

MINUTES
University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee
March 14, 2019, at 9:00 AM
Facilities, Planning & Construction
Conference Room 235 Stadium West

The University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee (ULVLC) met Thursday, March 14, 2019 at the University of Florida Facilities Planning and Construction Division Conference Room 235 Stadium West.

Members attending:

Donna Bloomfield – Grounds, Physical Plant
Brad Barber – University Police Department
Linda Dixon – Director, Planning, Design & Construction
Gail Hansen De Chapman – Environmental Horticulture - Chair
Craig Hill, AVP, Business Affairs
Alpa Nawre – Assistant Professor, Landscape Architecture
Betsy Ruff – Assistant Program Director & Lecturer
Emma Weeks – Assistant Research Scientist, Entomology and Nematology Department

Members not attending:

Gregg Clarke – Director of Operations, Physical Plant
Kristen Curington - Student
Adam Dale – Assistant Professor, Entomology and Nematology Department
Carlos Dougnac – AVP, Planning, Design & Construction
Matthew Mears – City Arborist, City's Park, Recreation & Cultural Affairs
Francisco Oquendo – Assistant Director, Planning, Design & Construction
Tom Schlick – Assistant Director of Grounds, Facility Services
David Steadman – Curator, Natural History Museum
Matt Williams – Director, Sustainability

Visitors attending:

Melissa Thomas – Planning, Design & Construction
Tom Wichman – Project Manager, IFAS Extension
Erik Lewis – Planning, Design & Construction
Randy Smith – Project Manager, Ajax Building Construction
Laurie Hall – Project Manager, CHW
Sara Kovachich – Project Manager, CHW

Gail Hansen De Chapman, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

I. Adoption of Agenda

Motion: Gail Hansen De Chapman moved to adopt the agenda.

Second: Emma Weeks

Motion Carried Unanimously

II. Adoption of Minutes

Motion: Emma Weeks moved to approve the minutes.

Second: Betsy Ruff

Motion Carried Unanimously

III. MAJOR PROJECTS

UAA-53 – Football Maintenance Building **Stuart Cullen**

Stuart Cullen introduced himself and showed the location of the existing maintenance building and went over the history of the project. The existing maintenance buildings at the maintenance area and the existing baseball training facility maintenance building will be demolished. The maintenance area will be the location of the new maintenance building and it will house all items from both maintenance buildings. The new building footprint might change to align more with 2nd Ave and the trees to be removed are the 3 sabal palms on the back side of the existing maintenance building, the hackberry tree, because it is too close to the new footprint of the maintenance building. The hackberry has a large cavity in the tree. There is also a cherry tree near the curb of the existing entrance gates that may need to be removed. The palms are being relocated to the new baseball facility or they may be placed back on site, if they can. The cherry tree is in the right-of-away and close to the water lines. If it is on DOT property it will need to go through their proceedings.

The maintenance yard will also be reconfigured to house the storage bins, fuel tanks, wash rack, and the 20 yard roll off. There will be a 14' access gate installed for the RV access to the practice field. The maintenance yard will be concrete and/or asphalt with some covered parking area for the maintenance vehicles and there will also be a maintenance path installed to access the football practice fields using the 14' gate.

Email text from Adam Dale: "Not clear to me why it is necessary to create a larger maintenance building, but I assume it's combining the two maintenance buildings into one larger building. Removing 3 sabal, 1 hackberry, and 1 cherry. I do not see the DBH of any trees. From the photos, they appear to be decent size, may 10-15 inches. I would want to see mitigation for these as well. I approve."

Motion: Emma Weeks made the motion to approve the site and schematic design and removal of palms and hackberry with the desire to relocate the palms and mitigation on the hackberry and palms that can't be relocated with no approval on the cherry tree.

Second: Gail Hansen De Chapmen

Motion Carried Unanimously

UAA-53 – Florida Football Training Center **Stuart Cullen**

Stuart Cullen introduced himself and stated that the existing baseball facility will be demolished and the new Florida Football Training Center will be installed in its place. There will be space left for other future facilities. This will be a 2 story facility created for all athletes in a variety of different areas. There will be a dining and lounge area to gather and have UAA activities in one spot for all the athletes.

There are sabal and cabbage palms wrapped around the front circle and the south side of the current facility that will be removed and relocated to the new baseball facility project, but the pines on the north side will be removed with mitigation. When discussing number of removal of trees it was determined more information is needed and it would come back for schematic design with the number of tree removals and DBH, but for now Stuart is only asking for site approval.

Email text from Adam Dale: "I think it's beyond the scope of today's approval, but I would want the new facility's landscape plan to replace more trees in addition to the required mitigation. I approve the site."

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

Second: Emma Weeks

Motion Carried Unanimously

IV. MINOR PROJECTS

UF-637 – Alpha Phi

Michael Rubin / Sara Kovachich

Sara introduced herself and went over the background and location of the new building site. They are coming today for site and tree removal approval. The facility will take up most of the site. They are striving to keep the front face look of the Sororities uniformed so they stay consistent with what is existing. The building can't move back because of the utilities running across the back and the electrical easement on the boundary of the conservation wooded area. CHW stated they would be planting Live Oaks across the front of the property. The committee asked that they reconfigure the front circle smaller and that would save more trees. There will be one handicap parking space on the eastside of the building because the service entrance is on the west side and will need to be wide enough for delivery trucks.

Sara went over the list of trees with proposed mitigation. Sara also went over the proposed planting plan and showed where a few trees will be replaced in the front of the Sorority. The calculations by CHW were 194 trees and that would bring the tree mitigation payment to \$48,500.

Email text from Adam Dale: "I appreciate the breakdown of the number, size, and species of each tree. I see 8 pine trees over 20". Are those loblolly or slash pines? Proposed to replace with 4 native trees, 4 exotic palms, and 2 exotic hollies."

Motion: Emma Weeks made the motion to approve as presented with tree mitigation per policy and to clarify the species of the pines.

Second: Betsy Ruff

Motion Carried Unanimously

V. OTHER BUISNESS

UT00251 - Tree Removal for Housing – University Village South **Erik Lewis / Charles Kammin**

Charles presented a tree removal request to the committee. He said they would like to remove the tree or move the transformer to a new proposed location. He showed photos of the heritage Live Oak and the transformer next to one of the housing units. Charles said that the underground electrical cables have the roots growing around them and that it would be difficult to avoid cutting some major ones. The committee discussed moving the transformer so to not damage the tree. Charles said that they could put the transformer back or move it to the southwest side of the building. The committee discussed the wiring of the electrical cables and thought digging under the trees roots system could work, but it may still damage the tree with electrical volts. He said that they could also put the wiring above ground in a conduit with the moving of the transformer to the new location, but that it would be visible on the outside of the building. Gail Hansen De Chapmen read into the record Adam Dale's comments on the request:

Email text from Adam Dale: "I am opposed, to this, from what I can see in the photos, and would want justification for why the tree must be moved in order to relocate the electrical box. I'm curious, if the electrical box could just be cut off and removed and a new one installed and connected."

Motion: Alpa Nawre made the motion to approve moving the transformer to the new location as proposed with the wiring being placed on the outside of the building above ground.

Second: Emma Weeks

Motion Carried Unanimously

UF Health – Tree Removal

Randy Smith

Randy introduced himself and stated he was working with UF Health and Ajax Construction in the back of Shands service drive area. Randy stated the challenge is the space to put the tower crane. The three trees that are being requested to remove are in the only area the crane can be in order to swing properly while not going over the Baby Gator area and not interfere with the other services accessing the entry and egress for that area.

Motion: Emma Weeks made the motion to approve having the trees removed with standard mitigation.

Second: Betsy Ruff

Motion Carried Unanimously

Tree Removal – Florida Gym – Grounds

Erik Lewis

Erik introduced himself and said that he was presenting for Grounds. He showed photos of two Live Oaks and said that he felt that the two trees should not have been planted in this location, because the gym is on National Historic Register of Historic Buildings and were obscuring one of the defining features, the entrance. He continued that, in addition, the roots will be buckling the sidewalk, which will create a tripping hazard. Currently, the trees are being heavily trimmed to keep the branches off the building and to make way for pedestrians. There was discussion of why they had been put there and how it would look when they were removed. He showed a street view of two Crape Myrtles in planters that already frame the entrance, noting what a fine job Grounds was doing on the trimming. There was discussion of how the pavement would be fixed after the removal, with general agreement that brick should be placed back to cover the holes left by the tree removal.

Motion: Alpa Nawre made the motion to approve having the trees removed with standard mitigation.

Second: Emma Weeks

Motion Carried Unanimously

Tree Removal – Reitz Union Circle – Grounds

Erik Lewis

Erik said he was presenting for Grounds, because there is a Hackberry tree in the Reitz Union Circle that is showing significant decay at its base. He showed photos of the base and branches and noted that while it is showing decay at the base, the branches/leaves look to be in good health (noting that he is not an arborist). He said that Grounds felt that it was in poor condition and a safety hazard. There was discussion about the tree, being a less desirable species on the tree mitigation list and the heavy use of the area by pedestrians. The committee consensus was that if it was in a less heavily trafficked area, they would not approve the removal. There was additional discussion of whether to require mitigation, with the committee agreeing to the removal, but with standard mitigation.

Motion: Alpa Nawre made the motion to approve as presented with standard mitigation.

Second: Emma Weeks

Motion Carried Unanimously

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 10:56 AM.