

Parking Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – Friday, January 25, 2002

Parking Advisory Committee Chairperson David Cowan convened a regular meeting of the Parking Advisory Committee at 1:04 PM on Friday, January 25, 2001 in the Conference Room of the Student Association in the Centennial Student Union.

Regular PAC Members Present – 5 of 6

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| 1. Rose Marie Ley | Representative for Classified Employee Groups |
| 2. David Cowan | Administration Representative |
| 3. C. Rhys Gaffer | Student Association Off-Campus Representative |
| 4. Steve Bohnenblust | IFO Faculty Association Representative |
| 5. Scott Hagebak | MSUAASF Bargaining Unit Representative |

Regular PAC Members Absent – 1 of 6

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| 1. (vacant- formerly held by Abby Tritabaugh) | Student Association On-Campus Representative |
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Ex-officio Members Present – 4 of 6

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| 1. Sue Edstrom | Parking & Traffic Svcs. Coordinator/Appeals Liaison |
| 2. Diane Solinger | Residential Life Office - Nonvoting |
| 3. Jodi Orchard | Alternate for Dave Neve, Business Affairs Office -
Nonvoting |
| 4. Marty Rost | Facilities Mgmt. Planning & Construction Manager -
Nonvoting |

Ex-officio Members Absent – 2 of 6

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| 1. Kristen Young | Residence Hall Association President - Nonvoting |
| 2. (Vacant) | Space Scheduling Office Liaison - Nonvoting |

Others in Attendance - 1

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| 1. Ian Radtke | Off-Campus Student Senator |
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Meeting Agenda Approved

The meeting agenda for the January 25th meeting was approved as distributed.

Meeting Minutes Reviewed

The meeting minutes of December 7th were then reviewed and approved.

Role of State Funds in Parking Capital Improvements

Marty Rost distributed a handout pulled from MnSCU's website dealing with legislative appropriations and campus parking programs. The "white paper" was written by Sally Grans, MnSCU Director of Facilities & Programming. During discussion of the handout this phrase was highlighted:

*The reason that state universities were left out of the legislation on the top of Page 1 was that there was a gentlemen's agreement between legislators and the state universities that **all costs** of parking lot maintenance and improvement would be paid with user fees.*

That statement has been the basis for MnSCU decisions not to back requests from the 4-year institutions for parking related funding. It was noted that state appropriations were approved for “land acquisition” at Minnesota State University – Moorhead.

A possible textual error was pointed out on the last page of the “white paper” – it materially affected on what level of state funds could be made available to address for 4-year campus parking needs. Specifically the text states:

The law allows any state appropriation – capital, HEAPR [Higher Education Asset Preservation & Replacement], R & R [Repair & Replacement], operating budget - to be used for up to 2/3 of the cost of any parking lot construction or repair. The remaining 1/3 may not come from any of those sources listed above.

Some PAC members had assumed that the above language affected only community and technical colleges, with the 4-year MnSCU institutions left out of the loop. However, other PAC members concluded from a reading of the entire “white paper” that: 1) state appropriations could be used for construction and/or repair for up to 2/3 of the cost; and 2) that 4-year institutions were not excluded in any way.

PAC members asked that MnSCU’s Sally Grans be contacted to get an interpretation and/or explanation. Members recognized even if state appropriations could be requested to create parking garages/ramps and/or repair parking lots, that locally MSU’s administration may not view it as a high enough of a priority to lobby for parking funds what with Phase III of the Student Athletics Facility still up in the air (\$8.4 million is being sought; Phase III is 13th on MnSCU’s priority list).

Cross Charges from Grounds Maintenance

PAC members complained that parameter mowing around the parking lots should not be charged to the Parking Program. Steve Bohnenblust argued that things like road resurfacing and parameter mowing around the lots should be considered routine costs associated with MSU’s state funded Buildings & Grounds Department. Marty Rost reminded members that though parking funds had been used to purchase snow removal equipment, that when such equipment is used during the summer for other tasks that the Parking Program receives payment from regular state M&E funds for the hours consumed. (A net of \$60,672 was charged against Parking’s Lot Maintenance & Repair cost center during 2000-01, some of those costs were related to parameter mowing.)

Marty Rost stated that people should remember that parking is a “privilege” and not something that the state should automatically provide. Rost indicated that an “averaging” methodology was being used to determine what to charge against parking, a calculation technique which generates charges on a predictable routine though there may be no snow to plow or growing grass to cut during a specific time period. Tom Nelson, Grounds Maintenance Supervisor, reported that Grounds employees do not log actual hour by hour work time when detailed to remove snow, grade or sweep lots, mow grass on the parameters of lots, pickup parking lot trash, etc. Nelson explained that it wasn’t always a clean break when machine operators move from clearing snow from parking lots to sidewalks. Nelson understood the Committee’s concern that parking funds not be used to pay for the snow removal of state funded sidewalks.

Scott Hagebak recommended that the existing averaging system be dropped and that a “real time hours worked” system be tried in the future. Hagebak suggested that sidewalk snow removal, because by and large it is done with smaller machines, could easily be left of the logging requirement, but that employees operating the larger plows and two giant John Deere Tool Carriers log hours spent on parking lots and MSU owned streets. Though no vote was taken on the matter at the time, many PAC members agreed with Hagebak’s approach.

The 2002-03 budget request for the Lot Maintenance & Repair cost center needs to have a well grounded rationale for what well may be a \$60,000 twelve month cross charge bill. The fact that the “averaging” methodology was instituted under former Operations Vice President Joe Metro does not mean it makes sense. The PAC has yet to approve of any FY’03 request for this cost center (#337835).

FY’03 Capital Improvement Needs

Marty Rost orally presented what the University believed should be done this coming summer to improve existing parking facilities. Lot 3 repairs and resurfacing was the University's top priority. Other proposed improvements were discussed as well. The bill could total \$190,000 during 2002-03, a sum similar to the \$185,257 spent to date this year. More up-to-date estimates will be provided by Larry Kohanek and Marty Rost in the near future as soon as they receive updates from Bolten & Menk.

Adjournment

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 2:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David Cowan, Chairperson
Parking Advisory Committee