



Minutes were approved on 1/20/05

**University of Florida Conservation Study Committee
November 29, 2004 @ 10:00 AM
Facilities Planning and Construction Conference Room
232 Stadium
MINUTES**

Members Present:

Ms. Linda Dixon, Manager, Planning Office, Facilities Planning & Construction
Mark Brown, Environmental Engineering Sciences
Peggy Carr, Landscape Architect
Mark Clark, IFAS
Eva Czarnecka, Microbiology & Cell Science
Paula Fussell, Finance and Administration
Chuck Hogan, Physical Plant
Gerald Kidder, IFAS
Cecile Kiley, College of Nursing
Erik Lewis, Facilities Planning & Construction
Nancy Menzel, College of Nursing
Clay Montague, Environmental Engineering Sciences
Mackenzie Moritz, Student
Meghan Pressley, Student
Jack Putz, Botany
Erick Smith, Physical Plant
Nick Vellis, University Police Department
Tom Walker, IFAS
Marty Werts, Physical Plant

Members Absent:

Sheri Bryan, Facilities Planning & Operations
Joyce Dewsbury, Special Collections
Mark Hostetler, IFAS

Visitors:

Ondine Wells, Student
Michelle Aldridge, UF Clean Water Campaign

The University Conservation Study Committee (CSC) met on Monday, November 29, 2004 at Facilities Planning and Construction Division, 232 Stadium West Conference Room. Linda Dixon, Chair, presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

I. Welcome and Introductions

After welcoming members to the UF Conservation Study Committee (CSC) meeting Ms. Linda Dixon, chair, introduced herself to the committee and asked the other committee members to introduce themselves.

II. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Nick Vellis.

Motion carried unanimously.

III. Recap of Orientation Meeting & Process

Linda Dixon gave a brief recap of the Committee Orientation meeting that was held on November 5, 2004. A master plan process and schedule document was also distributed.

IV. Conservation & Passive Recreation Definitions

Linda Dixon presented the following recommended uses for Conservation and Passive Recreation areas for the Conservation Study Committee's review and approval:

(1) Uses allowed in Conservation areas are natural habitat preservation, water resource protection, teaching/research resource development, utility conveyances, stormwater facilities and nature parks (with public foot-trails/pathways/boardwalks, interpretive signage and picnic areas);

(2) Uses allowed in Passive Recreation areas are utility conveyances, stormwater facilities, gardens, open space buffers (to adjacent land uses, roadways and Conversation areas) and other regularly maintained landscape areas (i.e. plazas, lawns, greens, courtyards, gateways and pedestrian promenades).

Clay Montague stated that one of his concerns regarding these areas is the lack of a formal definition of the boundary—no surveys. He thinks that there needs to be a legal definition because you could always create a change in the physical boundaries artificially. He stated that it is very easy to change a boundary by drawing and it's also very difficult to know exactly where a boundary creep is occurring. i.e., behind the fraternity house. It has to get pretty bad before someone realizes that it is a creeping boundary because there is no survey.

Linda stated that she thinks that one of the things that is very different about the approach that is being taken is that they are following something that could be verified on the ground. Linda indicated that this would be seen on the maps presented to the committee by Erik Lewis. The redesignation of the lines are based on field surveyed wetland boundaries, surveyed floodplains, topographic lines, tree coverage. For example, there are places where they found wetland coverage that does not coincide with conservation area boundaries. As the committee goes through each one of these areas, for the next three meetings, they would be rectifying that line against known boundaries of physical features. Meanwhile, the committee should first agree on definitions. According to the Committee's work plan, discussions of Master Plan policies, including boundary marking is anticipated for the March meeting.

Peggy Carr suggested that there should be a new land use category to identify significant urban open space on campus such as the Plaza of the Americas. The committee further discussed this idea of having a hierarchy of open space types to also include buffers.

Eric Smith made a motion that the Committee accept the allowable uses as presented and instruct Staff to develop definitions for Conservation Area and two subcategories of Passive Recreation for committee approval. Motion was seconded by Peggy Carr and passed unanimously.

V. Conservation Areas, Preservation Areas and Passive Recreation

Due to time constraints, this was deferred until a future agenda.

VI. Conservation Boundary Adjustments

Due to time constraints, this was deferred until a future agenda.

VII. Schedule of Next Meeting:

The Committee agreed to meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 10:00 am until 12:00 pm with an extra meeting on February 2, 2005.

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am