

MINUTES
University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee
July 14, 2022, at 9:00 AM
Facilities, Planning & Construction
ZOOM MEETING

The University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee (ULVLC) met Thursday, July 14, 2022 for a Zoom meeting online.

Members attending:

Gregg Clarke – Director of Operations, Facilities Services
Adam Dale – Assistant Professor, Entomology and Nematology Department
Linda Dixon – Director, Planning, Design & Construction
Gail Hansen De Chapman – Environmental Horticulture - Chair
Basil Iannone – Assistant Professor, Forest Resources and Conservation
Tim Martin – Associate Professor, School of Forest Resources and Conservation
Tom Schlick – Assistant Director of Grounds, Facilities Services

Members not attending:

William Barber – Assistant Director, UF Police Department
Donna Bloomfield – Grounds, Facilities Services
David Conser – City of Gainesville – City Arborist
Carlos Dognac – Assistant Vice President, Planning, Design & Construction
Brian Keith – Associate Dean, Library Administration
Melanie Nelson – Associate Professor, Medicine
Andrew Smiarowski - Student
Matt Williams – Director, Office of Sustainability

Visitors attending:

Rachel Mandell – Sr. Planner, Planning, Design & Construction
Milo Zapata – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Frank Javaheri – Director of Construction, Planning, Design & Construction
Cydney McGlothlin – University Architect, Planning, Design & Construction
Fraser Ringel, Jacobs Engineering
Greg Ratter, Siemens
Jeff Huber, Brooks + Scarpa
Caeli Tolar, CHW
Kaylee August – Office of Sustainability

I. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

Motion: Basil Iannone made a motion to approve the Agenda and the April Minutes.

Second: Tim Martin

Motion Carried Unanimously

II. MAJOR PROJECTS

UF-652 Biomedical and Life Sciences Research Building – Programming

Cydney McGlothlin

Cydney introduced herself and stated she was presenting the Biomedical and Life Sciences building for Program approval. Cydney presented the site for the new building located west of the Cancer-Genetics Building south of Mowry Road. She noted that the site will require demolition of some existing buildings and likely removal of 4 trees in existing parking lot areas. She showed photos of the trees but noted they had not been surveyed or assessed at this phase. She explained that the project proposes to develop stormwater treatment facilities within the open Conservation Areas to the northwest of the site and showed an image of the planned location. Currently, there is no onsite stormwater treatment and runoff is creating erosion around the parking lot and Mowry Road. Members discussed the stormwater concept and agreed the proposed location was good because it was already open and low-lying. Linda Dixon noted that stormwater facilities are an allowed use in Conservation Areas. Members suggested that landscape plans for this area should provide a transition from the built-up Archer Road to the Lake Alice Conservation Area creating an ecotone. For example, they indicated that they would not want to see a formal row of palm trees in the landscape plan.

Motion: Basil Iannone made a motion to approve the Biomedical and Life Sciences building as presented for Programming.

Second: Tim Martin

Motion Carried Unanimously

UF-682 Parking Garage XV - Programming

Frank Javaheri

Frank Javaheri introduced himself and stated he was presenting the Garage XV for Program approval. The garage will be located in an existing parking lot south of Beaty Towers. He noted that the site will likely remove of 14 trees including 4 palms, 2 pines and 5 crepe myrtles. He showed photos of the trees and approximate size but noted they had not been surveyed or assessed at this phase.

The committee discussed the Jennings Creek Conservation Area to the west of the site. Rachel Mandell clarified that there should be a 35' minimum buffer from the wetland (roughly top-of-bank). She also noted that the pedestrian bridge in the Conservation Area is in poor condition but will be an important connection for users of this garage. Members agreed that the wetland buffer and bridge replacement should be addressed along with the need to protect the row of trees south of the site adjacent to Diamond Village.

Motion: Tim Martin made a motion to approve as presented with a note that the meeting minutes should reflect the need to protect the row of trees south of the site adjacent to Diamond Village and to address the Conservation Area's wetland buffer and bridge replacement.

Second: Basil Iannone

Motion Carried Unanimously

Milo Zapata introduced himself as the project manager, and Fraser Ringel of Jacobs Engineering who presented the project for Design Development approval. The project consists of a new utility loop to be constructed in summer 2023 around the Springs Residential complex emanating from the Holland Utility Plant. The project includes solar panels south of the plant. A member asked about open trenching along the service road north of the complex. Milo responded that this is still being designed to minimize tree impacts and to keep the road open to emergency vehicles during construction. He noted that hand excavation would be done to the south side of the road to protect tree roots. A tree removal table and photos were presented requesting approval to remove and mitigate 6 crepe myrtles and 2 palms at the standard 2:1 mitigation. The project will remove 5 dead holly trees that were likely killed by the leaking steam pipes that are being replaced by this project. The project will also remove 3 hollies, identified as Small Leaf Holly, that are undersize for mitigation. Adam Dale noted that Small Leaf Hollies are somewhat rare on campus. Greg Ratter, landscape architect with Siemens on the design team, noted that he was not 100% certain of that identification. Tim Martin asked why the utilities could not be placed under the service drive rather than adjacent to it. He was concerned that the new underground utility lines will preclude planting new trees in this location. He noted that the service drive is also an important bicycle and pedestrian connection that needs shade. He observed that the trenching will cut roots of existing trees. The design team responded that the service drive needs to remain open to emergency vehicles and that the fire department connections for the buildings are accessed here. The fire lane requires 20' horizontal clearance and 13' vertical clearance. Milo noted that gas and water utilities are also located in this corridor requiring spacing between utilities. Fraser noted that twelve trees are being protected in the project area including several live oaks and Shumard oaks as noted in the presentation.

Members discussed the need to enhance this walking corridor/service drive after the project. Basil asked what could be planted here to beautify and add ecological value. The design team indicated that the project intends to mitigate the removed trees with payment rather than replanting on site. Tom Schlick indicated that Facilities Service/Grounds could replant in the area after the project using nursery stock.

Motion: Tim Martin made a motion to approve as presented but with a request for a plan to replant the area.

Second: Basil Iannone

Motion Carried Unanimously

UF-653 Architecture Building Renovation and DCP Collaboratory – Schematic Design **Cydney McGlothlin**

Cydney introduced herself again and stated she was presenting the UF-653 project for Schematic Design approval since project manager Tamara Baughman was unable to attend. She noted that the project was presented in September 2021 at the Programming phase. She then introduced Jeff Huber of the architectural design team. Jeff indicated that the project will impact 7 heritage trees total, but the project is considering relocating two of those trees: 1) a 22" Sycamore; and 2) a 22" Live Oak. Gale asked about relocating the 22" ash rather than the sycamore, which grow quickly. Caeli Tolar, the design team's landscape architect, indicated that she has been coordinating with the company Urban Forestry Works and that they say ash trees do not have a good success rate for transplanting. Basil noted that sycamores drop a lot of debris and should not be located near walkways and areas for congregating. Jeff indicated that it was very important to the client group, including the Landscape Architecture Department, to model best practices. He also discussed the project's goals for using Low Impact Design techniques for stormwater along with goals for protecting and enhancing pedestrian corridors.

Proposed tree removals were presented in two areas. In the area around the new building, the project proposes removal of 21 regulated trees that require 52 replacement trees. If the 22' live oak and 22" sycamore are relocated, the mitigation will reduce to 44. In the area around the south ramp from Inner Road to the building, the project proposes removal of 14 trees, including 9 Sabal Palms and 5 American Elms, that require 28 replacement trees. The project will return to the committee at Design Development to reconfirm tree removals.

Motion: **Tim Martin made a motion to approve as presented for Schematic Design.**

Second: **Adam Dale**

Motion Carried Unanimously

III. MINOR PROJECTS – No Business

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Grounds Report

Tom Schlick

Tom stated that he did not have a formal report prepared. Gail asked about some large azalea bushes that were severely pruned by Dickinson Hall. She received an email from a faculty member asking about this work. Tom responded that the crew had over-trimmed but the azaleas were finished blooming and the shrubs will recover.

Gail mentioned a recent letter to the editor of the Gainesville Sun about trees being cut down in campus parking lots due to lightening strikes. Tom stated that information was incorrect, and that the crew has been on a summer schedule of tree trimming in parking lots to improve lighting.

Tom discussed several locations where trees were in decline, many of them from construction impacts. He noted the east side of Wertheim Hall where all the trees are declining except a Florida Maple. A magnolia in a raised planter at Reitz Union is also dying along with a Heritage Live Oak at the west end of the building and a Black Walnut in front of McCarty A. Tom said that Facilities Services/Grounds will need to replace these. He will send photos and recommend replacement trees. Tim agreed that tree impacts from construction and lack of tree protection during construction is a problem. Cydney noted that the Wertheim project has some remaining funds that can pay for tree replacements around that area.

Chair Report

Gale Hansen de Chapman

Gail reported that the new arboretum on Ballpark Way is now complete with 35 trees selected by Environmental Horticulture faculty for teaching purposes. The arboretum will be open to the public and the trees will have ID tags.

Tim requested to add to the next LVL agenda a Tree Mitigation Fund Report for FY21-22 with balance and expenses. Gregg Clarke said that would not be a problem.

Rachel requested to provide an update on the Conservation Land Management Plan work, and Gail agreed. Rachel reported that the steering committee had completed all site visits, and work was underway to confirm site boundaries. The committee has also reviewed a draft process for approving activities in Conservation Areas and for standard signage requirements. They are currently reviewing Plan Outcomes and developing their recommendations for each of the Areas.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.