

MINUTES

University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee

October 2nd, 2025 at 9:00 AM

Planning, Design & Construction Division, 245 Gale Lemerand Drive

Members attending:

Gail Hansen De Chapman – Environmental Horticulture – Chair
Linda Dixon – Director, Planning, Design & Construction
Gregg Clarke – Director of Operations, Facilities Services
Cydney McGlothlin – AVP, Planning, Design & Construction
Jordan Benton – Assistant Director of Business Operations, Facility Services
Latrell Simmons – UFPD, Major, Support Services Division & Community Service Division
Ryan Klein – Assistant Professor, Environmental Horticulture
Gerardo Nunez – Assistant Professor
Nancy Chrystal-Green – Assistant Vice President, Student Engagement
Grace John – Biology

Members not attending:

Adam Dale – Assistant Professor, Entomology and Nematology Department
Asena Goren – Post Doctoral Associate
David Conser – City of Gainesville – City Arborist
Colt Little – Vice President for Construction, Facilities, and Real Estate
Brandi Renton – Vice President of Business Affairs
Matthew Webster – Assistant Vice President, Planning, Design & Construction
Monika Oli – Master Lecturer, Microbiology and Cell Science
Tom Schlick – Assistant Director of Grounds, Facilities Services
Jason Kruse – Associate Professor, Environmental Horticulture
Lisa Strange – Extension Agent II
Richard Dolson – Student

Visitors attending:

Rick Falcon – Planning, Design & Construction
Adam Hall – Sr. Planner, Planning, Design & Construction
Tamera Baughman – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Jamie Lindsey – Project Manager, Planning, Design & Construction
Laurie Hall – NV5
Anna Traylor – Clark Nexsen
Don Kranbuehl – Clark Nexsen
Michael Hans – JB Pro
Tim Boehlein – JB Pro
Jeff Tate – BBCS

I. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

Motion: Gail Hansen de Chapman made a motion to adopt the agenda and approve the September minutes.

Second: Ryan Klein

Motion Carried Unanimously

II. MINOR PROJECTS

MP-09451– Graham Commons Demo

PRESENTING: Kate Farmer

DISCUSSION: Kate Farmer presented the Graham Commons demolition project, which is preparing the site for new student housing scheduled for completion in fall 2029. Kate provided updates on the demolition progress, including the removal of 66 trees previously approved and the need for additional tree removal due to building plans. The project involves demolishing the existing buildings, hardscape, and utilities while protecting certain trees and maintaining coordination with the Flavet Field team. A tree mitigation fee of \$79,000 was discussed, with plans to offset it by planting new trees during the major project phase.

Laurie Hall talked about the impact areas of the project, highlighting the need for grading and utility work that will affect several trees. She explained that man-made ponds and steep slopes will be impacted, with grading required to create accessible paths. Laurie noted that the project involves rerouting a pipe and addressing stormwater conditions in Graham Woods, as discussed in a previous Lake Alice watershed study. The presentation included a breakdown of previously approved and new mitigation efforts.

Due to the number of trees impacted on this project, the committee members moved to the next project to be presented (UF-705), which is a continuation to this one to get a better understanding before making any decisions.

After reviewing Major project UF-705 and having more information on the total scope of both projects together, the committee members came back to this project to make a decision.

Motion: Ryan Klein made a motion to request alternate designs that would allow for more trees to be saved.

Second: Gerardo Nunez

Motion Carried Unanimously

The Chair noted that while he was not present at the meeting, Adam Dale had written to her to express his disapproval of the project.

III. MAJOR PROJECTS

UF-705 Student Housing & DRC

PRESENTING: Kate Farmer

DISCUSSION: Kate continued with presenting UF-705 with plans for the new student housing complex that will accommodate 2,200 students and include a Disability Resource Center. The project site will be expanded to include new buildings near existing parking lots. The presentation also covered stormwater management concerns, particularly regarding Graham Woods, which receives runoff water from various buildings and parking lots nearby and its meant to be corrected with project MP-09451. A conceptual design for improving stormwater flow and filtration in Graham Woods was presented, including plans to reroute a 48-inch culvert to avoid being under a new building.

Kate also presented plans for a new walking path and ADA-accessible bridge, which will also serve as a fire lane and provide access for housing facilities. She discussed the rerouting of a '60s-era pipe to improve safety and the reshaping of Graham Pond to accommodate the new pipe route. The project will include native plantings and aims to achieve a Florida Green Building Coalition Gold certification. The total tree mitigation cost is estimated at \$90,750 to address a deficit of 363 trees.

The team discussed the impact of construction on the pond and its surrounding area. Kate explained that the buildings had to be shifted to the west due to utility corridors, which necessitated moving a 60-year-old pipe and reshaping the pond. Laurie noted that replacing the pipe would still impact the area, as the existing head wall and steep slopes would require grading.

Gail raised concerns about tree removal and the high-profile nature of the site, suggesting that more trees should be planted in the regraded area to address faculty concerns about the loss of green space.

Kate explained that while the current site may not be ideal for stormwater management, the long-term plan involves creating a sustainable green space with trees, which will require significant grading work. Gail expressed concern about the site's difficulty, but Kate assured that better images and a more detailed landscape plan would be presented in January or February. Kate also clarified that the site was chosen based on the 10-year master plan to address the need for more and improved student housing, as current university housing was found to be below par compared to other universities in the state.

The committee further discussed the demolition and development of the site, focusing on the significant number of trees that need to be removed. Cydney McGlothlin and Laurie explained that the initial project only involved demolition, but as the site plan developed, they realized more trees would be impacted due to stormwater challenges and the need to daylight a stream. Ryan Klein expressed concern about the lack of foresight in tree removal and the impact on the campus environment. Cydney and Laurie acknowledged the challenges of the site and assured the committee that they would continue to refine the design to preserve as many trees as possible.

Motion: Ryan Klein made a motion to request alternate designs that would allow for more trees to be saved.

Second: Gerardo Nunez

Motion Carried Unanimously

The Chair noted that while he was not present at the meeting, Adam Dale had written to her to express his disapproval of the project.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Landscaping & Natural Resource Projects Report

PRESENTING: Jordan Bendon and Tom Schlick

Jordan provided updates on campus landscaping projects reviewing a report on tree removals across campus and noted the completion of sod and planting work near the stadium.

V. Chair Report

Gail Hansen de Chapman

Gail mentioned the need to find a new meeting time for the committee in consideration of some members who cannot attend due to scheduling conflicts.

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