

MINUTES

**University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee
February 14th, 2019 at 9:00 AM**

Planning, Design and Construction Conference Room 235 Stadium

Members attending:

Brad Barber – University Police Department
Donna Bloomfield – PPD – Grounds
Adam Dale - Entomology
Gail Hansen De Chapman – Chair - Environmental Horticulture
Gregg Clarke – PPD- Operations
Linda Dixon – Planning, Design and Construction
Alpa Nawre – Landscape Architecture
Betsy Ruff – College of Law
Emma Weeks – Entomology

Members not attending:

Kristen Curington - Student
Carlos Dognac - Planning, Design and Construction
Craig Hill – Business Affairs
Francisco Oquendo - Planning, Design and Construction
David Steadman – Florida Museum of Natural History
Matt Williams – Sustainability

Also attending:

Erik Lewis – Planning, Design and Construction
Keith Humphries - Planning, Design and Construction
Frank Javaheri - Planning, Design and Construction
Mark Humbert - Planning, Design and Construction
Cenqi Zhu – Student
Alexis Boenker – Student
Garrett Brown – Student
Ross West – Student
Jian Meng – Student
Yanglnh Chen – Student
Wentaw Shen – Student
Kevin Thompson – DCP – LA
Erick Smith – Kestrel Env.
Clay Sweger – EDA
Marsha Swider – EDA
Tom Wichman – IFAS
Zhou Zhou - Student

I. Adoption of Agenda and December Minutes

Motion: Betsy Ruff made the motion to adopt the agenda and approve the minutes.

Second: Emma Weeks

Motion Carried Unanimously

II. Major Projects

UF-608 – Norman Hall

Keith Humphries

Keith said that he was before the committee to ask for an additional tree removal at Norman Hall and noted that the adjacent Laurel Oak had been previously approved for removal. He said that the foundation work adjacent to the two trees will require the cutting of roots on the north side and that utilities on the south side will also cut major roots. Frank Javaheri said that they would be redoing the landscaping south of the building and would add trees back on the site. Gail Hansen De Chapmen asked if Donna Bloomfield agreed that the damage to the roots would make the tree unsafe. Donna said that she did agree. Betsy Ruff asked if the Laurel Oak could be cut, but not ground down. Donna said the roots were too intertwined and Keith said that they had to put in a footer that went 30 inches down where the Laurel sits. Gail read into the record Adam Dale's email comments.

The removal of a 38" DBH live oak is unfortunate, to say the least. It sounds like there's not much that can be done to avoid severely damaging the live oak's root system. I'm curious if the laurel oak can be removed without grinding out the stump, thereby minimizing damage to the live oak's roots on that side. Did we approve the laurel oak removal? It seems like we would have realized at that time that the live oak would be compromised in the process. In terms of the utility lines, I am curious if there is any way to replace the utility lines following a route that avoids cutting straight through the live oak's structural roots. If there is no way to avoid laurel oak stump removal or no way to take the utility lines around the live oak's structural roots, then I don't think the live oak can be saved. If either one of those two things happen, I think the live oak will become a hazard.

Alpa Nawre asked why the Live Oak had not been included in the removal with the Laurel Oak. Erik Lewis said that when it was presented the vestibule entrance was still being considered and therefore its full impacts were not known. Gail asked if they were looking to mitigate at standard mitigation. Frank said they would be bringing a new landscape before the committee with the mitigation plan. There was additional discussion about the roots and vestibule. Betsy made the motion to approve the removal with standard mitigation with a friendly amendment by Alpa to plant Live Oaks back on the site.

Motion: Betsy Ruff made the motion to approve the tree removal, with the condition that Live Oaks be placed back on site.

Second: Emma Weeks

Motion Carried Unanimously

III. Minor Projects

Alpha Gamma Rho

Clay Sweger

Clay said that he was before the committee to present a new fraternity house on campus. He said the Alpha Gamma Rho had sold their previous house on 13th Street and were looking to relocate on lots the University had created on Museum Road. He showed the site, while noting the parking area and service drive that had been put in along with the lots. He showed rendering of the buildings and site plan, with the trees to remain marked. He said that the building footprint would require the removal of 66 trees, with 4 in poor condition, including three heritage trees. Arborist Erick Smith went over the trees in poor condition and said that they would like to reduce the mitigation on those trees as well as some of the smaller trees that were between 3" & 5" DBH. There was discussion about the Mitigation Policy and the presentation's tree table, with clarification that poor health trees did not need to be mitigated. There was additional discussion about ways to reconfigure and move the building to alleviate impacts. Clay and architect Mike Puckett explained that they had to move the building south, due to utilities to the north and went over other measures they had taken to avoid tree impacts. Landscape Architect Marsha Swider said that they would be bringing back a detailed landscape plan. Erik Lewis clarified to the committee that normally minor projects and Greek projects only come through the committee process once and suggested that the Chair, Gail Hansen De Chapmen, could review the landscape plan to determine whether it would need to come back to the committee.

Motion: Emma Weeks made the motion to approve the plan with tree removals following the Mitigation Policy, with trees in poor health not requiring mitigation.

Second: Alpa Nawre

Motion Carried Unanimously

IV. Other Business

Tea Garden and Floating Island at Gator Pond

Kevin Thompson

Kevin Thompson said that he was an instructor in Landscape Architecture and that his class had come with him to present their proposed construction project at Gator Pond. He said that their proposal consisted of a floating bio-mat and a small tea garden. He introduced Alexis Boenker and Ross West to go over the proposed project. Alexis went over examples of environmental centers and said that the proposed tea garden would create an opportunity for people to interact and that it would include sustainable design and building practices. She said that the floating bio-mat would absorb nutrients in the pond. Alexis said that they were including a rake shack that would house a couple of rakes for people to interact and engage with the site. Ross went over the rake shack's proposed location, its artful design concepts and showed where the, minimally intrusive, floating mat would be located. He showed conceptual renderings and showed potential plant species to be used on the floating mat. He said that the shack would include a QR code with directions on how to access the rake shack and give a link to a website describing the project concepts.

There was discussion on the limited plants species that would survive given the sunlight conditions in the pond, probability of use of QR codes by the campus community, other ideas to get people to use the rake shack, and leaf disposal. Erik Lewis noted the Kevin had proposed to have the project on site for 14 months. Kevin agreed, but that if it was successful he would come back to the committee for an extension. Gregg Clarke said that they should make sure to get approval from E, H &S for the structure.

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

Second: Alpa Nawre

Motion Carried Unanimously

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