

Parking & Transportation Advisory Committee

Minutes – February 4, 2016

The Parking & Transportation Advisory Committee was convened at 12:18 PM on Thursday, February 4, 2016, by Chair David Cowan. A quorum was present with 4 out of the 6 voting members in attendance.

PAC Member	Attendance	Constituency	Voting Status
David Cowan	Present	Administration Representative	Voting Member
Nancy Rolfsrud	Present	Faculty Association Representative	Voting Member
Katelyn “Kate” Schmit	Absent	Stu. Assn. Off-Campus Representative	Voting Member
Frederick de Ruiters	Absent	Stu. Assn. On-Campus Res. Hall Rep.	Voting Member
Mike Cofield (Alternate for Patrick Pearce)	Present	Classified Employee Representative	Voting Member
Shirley Piepho	Excused Absence	MSU Assn. of Admin. & Svc. Faculty (MSUAASF).	Voting Member
Jodi Orchard	Present	University Head Cashier	Ex-officio, Nonvoting
Sue Edstrom	Present	Parking Services Coordinator/Citation Appeals Board Liaison	Ex-officio, Nonvoting
Nathan Huettl	Present	Facilities Mgmt. ’s Planning & Construction Department	Ex-officio, Nonvoting
Frederick de Ruiters (now a voting member above)	Present	Residence Hall Association President	Ex-officio-Nonvoting
Cynthia Janney (or alternate)	Present	Residential Life Office	Ex-officio-Nonvoting
Shirley Piepho (now a voting member above)	Absent	University Scheduling	Ex-officio-Nonvoting

Review of 2015-16 Income and Spending Activity

Advisory Committee members reviewed a 2/1/16 updated spreadsheet on the 2015-16 financial activity of the Parking Fund. The income plan of \$1,634,143 may end up \$9,000 short due to lower than anticipated permit sales - \$937,978 was hoped for in total permit sales. Spending estimates of \$1,574,287 include the replacement of two vehicles (one for Security Patrol and one for Traffic Services: \$52,240), the replacement of which were “overdue” according to a vehicle replacement plan. Security vehicles are running around campus “24/7”. Spending also includes \$49,324 for a late bus invoice from the City tied to Spring Semester 2015 bus costs. Cost projections for 2015-16 include an estimated \$174,997 Fall/Spring Semester bus payment necessitated by an unexpectedly large increase from \$88 per hour level to \$97 per hour in the bus invoice formula.

7 Year Budget Planning Process – 3 % Permit Rate Increase Supported

Advisory Committee members concurred that the 3% a year permit rate increase should continue. Major planned lot improvements have not gone away with \$951,300 needed for Lot 1 (in back of old Gage Towers – 477 stalls), \$1,342,800 for the Performing Arts Lot 16 (657 stalls), etc. It was noted that the 3% permit rate change has allowed the Parking Fund to move from a \$230,384 shortfall 6/30/13 to a predicted \$20,813 surplus 6/30/16. Advisory Committee members recognize that the proposed Lot 1 project is “phased” so the Parking Fund would not take a huge hit in any given budget year. University Head Cashier Jodi Orchard asked that the price FY’17 \$255 for Residence Light Green be changed to \$256 so it is divisible with whole dollars. The “7 Year Budget Planning Forecasts” will be on the Annual Hearing Docket (a.k.a. “agenda”).

Capital Improvements Plan for Summer 2016

Nathan Huettl presented the 2016 Summer parking lot capital improvement request dealing with some \$60,000 in miscellaneous lot surface repairs. [Last summer Residential Life picked up the tab for the Lot 14 expansion project in recognition that the “horseshoe” parking spaces in front of Crawford would be relocated to Lot 14 and Lot 14a – those Crawford stalls fell victim to the \$30,000,000 Dining Services Building construction project. Also, between May and August 2015 planned parking improvements included \$17,600 for Malin lot resurfacing, \$18,800 for miscellaneous parking lot improvements, and \$21,400 for D-Wing Rep Rap to better protect the D-Wing Gold lot was sliding into the nearby ravine.]

Discussion on Changing Lot 23 (Free Lot) to Lot 23 Permit Lot

Advisory Committee members once again addressed whether or not to charge for parking in Lot 23 (a.k.a. “Free Lot”). Sue Edstrom supported the notion of changing Lot 23 into a “permit” lot. Student representative e Frederick de Ruiter made it clear that Minnesota State Student Association leaders would oppose any attempt to make the Free Lot into a permit lot. (Last year, in a failed 2-2 tie vote of the Advisory Committee, David Schieler moved that the Advisory Committee recommend that the Free Lot be changed to a Lot 23 Permit Lot with permits sold at \$74 each. Lot 23’s 436 stalls x \$74 each = \$32,264 minimum. At that time Schieler maintained that Lot 23 users should be paying for parking and that these funds could be used to offset growing busing costs.) It was noted that classified employee bargaining units were opposed in the past and want to keep the Free Lot. Cowan said that should a permit rate be adopted there is a good chance that some students will start parking on the curbs in nearby residential areas which would be problematic for City law enforcement and home owners. Cowan also indicated that with the uptick in bus ridership he was unable to sell out Orange permit stalls a couple of hundred of which stand empty in Lot 22 South. Having another permit lot with few buyers would mean more vacant stalls.

[In 2007 the “free lot” was upgraded from a gravel surface to a paved lot with improved lighting. A cost of \$230,000 was absorbed at the time by the Parking Fund, which has revenues from parking fines, permit holders, and Visitor Lot customers. The outcome of the April 9, 2013, Student Senate Elections referendum on the subject was overwhelming in support of keeping the “Free Lot” free, though its result was non-binding on an issue that affects all the campus’ constituencies.]

Green Transportation Busing Services Allotment – \$313,515 Proposed (11¢ per credit hour increase to \$1.01)

A \$313,515 request for 2016-17 has been forwarded to the Student Allocations Committee of the Student Senate. If approved, that would mean that the existing bus support level from student activity fees would increase by \$34,165 beyond the \$279,350 in place for the past two years. Bus ridership will probably top 500,000 rides for the 8.5 months in this Academic Year, a major increase over 2011-12’s 198,616 rides, the last year before the mandatory Green Transportation Fee kicked in as part of the overall Student Activity Fee increase for 2012-13. Advisory Committee members understood why the Parking Fund ended up absorbing a large share of the increased expense because the new \$97 per hour bus chargeback rate was not known until mid-August whereas the Green Transportation Fee allocation request was submitted six months earlier without the rate increase factored in.

Our existing contract with the City tops out at \$526,226 financed by \$279,350 Green Transportation Fee (90¢ per credit hour – each student activity penny is valued at \$3,207 x adjusted 320,756 credit hours); \$174,997 Parking Fund; \$35,737 Residential Life; and \$23,280 General Operating Fund. This year’s extended service to Tanager Court Area and the new apartment complex “Quarters” hopefully will be financed by an anticipated MnDOT grant with \$30,000 match from MSU (the \$30,000 is part of the \$174,997 from the Parking Fund).

Annual Public Hearing on Parking Policies, Budget, and Capital Improvements – Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Without objection, Advisory Committee members agreed, assuming space in the Student Union was available, to hold the Annual Public Hearing on Parking Policies, Budget, and Capital Improvements. [A reservation is now in place for CSU 201 Noon – 1:30 PM, Wednesday, March 2, 2016.]

Adjournment - Without objection the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM.