

MINUTES
University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee
March 12th, 2020 at 9:00 AM
Facilities, Planning & Construction
Conference Room 316 Stadium West

The University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee (ULVLC) met Thursday, March 12th, 2020 at the University of Florida Facilities Planning and Construction Division Conference Room 316 Stadium West.

Members attending:

Gail Hansen De Chapman – Environmental Horticulture - Chair
Brad Barber – University Police Department
Donna Bloomfield – Grounds, Facility Services
Adam Dale – Assistant Professor, Entomology and Nematology Department
Linda Dixon – Director, Planning, Design & Construction
Alpa Nawre – Assistant Professor, Landscape Architecture
Matt Williams – Director, Sustainability

Members not attending:

Gregg Clarke – Director of Operations, Facility Services
Carlos Dougnac – AVP, Planning, Design & Construction
Craig Hill, AVP, Business Affairs
Brian Keith – Associate Director, University Libraries
Ryan O’Hern - Student
Francisco Oquendo – Assistant Director, Planning, Design & Construction
Brett Scheffers – Assistant Professor, Wildlife Ecology
Tom Schlick – Assistant Director of Grounds, Facility Services
Joe Wu – Assistant University Librarian

Visitors attending:

Melissa Thomas – Administrative, Planning, Design & Construction
Erik Lewis – Sr. Planner, Planning, Design & Construction
Mark Humbert– Planning, Design & Construction
Milo Zapata - Planning, Design & Construction
Larry Teague – Zamia Design
Laurie Hall – CHW
Rosario Leena - CHW
Clay Sweger – EDA
Marsha Swider – EDA
Fiona Hogan – Sustainability

I. Adoption of Agenda and February 2020 Minutes

Motion: Adam Dale moved to approve the agenda and to adopt the minutes.

Second: Alpa Nawre

Motion Carried Unanimously

II. MAJOR PROJECTS

Frank introduced himself and Milo Zapata, who he said would be taking over the project moving forward. He gave an overview of the project and said he was seeking program approval. He showed the site location on the east side of Newell Drive, just north of Lake Alice Creek/Health Center. Frank showed photos of the site and went over the building program. He said the building was programmed to be 6 stories and showed potential massings on the site, while noting that the site is on a slope. Frank showed some potential tree impacts that included heritage Live & Shumard Oaks, but noted that they were preserving and designing around the 80+ DBH Live Oak adjacent to Newell.

There was discussion of the tree impacts, slope, parking impacts and invasive plants on the site. Gail Hansen De Chapman asked if they had considered moving the building east to avoid some tree impacts. Frank said that they had been looking east to potentially add 5,000 square feet to the building and noted that they will not have a real idea of how the building would sit on site until they have an architect. Gail asked whether other sites were considered. Linda said that they had, but that the researchers need the facility close to the Health Center. Alpa Nawre asked how the building fit in the Master Plan. Linda said that the site was listed as a future building site in the Master Plan and went over the adjacent Conservation Areas that were protected to save natural functions. Gail suggested that the mitigation money for the tree impacts could be used for invasive clean up. There was discussion about the parking lot on the south side of the site and other sites that were considered. Adam Dale said that he would motion to approve the site, but there was no second. There was discussion about other options and how to move forward.

Motion: Alpa Nawre made the motion to have the project look at alternative sites.

Second: Adam Dale

Motion Carried Unanimously

III. MINOR PROJECTS

Sigma Chi Fraternity

Clay Sweger

Clay said that he and Marsha Swider were before the committee to present the teardown and rebuild of the Sigma Chi Fraternity on Fraternity Row. He went over the location, construction schedule, site survey and proposed tree impacts. Marsha showed photos of the 13 trees being proposed for removal and went over each size and type. Clay showed the proposed building and preliminary landscape plan with proposed trees to meet some tree mitigation on site.

Gail Hansen De Chapman suggested more trees be put in front. Clay said that they would like to have a little turf in line with the other houses along the Row. There was more discussion of the landscape plan and some changes to it that the project was considering based on comments by the Parking & Transportation Committee. Clay suggested that he could have Gail review the final landscape plan for approval as had been done in the past.

Motion: Adam Dale made the motion to approve the project as presented.

Second: Alpa Nawre

Motion Carried Unanimously

Alpha Delta Pi

Larry Teague

Larry introduced himself and said that he was back before the committee to ask for some additional tree removals that were not requested at the previous presentation. He said that original plan had been to save 2 Live Oaks and a multi-trunk Magnolia, but with construction under way they were revisiting that plan. He showed images of the two Live Oaks (21 & 19 DBH). He noted that one Live Oak was in the ROW. Larry said that they had hired an arborist for his input, which had been provided to the committee. Gail Hansen De Chapman asked if they had jurisdiction to request removal of a tree on State land. Linda Dixon said that they could make the request.

There was discussion of the trees and the arborist report.

Motion: Adam Dale made the motion to approve the removal of the 19 DBH Live Oak on Alpha Delta property, to trim the Magnolia as recommended in the Arborist report and to keep the 21 DBH Live Oak.

Second: Alpa Nawre

Motion Carried Unanimously

Campus (Lake Alice) Trails

Laurie Hall

Laurie gave the background on how the Campus Trail project had originated from ideas presented in the Framework Plan. She went over the background of the project, noting there was a stakeholder group of faculty, staff and students giving input, reactions and recommendations, along with site visits. She went over the guiding principles that emphasized the protection of natural functions, while allowing for passive recreational use. Laurie showed the existing trails and shared use paths on campus. She said that the hub for the proposed trail network would be around Lake Alice. She showed maps and renderings of the proposed trail network. She went over the prioritization of trail segments (discrete projects), with Lake Alice and Bathhouse overlooks being the number one priorities. She finished by going over some of the materials they would be recommending.

There was general discussion about the trail network, ADA accessibility, avoiding unnecessary tree removals, materials and protecting native vegetation.

Motion: Alpa Nawre made the motion to have the project as presented.

Second: Adam Dale

Motion Carried Unanimously

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Grounds Report

Open Discussion

Since no Grounds report was made, the committee took the time to discuss some issues members felt needed to be addressed. There was general concern that things were happening on campus that the committee was not being involved in, including Crape Myrtle removals along Bledsoe Drive, tree removals and clearing around Lake Alice. Members expressed concern that while not everything needed to come before the committee, larger projects should be vetted prior to moving forward. There was also discussion of how the University needs to have a landscape architect. The following issues were brought up with recommendations on how the Grounds Department should coordinate with the committee prior to moving forward with projects:

- Discuss maintenance practices
- Thresholds for what should come before the committee
- Monthly reports
- Ensure that the Landscape Master Plan is being followed

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.