

Parking & Transportation Advisory Committee

Minutes – February 18, 2016

The Parking & Transportation Advisory Committee was convened at 12:15 PM on Thursday, February 18, 2016, by Chair David Cowan. A quorum was present with 6 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
Becky Wegscheid (alternate for Katelyn "Kate" Schmit)	Present	Stu. Assn. Off-Campus Representative	Voting Member
Frederick de Ruiter	Present	Stu. Assn. On-Campus Res. Hall Rep.	Voting Member
Mike Cofield (Alternate for Patrick Pearce)	Present	Classified Employee Representative	Voting Member
Shirley Piepho	Present	MSU Assn. of Admin. & Svc. Faculty (MSUAASF)	Voting Member
Jodi Orchard	Present	University Head Cashier	Ex-officio, Nonvoting
Sue Edstrom	Present	Parking Svcs.Coord./Citation Appeals Board Liaison	Ex-officio, Nonvoting
Nathan Huettl	Present	Facilities Mgmt.'s Planning & Construction Depart.	Ex-officio, Nonvoting
Frederick de Ruiter (now a voting member above)	Present	Residence Hall Association President	Ex-officio-Nonvoting
Cynthia Janney (or alternate)	Absent	Residential Life Office	Ex-officio-Nonvoting
Shirley Piepho	Present	University Scheduling	Ex-officio-Nonvoting

Minutes of Previous Meeting Review

Without objection the meeting minutes of February 4, 2016, were approved with a couple of typo corrections.

Kate Voight Proposal – Extra "30 years and above" Gold Permit Drawing Pool for Spring Drawing

Committee members viewed favorably Kate Voight's proposal for a new Gold Permit Drawing Pool comprised of folks who have obtained 30 or more of years of service/attendance. Advisory Committee Members recognize that a challenge could come from those who believe such a set-aside not in keeping with standards on age discrimination. Last year a similar proposal was questioned and it was thought that the Administration should seek legal advice before endorsing such a measure. Committee Members agreed not to proceed with this item until and unless some formal opinion was issued by the Administration.

If they want to buy a Gold permit anyone with 30 or more years of MSU service (student, staff or faculty) qualifies to be in the "Gold parking permit of choice" pool, without going being part of the existing two-pool Spring Gold Permit Drawing process.

- 1) Gold Parking permit application form would have a box indicating "Qualify for 30 or more years." It would be the responsibility of the student/staff/faculty to check this box to be considered for eligibility for this Gold Permit feature. MSU staff would verify with Human Resources or Registrar's Office prior to actual Spring Gold Permit Drawing held in mid-April.
- 2) Verify whether applicants are really eligible - Human Resources Office for faculty/staff applicants and the Registrar's Office.
- 3) Student records could be verified if a student with 30+ years as an active student.

- 4) If smaller Gold Permit lot locations are requested, no more than 5% of the lot (or nearest whole number) can be used for this process. Gold Permit small parking lot winners would qualify by years of service first, then may need to move to second or third gold choices.
- 5) The permit cannot be sold or given to another user, it is solely for use by this participant only.
- 6) The participant pays the full Gold price of the permit.

As of 2/11/2016: Human Resources confirms we had 203 staff/faculty in “Quarter Century Club” reaching 25 years of service, of which many are retiring. At 30+ years it is around 100 staff/faculty and again with some retiring.

Advisory Committee Votes 6-0 to Keep Existing Status of Free Lot (Lot 23)

Becky Wegscheid, representing off-campus students, in no uncertain terms expressed her support, and that of the Minnesota State Student Association, in maintaining the existing “free” status of Lot 23. After more discussion, Mike Cofield, representing classified employees, then moved that the Free Lot (Lot 23) remain free. Motion passed unanimously 6-0.

The points raised at this meeting – pro and con – were a repeat of statements made at the Advisory Committee’s meeting of February 4th. At the February 4th session Sue Edstrom supported the notion of changing Lot 23 into a “permit” lot. Student representative e Frederick de Ruitter 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.]

Proposed Bus Route Changes:

- **Sunday Service Requested** – Dolly Baruah, International Student Association President, presented an argument that something should be done about the absence on Sundays of any City-wide or campus bus service. She noted that a large number of students without vehicles depend on buses and having no Sunday routes isolates them and keeps them from campus. Advisory Committee Members were reminded that should such a route be created – essentially a 7th day for the one hour Stomper Express which goes to Walmart and the River Hills Mall – will well cost more than \$25,000 during the Academic Year. Since the City does not operate on Sundays it would also mean that dispatching services would be activated along with a mobility van on standby. Baruah said that it didn’t have to be an 8 hour Sunday but could be a 4 hour service. Advisory Committee Members agreed that Fall Semester Stomper Express ridership data needed to be reviewed before the Advisory Committee would decide what to recommend – in 2014-15 the six day 6 PM to 11 PM Stomper Express had 25,644 (5.5%) rides out of the total leased bus rides of 468,030. No money exists for the service this year.

- **Campus Express/Route 1B South Friday Service Proposed** – Ker Lor briefed Advisory Committee members on her proposal to get some Friday service out to Tanager Road and points east. Ker Lor lives in an apartment complex on Victory Drive where a number of students live. Shirley Piepho moved that the existing Friday Campus Express route be amended to at least go out to Tanager Road as an experiment. Central to the Piepho motion was the fact that no new costs would be incurred and that a reasonable amount of time would be added to the current 23 minute route. Motion passed.

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

The Annual Public Hearing on Parking Policies, Budget, and Capital Improvements will be held March 2, 2016 from Noon to 1:30 PM in the Student Union's room 201.

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