

August 26, 2020

Gail Hansen De Chapman, Chair
University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee
PO Box 110675
Gainesville, FL 32601

Dear Ms. Hansen:

After reviewing the minutes of the University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee (LVLC) meeting held May 14, 2020, please note the following:

1. The LVLC recommends approving the UF – 200 – Public Safety Building project as presented with the following recommendations: 1) to use a mix of live and bluff oak along the street; 2) to consider planting understory trees in the south east corner that is currently open; 3) to explore alternative placement of the generator to avoid removing tree number 27; 4) to keep in mind the Landscape Master Plan for non-plant material; 5) to shift the bus stop to the east away from the intersection: and 6) to consider different trees in the plaza that provide more shade than palms.

I approve the committee's recommendation.

2. The LVLC recommends approving the UF – 373 – Special Collections Building tree mitigation as presented with a request to: 1) consider moving the location of the crosswalk eastward; 2) creating more of the sense of entry into the public trail system through use of various elements and devices such as signage, façade treatments, planting; 3) rethink the position of the larger signage on the building to take emphasis away from this non-public building and put emphasis back on the public trail.

I approve the committee's recommendation.

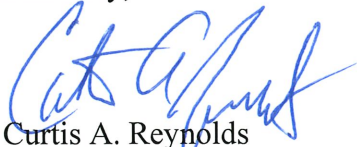
3. The LVLC recommends approving a proposed plan to use site Option 1 for the mechanical yard with standard tree mitigation, and approve the thermal storage location as proposed but to relocate the winged elm to another proposed location on the property rather than cut and replace it.

I approve the committee's recommendation.

4. The LVLC requests that the grounds team make a monthly report on trees and shrubs removed or if they are trimmed to a great degree. This would also include landscape projects. The committee asked that grounds share that report with the committee during the monthly meetings.

I approve the committee's request.

Sincerely,



Curtis A. Reynolds
Vice President for Business Affairs

cc: Committee Members
Erik Lewis

MINUTES
University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee
May 14, 2020 at 9:00 AM
Planning, Design & Construction
Zoom Meeting

The University Lakes, Vegetation and Landscape Committee (ULVLC) met Thursday, May 14, 2020 at the University of Florida Planning, Design & Construction Division Zoom Meeting.

Members attending:

Gail Hansen De Chapman – Environmental Horticulture - Chair
Brad Barber – University Police Department
Adam Dale – Assistant Professor, Entomology and Nematology Department
Linda Dixon – Director, Planning, Design & Construction
Brian Keith – Associate Director, University Libraries
Alpa Nawre – Assistant Professor, Landscape Architecture

Members not attending:

Donna Bloomfield – Grounds, Facility Services
Gregg Clarke – Director of Operations, Facility Services
Carlos Dougnac – AVP, Planning, Design & Construction
Craig Hill, AVP, Business Affairs
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
Matt Williams – Director, Sustainability
Joe Wu – Assistant University Librarian

Visitors attending:

Melissa Thomas – Administrative, Planning, Design & Construction
Erik Lewis – Sr. Planner, Planning, Design & Construction
Robert Hatker – Planning, Design & Construction
Jim Vignola – Planning, Design & Construction
David Wood – Planning, Design & Construction
Kasey Teimouri – Site Surveyor (UF-200)
Frank Javaheri – Director of Construction, Planning, Design & Construction
DB Cotter – Engineering Firm – (UF-373)
David Conner – Conner Landscape Architect – (UF-200)
Tom Wichman – IFAS – Facilities Services
John Toner – UF Computing Health (UF-641)
Christopher Allen – Landscape Architect – (UF-373)
Eric Luycke – Landscape Architect – (UF-373)
Fiona Hogan – Sustainability

I. Adoption of Agenda and April 2020 Minutes

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

Second: Alpa Nawre

Motion Carried Unanimously

II. MAJOR PROJECTS

UF-200 – Public Safety Building

Robert Hatker /David Conner

Robert introduced himself and began by stating he was here today seeking Design Development phase approval. He stated Kasey Teimouri is one of the representing architects for this project as well as David Conner the representing landscape architect for this project. We will be discussing the landscape of this project so he will turn the meeting over to David Conner to present.

The existing police station will be demolished and the new police station is expected to have a 3 story building and reconfiguring the area for working around the existing utilities as well as proposed infrastructure done along museum road. David went over the site and there are 29 trees impacted. There is a large tree that will be impacted next to the existing police station now but because of the project parking area and utility in this area it will need to be removed as well. The committee asked for clarification of the size of this tree for mitigation. David stated he would look into that comment. Committee asked if the utility infrastructure project will be done prior to this project and it was stated that it will be going on at the beginning of the project but should be completed prior to the building erection.

The trees that will be impacted in purple was previously approved for the project to be removed. The lavender color trees that are existing trees on the drawing are now being asked for removal because of the layout of the project and the other projects going on, on this site at the same time of this project. The existing parking lot is below grade, which will need to be raised because of the new proposed building, and the landscape master plan implemented in this area. The magnolias along museum will be impacted in order to implement the landscape master plan. Along Newell there are a few pine trees that will be impacted close to the handicap parking that is existing that will remain. The trees will need to be removed because of the construction and grade changes. Near the Centrex, building there is a 27" tree near the generator that will be impacted because they will need to upgrade the generator and add a new generator. There is a collection of trees in the Centrex area that will need to be removed in order to drop down the grade and fix the area for parking so the police can drive into this area to drop off evidence. It will join to the Centrex building by stairs.

We have calculated the tree mitigation at 28,000.00 and we propose new planting in the plaza space to provide shade. The intent to help move pedestrian traffic thru the site now and for security the movement will bring the pedestrians up to the corner and then move forward down museum road. There will be a new fence around the complex to help with security as well. There will be trees added where we can to increase the canopy. There is an opportunity for proposing 65 trees to be planted back to the site. The committee asked that the project look at the area near Jennings to see if additional planting will be done there as well to increase the trees on site. The trees along museum look at making them start out with larger trees. The committee asked about the plaza trees and David stated cypress trees. Will there be storm water incorporated into these planters. David stated yes, that is being looked at to create some way of storm water for the plaza trees. The committee asked if this plaza area would be used for programs and it was stated officers for things like outreach or bicycle programs would use it. The committee asked to look at the trees for the plaza, because they do not know if cypress is the best choice. Also the bus stop was discussed to move east between the second and third trees on museum to get a solution for the area. This would also allow for another tree can be planted. Be sure the look at the master plan for the suggested materials for the seating and trees on the streetscapes. We should be using the trees for the streetscapes, which are live oaks or bluff oaks. The committee suggested rotating the live oaks and bluff oaks on this streetscape. The committee asked if more native trees instead of the Chinese French trees. David stated they would look at that to see if they could get more native trees.

Motion: Adam Dale made the motion to approve the project as presented with the following recommendations: 1) to use a mix of live and bluff oak along the street; 2) to consider planting understory trees in the south east corner that is currently open; 3) to explore alternative placement of the generator to avoid removing tree number 27; 4) to keep in mind the Landscape Master Plan for non-plant material; 5) to shift the bus stop to the east away from the intersection; and 6) to consider different trees in the plaza that provide more shade than palms.

Second: Alpa Nawre

Motion Carried Unanimously

UF-373 – Special Collections Building

Jim Vignola

Jim introduced himself and stated he was here today for the Advanced Schematic Design phase approval. He went over the project and the approvals of the committees thus far. He showed the committee the site and explained how the vehicles move around the existing buildings. The NATL trails are behind the proposed building. The trail continues beside the new building and goes on behind the building. Would like to enhance the NATL trail entrance with this project using long leaf pine and native grass understory ground cover. The idea is to blend the landscape with the existing ecosystem.

There are about 8600 square feet area and another 5 or 6000 square feet for future expansion. We are asking to remove 133 trees and there are no heritage trees. He showed the breakdown on his presentation. With standard mitigation at 2 to 1 the mitigation is for 266 and we are proposing to replant 29 and mitigation of 59,250 dollars. He showed renderings of the building to show what it may look like. They spoke about the entrance of both pedestrian movement from the north toward the NATL entrance and how they have extended the trail beside the building and then on behind the building. The committee wanted to see if the design team can make the trail straight across and into the path instead of diagonal into the building. The committee wants it more to the east to make the pedestrians move more into a path not a building. The design team can also take the sign off the building to help direct pedestrians into the entrance of the NATL trail.

Motion: Alpa Nawre made a motion to approve the tree mitigation as presented with a request to: 1) consider moving the location of the crosswalk eastward; 2) creating more of the sense of entry into the public trail system through use of various elements and devices such as signage, façade treatments, planting; 3) rethink the position of the larger signage on the building to take emphasis away from this non-public building and put emphasis back on the public trail.

Second: Adam Dale

Motion Carried Unanimously

UF-641 – Data Center East Campus

David Wood

David introduced himself and stated he was do an expansion on the East Campus Data Center. This will be an addition to the existing mechanical yard. We are here to get approval of the Programing and site selection. The user group had two options to choose from and David went over each site and why option one was chosen. The mechanical area will have a wall around it but no roof. There will be a few trees to mitigate on option one and Erik went thru the trees impacted on each option and it was said that the cedar trees and cabbage palm on site one would be the best option. The thermal storage has tree impacts as well and it may be able to be replanted but it has to be removed. The committee discussed the trees in that area and wanted grounds to replant the Elm.

Motion: Adam Dale made the motion to approve site Option 1 for the mechanical yard with standard tree mitigation, and approve the thermal storage location as proposed but to relocate the winged elm to another proposed location on the property rather than cut and replace it.

Second: Alpa Nawre

Motion Carried Unanimously

III. OTHER BUSINESS

Grounds Report

Tom Schlick

The committee agreed to move forward, there is no Grounds report this month. Tom and Donna did not attend. We will put the grounds report on the agenda for next month. We have requested several times communication from grounds to ensure that the committee does get a report each month.

Motion: Alpa Nawre made the motion to request the grounds team make a monthly report on trees and shrubs removed or if they are trimmed to a great degree. This would also include landscape projects. The committee asked that grounds share that report with the committee during the monthly meetings.

Second: Adam Dale

Motion Carried Unanimously

Camellia Planting Project

Information

The committee asked that they get some information on the Camellia Project. The project started a few years ago and put at different areas on campus. Grounds is working with Dr. Tisher to plant the Camellia's on campus. The funding came from Dr. Lane and Dr. Tisher.

Non-Attending Members

Information

The committee asked about non-attending members and how we address this issue. Linda asked the committee chair to speak with the Faculty Senate. The students come from Student Government.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 11:39 AM.