

Testimony Presented at
ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING
ON
PARKING POLICIES, BUDGET, AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Thursday, February 14, 2007 – CSU Room 201
2:30 PM to 3:30 PM

A public hearing was convened by Rob McGinn, Environmental Health and Safety Director, at 2:30 pm in room 201, of the Centennial Student Union, Minnesota State University, Mankato. Rob gave a brief opening statement explain the reason and purpose of the hearing as well rules of conduct. The Hearing was recorded on cassette tape.

Introductions

1. Members of the Parking Advisory Committee and the independent Parking Citation Appeals Board were introduced.

Documentation

2. Dave Cowan made known that the documents for this hearing were available at the front and were the “2007 – 2008 Parking Program Finances FY’09 Proposed Budget”, the “2008 Parking Lot Improvements”, the “Hearing Docket”, and the “2007 – 2008 Parking and Traffic Guidelines”.

Summer Capital Improvement Plan for the Summer of 2008

3. An introduction of the proposed \$155,100 summer 2007 Capital Improvement plan was provided by Larry Kohanek, of the Planning & Construction Department. Rob McGinn opened the hearing to questions on this item. There were no questions brought forward.

2007- 2008 proposed Parking Program Budget

4. An overview of the 2008-09 income plan (\$1,469,770) and spending plan (\$1,114,800) was given by David Cowan. It included an across-the-board permit rate increase of 3% (\$24,750). The hearing was opened to questions on this item. There were no questions brought forward.

Create a Separate Lot 13 Green Permit and a Separate Lot 16 Green Permit

5. David Cowan, as Parking Advisory Committee Chairperson, opened discussion on the proposal to create a separate Green parking permit for Lot 13 and a separate Lot 16 to accommodate the residents of the new Sears Residence Hall which will be coming on line for the 2008-2009 academic year. The hearing was opened to questions on this item.
 - a) **Amy Thul**, Crawford Hall, asked how many students would be living in the new halls.
 - b) **Dave Cowan** stated that there would be as many as 608.

- c) **Amy Thul** stated that she was concerned that there would be no space available for parking for students coming back to the halls late at night.
- d) **David Cowan** stated that the allotted stalls in Lot 13 and/or Lot 16 were not going to be oversold to the point where a green permit holder would arrive late at night and not find a Green permit stall. Also, in the past Lot 16 Daytime Green had been sold to accommodate off campus students and that a parking survey of the lot showed that despite the sale of the extra Day permits there was always an average of 50 unoccupied stalls during the day.
- e) **Scott Hagebak**, PAC member stated that the separating of the permits should help the parking situation since there would be no overlap of the two lots. Each permit holder would have to choose which lot to park in when they purchase the permit, and would not be allowed to park in the other lot.
- f) **Torin Akey**, Residence Life Office staffer, stated that there were plans to renovate parts of Crawford Hall during the coming academic year which would lower the demand by 270 potential users. He also expressed concern about the effect that the planned removal of the Yellow Guest stalls from around the halls would have on older guests during inclement weather. Torin opposes the removal of the 15 close-in Yellow Guest stalls.
- g) **Sue Edstrom** of Parking Enforcement, stated that approximately 3,000 guest permits are issued each year, resulting in the majority of the guests needing to park in Lot 20A (the planned relocation area for the 15 Yellow Guest stalls), and that most guests are not parents.
- h) **Torn Akey** stated that the infrastructure is not in place to identify the guests using the spaces.
- i) **Dave Cowan** related information provided by Todd Pfingsten about Lot 7's 111 Gold permit stalls not being included in the proposed Recreation Field Upgrade proposal.

Open Forum

- 6. The hearing was open for general questions.
 - a) **Harshdeep Bhasin**, Student Senate, questions why there was not better bus transportation at night from the campus to the surrounding apartments. The bus service now ends at 6 pm Monday thru Thursday and 4:30 pm on Fridays.
 - b) **Dave Cowan** stated that the university has done some investigation of that issue and that it might be a good item for the Student Senate to look into as the Senate's Campus Express route #1 Bus was the only one that went off-campus to nearby apartment complexes.
- 7. **The hearing was adjourned at 3:15**