

MINUTES

University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee

February 6th, 2026 at 9:00 AM

Planning, Design & Construction Division, 245 Gale Lemerand Drive

Members attending:

Adam Dale – Assistant Professor, Entomology and Nematology Department – Chair
Gail Hansen De Chapman – Environmental Horticulture
Gerardo Nunez – Assistant Professor, Horticultural Services
Grace John – Assistant Professor, Biology
Gregg Clarke – Director of Operations, Facilities Services
Latrell Simmons – UFPD, Major, Support Services Division & Community Service Division
Lisa Strange – Extension Agent II
Matthew Webster – Interim Assistant Vice President, Planning, Design & Construction
Nancy Chrystal-Green – Assistant Vice President, Student Engagement
Ryan Klein – Assistant Professor, Environmental Horticulture
Tom Schlick – Assistant Director of Grounds, Facilities Services

Members not attending:

Aseña Goren – Post Doctoral Associate
Brandi Renton – Vice President of Business Affairs
Colt Little – Vice President for Construction, Facilities, and Real Estate
Cydney McGlothlin – University Architect, Planning, Design & Construction
David Conser – City Arborist, City of Gainesville
Jason Kruse – Associate Professor, Environmental Horticulture
Jordan Benton – Assistant Director of Business Operations, Facility Services
Monika Oli – Master Lecturer, Microbiology and Cell Science
Richard Dolson – Student

Visitors attending:

Brett Bartek – NV5
Charles Kammin – Utilities & Energy Services
Cole Menhennett – NV5
Dustin Stephany – Planning, Design & Construction
Emily Cason – Planning, Design & Construction
Francisco Oquendo – Planning, Design & Construction
Jamie Lindsey – Planning, Design & Construction
Jarrett Pearson – NV5
Jeff Tate – BCG
John Michael-Simpson – NV5
Juliana DeFilippo – The Alligator
Justin Foy – RJA
Kate Farmer – Planning, Design & Construction
Kristin Rubin – Sierra Club
Laura Scott – Planning, Design & Construction
Laurie Hall – NV5
Nancey Jones – Walker Architects
Pat Boatman – Planning, Design & Construction

Rick Falcon – Planning, Design & Construction
Ronnie Cooper – IFAS Facilities
Ross McClellan – RAMSA
Steve Caron – Planning, Design & Construction
Susette Martinez – Planning, Design & Construction
Tom Feather – Planning, Design & Construction

I. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

Gail Hansen De Chapman noted that the Grounds Report should be added under Other Business.

Motion: Ryan Klein made a motion to adopt the agenda with the above addition and approve the December minutes.

Second: Lisa Strange

Motion Carried Unanimously

II. MAJOR PROJECTS

UF-689 Hamilton

PRESENTING: Tom Feather and Laurie Hall

DISCUSSION: Tom presented the Hamilton Center for Classical and Civic Education project, which involves converting the former infirmary building. Laurie presented the updated plans, including exposed basement levels, new entry sequences, and landscaping consistent with the campus master plan. The committee discussed grading, landscaping, mowing of the terraced lawns, and the inclusion of ADA-compliant ramps and reduced site walls.

Motion: Gail Hansen De Chapman made a motion to forward the project to the VP for Construction, Facilities and Real Estate with a recommendation to approve as presented.

Second: Ryan Klein

Motion Carried Unanimously

IF-24011 Microbiology and Cell Science Building – Phase 2

PRESENTING: Ronnie Cooper and Laurie Hall

DISCUSSION: Ronnie and Laurie presented the Microbiology and Cell Science Building Phase 2 project. The committee discussed the location of existing utilities, on-site tree planting and the importance of not stressing heritage trees during construction.

Motion: Gail Hansen De Chapman made a motion to forward the project to the VP for Construction, Facilities and Real Estate with a recommendation to approve as presented and an additional recommendation to add sturdy tree protection fencing around the Shumard oak.

Second: Gerardo Nunez

Motion Carried Unanimously

UF-705 Student Housing

PRESENTING: Kate Farmer and Laurie Hall

DISCUSSION: The committee reviewed updated plans for UF-705 which will be a new student housing development and Disability Resource Center. The project will be completed in two phases, with Buildings 1 and 2 delivered in summer 2028 and Buildings 3 and 4 in winter 2028. The site will include an ADA-accessible water feature connecting to Graham Pond. The committee discussed landscaping and the importance of conserving existing green infrastructure.

Motion: Lisa Strange made a motion to forward the project to the VP for Construction, Facilities and Real Estate with a recommendation to approve as presented.

Second: Gail Hansen De Chapman

III. MINOR PROJECTS

UF-708 Graham Stormwater Improvements

PRESENTING: Kate Farmer, Laurie Hall, Brett Bartek, Cole Menhennett and John Michael Simpson

DISCUSSION: The committee reviewed the UF-708 Graham Stormwater Improvements project which includes improvements needed due to erosion. The team reviewed maps, stormwater infrastructure and plans to stabilize the area, improve water quality, and create trails for student access. They clarified that the project is a water quality improvement project, not a wetland or forest restoration. The project requires reshaping steep slopes and clay layers, with stormwater ponds in flat areas. Laurie presented proposed removal of regulated and exotic invasive trees and tree mitigation plans.

The committee discussed tree removal, grading work, stormwater improvements and preserving existing forests to reduce runoff. Kate noted that the university is adding stormwater management contracts to proactively address these issues.

The group discussed water quality improvements, preserving native vegetation and bird habitats and the planting plan. The committee also discussed their role as an advisory committee and the Lake Alice Watershed Management Plan which is available on the PDC website.

Motion: Lisa Strange made a motion requesting more information on heritage trees in the new design, examples of similar projects, a management plan, and quantification of energy/water movement trade-offs.

Second: Grace John

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Gail Hansen, outgoing chair, provided an overview of meeting protocols at the outset of the meeting and introduced Adam Dale as the new chair.

Grounds Report

Tom Schlick mentioned three grounds projects that are underway: the Harrell Bartram Karwar Woods Bridge replacement, a retaining wall project at the O'Connell Center to control erosion, and the Norman Courtyard restoration. Tom noted that there is extensive frost damage around campus and that many regional nursery suppliers have been impacted making it likely that UF will have to source plants from South Florida which will impact cost.

V. Chair's Report Adam Dale

None

Public Comment: Kristin Rubin from the Sierra Club expressed concern over the number and character of trees proposed for removal in the UF-708 project. She proposed shifting the pond shapes and using terraced grading and boardwalks and narrowing construction corridors. She asked the committee to call for a heritage tree preservation analysis.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM.