

MINUTES

University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee August 08, 2019, at 9:00 AM Facilities, Planning & Construction Conference Room 235 Stadium West

The University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee (ULVLC) met Thursday, August 08, 2019 at the University of Florida Facilities Planning and Construction Division Conference Room 235 Stadium West.

Members attending:

Donna Bloomfield – Grounds, Facility Services
Gregg Clarke – Director of Operations, Facility Services
Adam Dale – Assistant Professor, Entomology and Nematology Department
Linda Dixon – Director, Planning, Design & Construction
Betsy Ruff – Assistant Program Director & Lecturer
Emma Weeks – Assistant Research Scientist, Entomology and Nematology Department
Matt Williams – Director, Sustainability

Members not attending:

Brad Barber – University Police Department
Kristen Curington - Student
Carlos Dougnac – AVP, Planning, Design & Construction
Gail Hansen De Chapman – Environmental Horticulture - Chair
Craig Hill, AVP, Business Affairs
Matthew Mears – City Arborist, City's Park, Recreation & Cultural Affairs
Alpa Nawre – Assistant Professor, Landscape Architecture
Francisco Oquendo – Assistant Director, Planning, Design & Construction
Tom Schlick – Assistant Director of Grounds, Facility Services
David Steadman – Curator, Natural History Museum

Visitors attending:

Melissa Thomas – Administrative, Planning, Design & Construction
Erik Lewis – Sr. Planner, Planning, Design & Construction
Tom Wichman – Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS)
Gage LaPierre – PH.D. Student – Vice Chair for NATL
Cydney McGlothlin – University Architect, Planning, Design & Construction

Erik Lewis said that Emma Week was unable to attend, but had sent replacement language for the motion relating to Shealy Drive Parking Deck, which had since been updated in the June minutes. He added that the Tree Report had been added to the agenda.

I. Adoption of Agenda and June and July 2019 Minutes

Motion: Betsy Ruff moved to approve the agenda with changes and move to adopt the June minutes with changes and also approval of the July minutes.

Second: Emma Weeks

Motion Carried Unanimously

II. MAJOR PROJECTS

UF-623 – Central Energy Plant/Thermal Utility Infrastructure/Electrical Utility Infrastructure Cydney McGlothlin

Cydney said she was before the committee to request site approval. She went through the background of the project and said that it would be handled as three separate projects:

Project I – Construction of a new 69KV electrical substation.

Project II – Construction of a new Central Energy Plant (CEP) to provide efficient steam, chilled water and electricity from a reliable and attractive facility on Gale Lemerand Drive.

Project III – Construction of a new south district thermal piping distribution loop to improve chilled water and steam delivery to campus and Hospital facilities.

She said that each project would have different funding, with an estimated total funding of approximately 250 million.

Cydney said that the existing energy plant needs to be replaced and that the new plant, along with utility upgrades would provide reliable thermal and electrical services for campus operations. She said that the project would take 5 to 7 years to accomplish. She showed the proposed central plant's footprint next to the new garage on the Commuter Lot, noting that while it is adjacent to Lake Alice there would be no impacts to wetlands and floodplain.

There was discussion of different layout options that may work for the site. Mark Helms stated there would be fences around both the substation and plant. Mark said that the plant should reduce our greenhouse emissions by 25%. There was discussion about the Lake Alice trail and sidewalks. Cydney went over the thermal piping distribution loop and said the first phase would be under Museum Road and along Gale Lemerand Drive. She said that after utilities are replaced, the project would use the Landscape Master Plan's design recommendations for the rebuilt road, landscape and sidewalks. There was general discussion on utility alignments and ways to avoid important trees. Emma Weeks recommended that heritage trees be labeled with their DBH and that they needed to produce a layout with heritage trees labeled with pictures, so the committee can make recommendations on rerouting to avoid important ones.

Project I – Construction of a new 69KV electrical substation

Motion 1: Adam Dale made the motion to approve the site and tree removals with standard mitigation, but with the condition that they strive to avoid the 40 DBH and 35 DBH Live Oaks and that they relocate the 30 DBH palm.

Second: Betsy Ruff

Motion Carried 1 nay – Emma Weeks – 30” Palm needs more information and may need to be relocated

Project II – Construction of a new Central Energy Plant (CEP) to provide efficient steam, chilled water and electricity from a reliable and attractive facility on Gale Lemerand Drive.

Motion 2: Emma Weeks made the motion to approve the site selection and tree removals with standard mitigation, with the condition that the project strive to protect the Live Oak.

Second: Betsy Ruff

Motion Carried Unanimously

Project III – Construction of a new South District thermal piping distribution loop to improve chilled water and steam delivery to campus and Hospital facilities

Motion 3: Emma Weeks made the motion to approve the site and tree removals, with exceptions as follows:

1. Basswood remains.
2. Relocation of date palms.
3. Pines are approved for removal, unless they are found to be Long Leaf.

Second: Betsy Ruff

Motion Carried Unanimously

III. OTHER BUSINESS

Tree Mitigation Policy Revisions

Erik Lewis

Erik said he was before the committee to present recommended changes to the tree mitigation policy. He said the changes were primarily made to emphasize protection of heritage trees and to lower emphasis on smaller DBH trees. He said that he had run a few scenarios based on the existing policy and recommended changes on several recent projects and that where there are many small trees the mitigation would be less, while on non-forested sites with bigger trees the mitigation would be more. He went over other changes that he was recommending to clean up, including the handling of palms, noting that in most cases Cabbage Palms are cheaper to buy than to relocate. He said the updated policy also directs mitigation money to implementing the Landscape Master Plan and other landscape enhancement projects as identified in the Campus Master Plan.

Motion: Emma Weeks made a motion to approve as presented with suggested clarifications.

Second: Adam Dale

Motion Carried Unanimously

NATL Trail

Gage LaPierre

Gage introduced himself and said he was before the committee to request approval for some tree removals at the NATL. He said the purpose of the removals was to protect the ecological systems in the area. He said that there was an overabundance of weedy trees that need to be taken out in order to allow understory plants to flourish. He showed the area where they were proposing the removals next to the teaching pavilion, off on Natural Area Drive. Gage said that they were asking to remove the trees listed in the presentation without standard mitigation, since it was a necessary management activity to facilitate the mission of the NATL.

Motion: Adam Dale made the motion to approve as presented without standard mitigation.

Second: Betsy Ruff

Motion Carried Unanimously

Tree Report 2019

Donna Bloomfield

Donna Bloomfield went over recent tree removals, showing photos of the trees with signs indicating type and reason for removal. Emma Weeks asked if she was keeping track of the replacements. Donna said they were not at this point.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 11:13 AM.