

Annual Public Hearing
Parking and Transportation Policies, Budget and Capital Improvements
Wednesday, March 2, 2016
CSU201
Noon - 1:30 PM

The Annual Hearing on Parking and Transportation Policies, Budget and Capital Improvements was called to order at 12:00 PM by David Cowan, University Facilities Services Director and Chair of the Parking and Transportation Advisory Committee. Minnesota Statutes were cited as the public hearing requirements. Outcome of any policy and budget proposals, if approved by the Administration, will take effective July 1, 2016. The necessary hearing announcements were publicized appropriately within the *Reporter* on February 23, February 25, and March 1, 2016. An e-mail announcement to all University faculty, staff and students was also sent on Monday, February 29th informing them of this hearing.

Advisory Committee Members present included: David Cowan, Nancy Rolfsrud, Sue Edstrom, Mariah Haffield, Fred de Ruitter, Shirley Piepho, Jodi Orchard, Nathan Huettl. Members not present were: Cindy Janney and Kay Schmit.

Members from the separate Parking Citation Appeals Board included Board Chair Brad Barnard.

Documents available for all individuals to take and review included:

- Public Hearing Docket
- MSU Parking Lot Map
- MSU Parking Manual
- Busing System Allocation Subsidy Request 2016-17
- MSU Campus Bus Routes with expenses displayed
- MSU Parking and Busing Program Finance report and the Minutes for both Parking & Busing Advisory Committee meetings dated February 4 and 18, 2016.

The documents were presented and discussed.

E-mails Submitted for Hearing

David Cowan read into the record the five e-mails that were submitted prior to the hearing. A summary of the five e-mails include: 1) Individual wanted to express that they “declined” the increase for parking permit costs; 2) Individual expressed concern on Parking Permit and the possible design of having “faculty lots”, “student lots”, and “specialty lots”; 3) Individual expressed the need for a pedestrian walkway midway in the upper deck of the Visitors Pay Lot; 4) Individual expressed concern on increased price of permits and whether there should be a change in price for Visitor Pay Lot passes sold at a discount to departments; 5) Individual was in favor of parking permit increase, get rid of “free lot” and would like to have more advance notice of public meetings.

Gold Permit Drawing – 30 Years and Above Separate Drawing Pool

Kate Voight discussed her proposal for a separate pool in the Spring Gold Permit Drawing to be made up of employees with 30+ years of service. These individuals would have their first choice of parking permit prior to the drawing participants. Student Association President Mariah Haffield stated that to be fair to the students who have been attending MSU for 15+ years should also be included, instead of Voight’s proposed 30+ years for both employees and students. The procedures and suggestions on those who

would be eligible to participate in this drawing pool were discussed. Because of an on-going review as to the proposal's compatibility with known anti-age discrimination laws, the proposal will not be able to be implemented this spring.

7 Year Budget Planning – 3% Yearly Increase

Mark Constantine stated the 3% increase in parking permit prices for FY17, and the 3% increments for upcoming years, seemed “steep”. Sue Edstrom commented to what should be eliminated for parking or busing if they reduced the permit price increase. Nathan Huettl also commented that a reduced price increase would not fund construction costs associated with the parking lots.

Lot 23 – Keeping the Lot Free or Convert it to a Permit Lot

Lot 23 (Free Lot) discussion was held. The consensus with the student body, commented Fred de Ruiter and Mariah Haffield, is to keep the “Free lot” free. Nathan Huettl stated that they could keep the free lot or cut back on the bus routes to ensure sufficient funds for lot repairs. Fred de Ruiter stated that the students would approve a parking permit increase if they could keep the Free Lot.

Busing - \$34,165 Requested from Student Allocation Committee & Student Senate

Presented before the Student Allocation Committee is an 11c increase per credit hour on top of the present 90c per hour credit hour mandatory assessment known as the Green Transportation Fee (GTF). [GTF allocations now total \$279,350 which is used to cover part of the \$526,000 in expenses estimated for 2015-16.]

David Cowan discussed concerns that area apartment complexes are not directly contributing to busing for MSU. However, local apartment complexes are buying advertising space within the bus shelters and the back of the seats within the city buses promoting their complexes. MSU does receive 10% revenue back to the parking fund from MSS Media (vendor who handles advertising within MSU parking shelters). The City of Mankato did have to raise their invoice to MSU last fall due to the costs of three additional buses that were purchased (\$460,000 per bus, less 90% Federal funding and 10% City of Mankato funding).

Increase Green Residence Hall Permit Prices

Discussion with Kate Voight, Fred de Ruiter and Sue Edstrom regarding cost of Gold permits vs Green permits should be the same and/or possible additional restrictions on gold permits for after hours or weekend. David Cowan referred to documents offered with a breakdown for Green and Gold permits monthly costs with comparison to rate and dates of permit usage. FY16 Gold permits average \$25.83 month while the Light Green permit averages are at \$31.88 per month.

Gold Permit Stalls in Lot 16

Zac Orum commented that he would like to see the two rows (30 stalls each) of Gold permits within Lot 16 moved to the front of the lot Gold permit holders. That would push Light Green permit stall parkers two rows to the east in that lot (400 Light Green stalls; 200 Gold stalls). Light Green (Lot 16) permit holders live across the street in McElroy, Preska, and Crawford and park 24/7 – moving two rows of Light Green permit stalls further away might be a safety issue and an enforcement trap.

Parking Citation Appeals

Sue Edstrom stated that the yearly average is 12,000 citations which produce 800 appeals. David Cowan complimented the Parking Citation Appeals Board on their work.

Special Event Traffic Control Chargebacks

Special Event costs for parking were discussed with Shirley Piepho and David Cowan. Shirley reported that parking fee is in place for all special events, conference, etc. that are scheduled at MSU. The MSU customized event maps to assist with parking concerns are being used more and more for workshops, conferences and athletic events. Additional caution was mentioned on spending funds that may be reduced due to reduced due to a downturn in client income from special events from the Vikings and Summer Training Camp, workshops, and conferences.

Public Hearing Adjourned

The public hearing adjourned at 1:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Walters, Hearing Recording Secretary