



Minutes were approved 5/19/05

**University of Florida Conservation Study Committee
April 21, 2005 @ 1:00 PM
Facilities Planning and Construction Conference Room
226 Stadium
MINUTES**

Members Present:

Ms. Linda Dixon, Manager, Planning Office, Facilities Planning & Construction
Sheri Bryan, IFAS, Facilities Planning & Operations
Peggy Carr, Landscape Architecture
Eva Czarnecka, Microbiology & Cell Science
Joyce Dewsbury, Special Collections
Paula Fussell, Finance and Administration
Chuck Hogan, Physical Plant Division
Mark Hostetler, IFAS, Wildlife Ecology
Gerald Kidder, IFAS, Soil & Water Science
Erik Lewis, Facilities Planning & Construction
Nancy Menzel, College of Nursing
Meghan Pressley, Student
Erick Smith, Physical Plant Division
Tom Walker, IFAS, Natural History
Marty Werts, Physical Plant Division

Members Absent:

Mark Brown, Environmental Engineering Sciences
Mark Clark, IFAS, Soil & Water Science
Cecile Kiley, College of Nursing
Clay Montague, Environmental Engineering Sciences
Mackenzie Moritz, Student
Jack Putz, Botany
Nick Vellis, University Police Department

The University Conservation Study Committee (CSC) met on Thursday, April 21, 2005 at Facilities Planning and Construction Division, 226 Stadium West Conference Room. Linda Dixon, Chair, presided and called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Linda Dixon welcomed committee members to the April 21, 2005 CSC meeting and members agreed introductions were not necessary.

II. Adoption of Agenda

Motion: Erik Lewis moved to approve the Agenda as presented.

Second: Peggy Carr

Motion carried unanimously

III. Adoption of April 7, 2005 Minutes

Motion: Erick Smith moved to approve the April 7, 2005 minutes as presented.

Second: Tom Walker

Motion carried unanimously

IV. Draft Map Review

Ms. Linda Dixon presented a map reflecting the changes in the Conservation areas, Buffer areas and Urban Park areas recommended by the CSC members at the last meeting and also some that were added by Staff when assigning the remaining land uses on campus.

-Open Space Connections, Urban Design Connection, and Road Hierarchy

Open Space Connections

The purpose of this map is to present the continuity of the open spaces, which is an indication of their potential to serve as linear parks or localized habitat corridors. It also provides an indication of the ability of people to access, experience and move through these open spaces with appropriate bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Linda Dixon presented the Open Space Connections map depicting three open space land use categories along with recommended and existing shared-use paths (i.e., greenway trails) and critical pedestrian connections to the CSC members for discussion and recommendations.

Committee members reviewed the Open Space Connection Map presented by Ms. Dixon and made the following comments, suggestions, and recommendations for shared-used paths:

- Archer Road and SW 23rd Terrace--direct connection from the Vet School South is heavily being used by bicyclists.

Linda stated that this concept has been talked about in the past and is in the current Master Plan. She is not showing it on the new map because of the current research that is going on and from a security standpoint it is a very sensitive area. However, if the CSC members want to consider recommending this area a possible shared used path connection it could be discussed with the Transportation Study Committee and the Master Plan Steering Committee members.

Committee members indicated that the path is currently being used a lot by bicyclists and felt that the security issues could be dealt with the same as with any other high risk security areas on campus. They suggested paving the existing road and installing bollards and a gate to keep vehicles out.

Motion: Mark Hostetler made a motion to make the path from SW 23rd Street to SW 23rd Terrace to Ritchie Road a shared-used path.

Second: Eva Czarnecka

Motion Carried Unanimously

- Members asked what does the term “shared-used” mean. Linda Dixon stated that shared-used is a technical term that applies to bicycle/pedestrian trails. It is typically a minimum ten foot wide path for bidirectional bikes, pedestrians, and rollerblades with two foot clear zone on each side with typical signage in intersections. Although, when it applies to conservation areas it might mean something different like a mulch path where those terms could apply.
- Members discussed the east side of Lake Alice marsh around the Pony Field to Mowry Road out to Gale Lemerand Drive by the commuter lots. The natural connection would be to have it go up to the area where the basketball and handball courts are, over to the University Gardens area and perhaps continue around Lake Alice Field.

Motion: Peggy Carr made recommendation that a shared used path be added, if feasible, from the intersection of Village Drive and Museum Road to Hume Field South of Lake Alice Field.

Second: Erick Smith

Motion Carried Unanimously

- Members discussed that the mapped primary pedestrian walks should connect to shared-used paths or be more complete than they are now. For example, the pedestrian walk that crosses over Gale Lemerand from the Ben Hill Griffin Stadium continuing over to the Historic Court Yard then dead ends to Buckman Drive and then picks up another one north of Leigh Hall. The committee agreed that this pedestrian connection should be mapped South of Leigh Hall, not North of it.

Urban Design Connections

Ms. Linda Dixon referred committee members to the Urban Design Connections map that depicts the relationship of buildings, roads, bicycle and pedestrian corridors, gateways (i.e., major entry points) and primary destinations (e.g. libraries, museums, dining halls, student supports services, parking structures, public health facilities, sports.recreation.entertainment hubs, etc.). The purpose of this map is to illustrate connectivity between important gateways and primary destinations on campus.

Committee members continued with discussion of the Open Space Connections map:

- The SW corner of Corry Village the road that goes West behind the Bat House area and continues along the fence line and then drops down into a parking lot is being used a lot by pedestrians coming from Golf View. After further discussion committee members concluded that although this path is being used, it is not critical enough to be recommended as a shared-used paths.

Members asked how does this tie back in with the shared-used path for capital improvement. Will these major connections be programmed into the capital improvement for the next ten years?

Linda stated these could be funded by capital improvement or other sources. However, for the shared-used paths, in the transportation element, the Transportation Study Committee has reviewed a Table that breaks these up into certain street segments that describe a reasonable project and attaches a dollar amount to it and prioritizes it. The pedestrian connections are not necessarily facilities that need to be constructed. For the most part, they are existing sidewalks and places where people walk that they want to preserve.

- Members asked how the shared-used paths would be affected by new building sites. Linda stated that when they get to the future building site maps all of this would have been considered. However, if a building that is being built is located near a shared-used path connection and for some reason that building needs to be repositioned slightly then that message would come back to the sight design for a design solution.
- Members commented that west of Newin Ziegler, there are pedestrians connections that cross from East/ West and Southeast /Northwest.

V. Open Space Improvement Priorities

Linda Dixon asked committee members who could stay after the meeting to help identify high priority locations for physical improvements in the Urban Park and Buffer land use designations for Staff to draft and bring back to the next meeting in May.

VI. The Meeting Adjourned at 3:00 pm.