscape architect. Clay said that the primary goals of the project were to get a football sized field with proper drainage, since the field is currently too short and drains poorly. He said that new field would be NCAA sized with artificial turf and underdrains. Clay continued that by making the field the correct size, they would need to remove a number of recently planted trees that

border Gale Lemerand. Elisabeth went over photos of the existing site and showed the area under the power line where they were proposing to remove most of the trees. She said that 44 non-heritage trees would need to be removed under the power line, with 2 additional ones on the southern part of the site where the pavilion was going on the parking lot. She said that they were proposing to mitigate some for the trees on site and pay into the tree mitigation fund for the remaining ones. She went over the trees they were proposing to put back on site (Crape Myrtles under power lines, Winged Elms and Bald Cypress along the western and northern boardwalk edge).

Tom Wichman asked about how they were handling the swale to the creek along the eastern edge. Clay said that the field would have an underdrain system that directed water to the creek, with the possibility of a catch basin being put in place. Gregg Clarke asked about the area along the western side adjacent to the creek. Clay said all runoff would be directed to a drain and piped. Gail Hansen De Chapman asked about the use of synthetic turf. Clay went over the system and said the turf is expected to last from 10 to 15 years. Jay Watkins, band director, said that in the long-term artificial turf is more cost effective than using natural turf. There was discussion about the tree selection and potential issues. Elisabeth said that she would work with Tom Wichman to find suitable trees. There was discussion about the slope on the eastern edge, lights, the power lines and history of the trees being removed. David Steadman asked about the sidewalks and buffer to Gale Lemerand. Elisabeth said that they were not anticipating any changes to the sidewalks. Emma Weeks asked why so many trees along the eastern edge had to be removed. Elisabeth said it was due to the field needing to be expanded to the correct size and the boardwalk to the bike trail having limited options to the west. Emma asked if the field would still be accessible for other uses, like soccer. Clay said that it would be fenced off and utilized only by the band. There was additional discussion of the type fencing and tree spacing parallel to Gale Lemerand. Matt Williams asked about the rubber balls that are in the turf and whether they would shed off into the adjacent Conservation Area. Clay said that they would not go into the underdrain system, but that he would talk with the manufacturer about what was needed to ensure they do not wash in to the Conservation Area.

Emma Weeks made a motion to approve with the condition that trees beyond 6 feet from the field would remain, which was not seconded. There was additional discussion about the utility corridor and need to remove more trees to put in the field and its related infrastructure.

Motion: Betsy Ruff made the motion to approve the project as presented.

Second: Chris Marble

Motion passed with Emma Weeks and David Steadman in dissent, with the Chair casting the deciding vote.

III. Other Business

McCarty Parking Lot Tree Removal

Ron Fuller

Ron said he was before the committee to ask to have a 20 DBH Hickory tree removed that was dropping large nuts onto parked cars and had cracked at least one windshield. He showed photos of the site and tree. Ron said that he felt that the nuts themselves were a tripping hazard.

There was some discussion about alternative remedies to the tree removal including adding a sign or closing off the spaces under the tree during masting season.

David Steadman made the motion to approve the removal, but the motion was not seconded and died. No further action was taken

NATL Annual Report

Emma Weeks

Emma provided a comprehensive update on activities at the Natural Area Teaching Lab over the last year. She said that they were not able to burn this year, due to the dry condition in the spring. She said that they were doing demonstration areas where they are using alternatives to burning (mechanical & herbicides). She went over other ongoing activities such as successional field rotations, nature trail improvements, SEEP restoration by the Wetlands Club, increased use as documented by a people-counter, faculty/class use, and control/removal of invasive species with funding assistance from the Office of Sustainability. She continued by going over the terrestrial animals documented by the wildlife cams (coyote, fox, deer & marsh hare) and provided the list of

