

MINUTES

University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee

April 2nd, 2026 at 9:00 AM

Planning, Design & Construction Division, 245 Gale Lemerand Drive

Members attending:

Adam Dale – Assistant Professor, Entomology and Nematology Department – Chair
Cydney McGlothlin – University Architect, Planning, Design & Construction
Gail Hansen De Chapman – Environmental Horticulture
Grace John – Assistant Professor, Biology
Gregg Clarke – Director of Operations, Facilities Services
Jason Kruse – Associate Professor, Environmental Horticulture
Jordan Benton – Assistant Director of Business Operations, Facility Services
Latrell Simmons – UFPD, Major, Support Services Division & Community Service Division
Nancy Chrystal-Green – Assistant Vice President, Student Engagement
Ryan Klein – Assistant Professor, Environmental Horticulture

Members not attending:

Aseña Goren – Post Doctoral Associate
Brandi Renton – Vice President of Business Affairs
Carrie Bush – Interim Assistant Vice President, Planning, Design & Construction
Colt Little – Vice President for Construction, Facilities, and Real Estate
David Conser – City Arborist, City of Gainesville
Gerardo Nunez – Assistant Professor, Horticultural Services
Lisa Strange – Extension Agent II
Monika Oli – Master Lecturer, Microbiology and Cell Science
Richard Dolson – Student
Tom Schlick – Assistant Director of Grounds, Facilities Services

Visitors attending:

Charles Kammin – Utilities & Energy Services
Cole Menhennett – NV5
Valeria Rivera Deneke – VDG
Jamie Lindsey – Planning, Design & Construction
Joe Pallone – AEI
Laura Scott – Planning, Design & Construction
Laurie Hall – NV5
Mark Mastropasqua – VDG
Matt Trtan – VDG
Oksana Figuera – Planning, Design & Construction
Rick Falcon – Planning, Design & Construction
Steve Caron – Planning, Design & Construction
Steven Vann – Facilities Operations
Tom Feather – Planning, Design & Construction

I. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

Motion: Jason Kruse made a motion to adopt the agenda and approve the March minutes.

Second: Gail Hansen De Chapman

Motion Carried Unanimously

II. MAJOR PROJECTS

UF-711 Sigma Chi Fraternity Renovation & Expansion

PRESENTING: Steve Caron, Matt Trtan, Valeria Rivera Deneke

- Goal: Expand and modernize Sigma Chi Fraternity, built in the 1960s
- Net increase of 503 square feet
- Removals: 10 non-heritage trees, including 2 invasive trees
- Plantings: plant 8 trees and protect with fencing during construction
- Mitigation fee: \$2,000
- Committee advised against planting Wild Date Palms susceptible to lethal bronzing
 - Livistona dicipiens and Washingtonia robusta are possible alternates
 - Adam provided link on lethal bronzing: <https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/PP163>
- Committee discussed importance of using sod and choosing appropriate turf variety for sun exposure, foot traffic and maintenance requirements

Motion: Gail Hansen De Chapman motioned to forward the project to the VP for Construction, Facilities and Real Estate with a recommendation to approve as presented emphasizing the importance of finding a substitute for the proposed Wild Date Palm, considering turf grass type and sufficient protection for trees during construction

Second: Ryan Klein

Motion Carried Unanimously

III. MINOR PROJECTS

UF-702A Hamilton Center Site Utilities

PRESENTING: Tom Feather, Cole Menhennett

- UF-689 Hamilton project basement and utility upgrades include steam lines, chilled water and electric
- Total trees impacted: 2
- Mitigation trees required: 26
- Significant efforts were made to find a way to preserve the trees, including exploration of alternative utilities routing options. However, combined impacts of basement construction and steam line installation make preservation unfeasible.

- Team explored options for moving utilities and construction further from trees, but this would threaten foundation of old infirmary and Florida Gym.
- Ryan suggested that with proper crown reduction and irrigation, a tree could survive if given 10-foot clearance on 2 sides, but Laurie noted that due to above constraints clearance will be much less than 10 feet.

Motion: Jason Kruse motioned to forward the project to the VP for Construction, Facilities and Real Estate with a recommendation to approve as presented

Second: Nancy Chrystal-Green

A majority approved the motion.

HS26504 UF Broward Hall North Site Improvements

PRESENTING: Steven Vann, Laurie Hall

- Goal: create more usable outdoor space and a more welcoming entrance at Broward Hall by removing existing bike racks and adding seating areas while preserving existing trees

Motion: Gail Hansen De Chapman motioned to forward the project to the VP for Construction, Facilities and Real Estate with a recommendation to approve as presented with a reminder to protect trees during construction

Second: Ryan Klein

Motion passed unanimously.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

Grounds Report

- Duke Energy will remove a tree from their easement near Rabon Chilled Water Plant
- Two trees by Florida Gym must be removed for chilled water vent repairs
- Tree removal report will be presented next month and will combine 2 months of data
 - The committee asked that the report be presented monthly in future

V. Chair's Report

Adam Dale

- Two large pines near Mowry Road are threatening a building and must be removed.
- Adam has requested two new committee members to replace two existing members who can no longer attend.

Public Comment:

None.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 10:26 AM.