

March 6, 2015

TO: Ron Fields, Assistant Vice President for Facilities Management

FROM: David Cowan, Parking Advisory Committee Chairperson

RE: "Post-Hearing" Recommendations from Parking Advisory Committee – Endorsed March 6, 2015

As you were aware the Annual Hearing on Parking & Transportation Policies, Budget & Capital Improvements was held 12 Noon, Wednesday, March 4. Testimony was taken and the hearing concluded at 1:15 PM. The volunteers serving on the Parking Advisory Committee were impressed with the comments from the 13 present at the hearing, as well as from 3 written suggestions received via email by the 11 AM, March 4th deadline. The following have been "endorsed" by the Parking & Transportation Advisory Committee at its March 6th meeting and are submitted for review by the Budget Sub-Meet & Confer Committee, Meet & Confer Committees, and the Administration.

1. Post-Hearing Recommendation - \$1.6 M Income/\$1.4 M Spending Plans; Year 1 of 7 Year Capital Parking Lot Improvement Plan

In its "post-hearing" recommendation the PAC endorsed a \$1,594,401 overall income plan (parking permits, fine collections, Visitor Paylot receipts, etc.) and a \$1,436,130 spending plan for FY'16. The Advisory Committee understands that the 7 year plan will be examined each year, and our effort will be to try to finance as much of these repairs as possible using parking permit revenues, Visitor Paylot receipts, meter income, and revenue from parking citations. \$51,372 shortfall showing June 30, 2014, is now eliminated but more needs to be done to ensure a healthy balance when the Lot 1 repairs (revised cost \$800,000 split over 3 years) are put in place (summer 2017).

(The Parking & Transportation Advisory Committee specifically endorsed the 2015-16 income and spending plans, including the 3% increase in parking permit rates, and recognizes that other years within the 7 year budget spreadsheet would be reviewed annually with budget numbers modified depending on the circumstances at that time.)

2. Post-Hearing Recommendation – FY'16 \$913,614 Permit Estimate (\$28,778 from 3% Permit Rate Increase on top of \$884,836 FY'15 Receipt Base)

The major factor driving the recommended permit rate hikes is projected parking lot repairs looming for both the \$800,000, Lot 1 estimate for 477 stall lot (behind old Gage Towers "footprint"), and the 600 stall Performing Arts Lot 16 (\$1.3 million).

Parking Permit & Citation Areas	Existing	Proposed for Public Hearing held on March 4, 2015	"Post Hearing" Recommendations of Parking Advisory Committee – Approved 6 to 0	
			Recommended Rate	Advisory Committee Rationale
Gold – 963 Stalls – 982 Permit Sales Ceiling (12 Month)	\$290	\$299	\$300	Represents a \$24.92 monthly investment for premium close-in parking. Rate needed for looming parking lot repairs. St. Cloud State has \$300-\$500; Southwest \$274-\$390, Bemidji \$361, Winona \$195, Moorhead \$204.
Purple (Academic Year)	\$186	\$192	\$192	Represents a \$24 monthly investment for relatively close-in parking. St. Cloud rate at \$185 for "K & Q" lots.
Orange (Academic Year)	\$132	\$136	\$136	Represents \$17 monthly investment for more distant parking in Lots 21 South and 22. Bemidji at \$105, Moorhead \$110, St. Cloud \$185, Winona \$90, Southwest \$73-\$153.
Residence Hall Light Green – Close-in (Academic Year)	\$240	\$247	\$248	Represents a \$30.88 monthly investment for premium close-in 24 hour parking near renter's residence hall. St. Cloud \$285 to \$500 (ramp), Southwest \$249. (Lot 13 disappears due to construction in the summer of 2015; Lot 14 and Lot 16 Green are the only "Light Green" lots left.
Res. Hall Discount Dark	\$186	\$192	\$192	Represents a \$24 monthly investment to park over at the parking areas in Lot 2 (old Gage Towers "footprint") and Lot 1. Discount

Green (Academic Year)				Green is relatively close to the campus core and but a short ride using the buses and/or shuttles, or a ten minute walk from Crawford, McElroy, or Sears.
Blue Handicap Parking Permit (12 Month)	\$132	\$136	\$136	Represents a \$11.33 monthly investment for premium close-in parking for 12 month permit. Rate tied to nine-month Orange permit charge in the past. Continues to be the least expensive of all four-wheeled vehicle permits.
Silver Motorcycle/ Scooter Permit (Academic Year)	\$54 or \$27 with the purchase of a regular permit for a 4 wheeled vehicle.	\$56 or \$27 with the purchase of a regular permit for a 4 wheeled vehicle.	\$56 or \$28 with the purchase of a regular permit for a 4 wheeled vehicle.	Represents a \$7 monthly investment for zoned two-wheeled vehicle parking in Lot 5 (by Taylor Center), Lot 7 (by Tennis Court), Lot 16 (Performing Arts lot), Lot 13 (Crawford), and Lot 15 (front of McElroy). \$3.50 monthly investments if owner already has regular permit for a 4 wheeled vehicle. PAC believes that existing rate is low enough to support growth in the use of such energy efficient 2-wheeled vehicles. Committee members turned down a suggestion made at the hearing to allow regular permit holders to use their regular permits on their motorcycles in lieu of buying a motorcycle permit – it was thought that there would be too much abuse with two vehicles on campus at the same time if the suggestion was approved.
Parking Fines – Increase Proposed	Varies	Varies	Varies	Basic rate goes from \$30 to \$35 with an “early bird” payment of \$30. The rates haven’t been changed for some time and the Advisory Committee felt that more of a dis-incentive for parking wrong was needed to reduce violations from the current 11,000 annually. http://www.mnsu.edu/parking/pdf/proposed_violationsfine.pdf
Visitors Paylot – Increase to \$4 on the 1 st Hour of Parking	\$3 first hour; \$2 per hour thereafter	\$4 first hour; \$2 per hour thereafter	\$4 first hour; \$2 per hour thereafter	The Visitors Paylot (200 stalls) \$289,570 in 2013-14. Too many plastic permit holders still choose to park in the Visitors Paylot so the \$1 increase may deter such practices. The current \$3/\$2 rate kicked in 2007-08 which was an increase from 2006-07 when the rates were \$2 first hour; \$1 thereafter.
Green Transportation Fee – 90¢ now folded into the overall Student Activity Fee of \$7.14 (\$85.68 banded 12-18 credit hrs.)	\$273,200 [90¢ per credit hour Yield] Pending SAC and Student Senate Review	\$3,139 (roughly 1¢ per credit hour). Student Allocations Committee to Review.	\$279,478 [91¢ per credit hour Yield] Pending SAC and Student Senate Review	Green Transportation Fee, set in motion Fall 2012, needs to be raised by 1¢ per credit hour (from 90¢ to 91¢) to generate an additional \$3,139, which, together with hoped for funding from Residential Life, will be used to cover added costs. The Green Transportation Fee allocation for FY’15 was \$273,200. The total busing costs is projected at \$426,517 for FY’15 financed by: \$273,200 from the Green Transportation Fee; \$102, 317 from Parking Fund; \$32,000 Residential Life; and \$19,000 to help run the Stomper Express to selected off-campus sites (River Hills Mall, Wal-Mart, e.g.).

3. Post Hearing Recommendation – Keep Lot 23 as a Non-Permit Lot

Considerable discussion occurred both at the March 4th Public Hearing and at the March 6th Advisory Committee meeting. In an unanimous 6-0 decision the Voting Members of the Advisory Committee agreed that the existing status of Lot 23 as a “non-permit” lot continue.

Notwithstanding the argument that the 436 stalls in Lot 23 should generate permit revenue to help cover snow removal costs and lot repairs, and that such costs were a burden on other permit holders, Advisory Committee members cited various reasons why the University should keep the “free lot free,” among which included the fact that nearby retailers and homeowners had not been aware of any new effort to charge for a Lot 23 permit as it had not been a formal part of the March 4th Public Hearing Docket. (The Advisory Committee, in its February 6th meeting voted down an effort to include a Lot 23 permit as a recommendation of the Committee.)

The potential of a negative impact on the University’s neighbors was of concern, and the strong position of the Student Association in opposition to a change, were contributing factors in the Advisory Committee’s final recommendation to maintain the status quo for Lot 23.

4. Post Hearing Recommendation – Years of Service to be Factored in during the April Gold Permit Drawing

Based on a suggestion made by Kate Voight during the March 4th Public Hearing, the Advisory Committee recommends that the existing Gold Permit Drawing procedures be modified to create a third drawing pool made of those employees who have been MSU employees 30 years or more. Those signing up would be checked with Human Resources for eligibility and there may be as many as 50 out of the 1,100 involved in the Gold Permit Drawing. Two existing pools have worked well over the years (Faculty/Staff drawing pool; Student drawing pool).



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