

Parking Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – Friday, January 19, 2007

Parking Advisory Committee Chairperson David Cowan convened a regular meeting of the PAC at 12:37 PM on Friday, January 19, 2007, in the conference room of the Student Association Office.

Regular PAC Voting Members Present - 5 of 6

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| 1. David Cowan | Administration Representative & PAC Chairperson |
| 2. Nathan Madden | Student Association’s Off-Campus Rep. – Voting Member |
| 3. Evan Trosvik (alternate for Nolan Chenevert) | Residence Hall Assn. Representative – Voting Member |
| 4. Autumn Benner | Faculty Association Representative – Voting Member |
| 5. Shirley Piepho | Association of Administrative & Service Faculty
(MSUAASF) Representative – Voting Member |

Regular PAC Voting Members Absent – 1 of 6

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| 1. (Vacant – Formerly held by Rose Marie Ley) | Classified Employee Representative – Voting Member |
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Ex-officio Non-Voting Members Present – 3 of 7

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| 1. Jodi Orchard | Student Financial Services Representative |
| 2. Sue Edstrom | Parking & Traffic Services Coordinator and Parking
Planning & Construction Department |
| 3. Marty Rost | Citation Appeals Board Liaison |

Ex-officio Non-Voting Members Absent – 4 of 7

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| 1. Cynthia Janney | Residential Life Office |
| 2. Katie Halloran (Excused) | Residence Hall Association President |
| 3. (Vacant) | Minnesota Association of Professional Employees
(MAPE) |
| 4. (Vacant) | MN Management Association (MMA) |

Approval of the Agenda

Without objection the agenda circulated to PAC members was approved.

Approval of Meeting Minutes of November 7, 2006

Without objection the meeting minutes of November 27, 2006 were approved as distributed.

Revised Costs Associated with Proposed Summer Work Projects

Marty Rost reviewed the changes which have surfaced in the past two months regarding estimated costs associated with PAC endorsed Summer 2007 parking lot improvement projects.

Proposed Summer 2007 Projects	October 2006 Estimate	1/2/07 Forecast	Difference
Lot 1 (Behind Gage)	\$ 5,925	\$ 34,445	\$ 28,520
Lot 7 (by Blakeslee Stadium across from Myers Field House)	47,561	63,113	15,552
Lot 12 (by Library)	28,079	28,240	161
Lot 23 (aka “free lot”)	189,019	213,860	24,841
Engineering	24,000	20,240	(3,760)
Patching	15,000	15,000	- 0-
Totals	\$ 309,584	\$ 374,898	\$ 65,314

It was noted that it was unlikely that there was much appetite for diverting regular M&E or Repair & Replacement Funds to help cover some of the costs of these projects. Notwithstanding the fact that heavy Grounds Maintenance vehicles and equipment may have contributed to the crumbling of the section of Lot 7 that needs repairs, many of those same vehicles are committed to parking lot and street related chores part of year. A comment was made that state M&E funds do annually support the self-sustaining Parking Program to the degree that electricity is consumed by parking lot lights and the three heated bus shelters.

PAC Chairperson David Cowan noted that the amended cost estimate total of \$374,898 was included in the draft of the proposed 2007-08 Parking Program budget. [The PAC endorsed Capital Improvement Projects will be on the “Docket” of the Thursday, February 15, 2007, Annual Hearing on Parking Policies, Capital Improvements, and Budget.]

Review of Proposed 2007-08 Budget Proposal

PAC members reviewed each of the income components which combined total a forecast of \$1,470,050.

- **Proposed Increase to Parking Violation Rate for Violators Parking in Gold Permit Stall - \$15 Old; \$25 Proposed**

Autumn Benner moved that the PAC endorse a proposal whereby violations in Gold permit areas be raised to \$25 from the existing universal citation rate of \$15 for the most common offenses. Motion passed. [This proposed change will be on the "Docket" of the Thursday, February 15, 2007, Annual Hearing on Parking Policies, Capital Improvements, and Budget.]

[Applying the traditional "early bird" payment deduction would lower the \$25 fine to \$20 if the violator paid the fine within four work days.]

During discussion of the motion members were concerned that the existing \$15 parking citation standard adopted in 2001-02 makes no distinction between closer-in stalls (e.g., Gold) and those areas further out from the campus core (e.g., Purple and Orange stalls). And with the existing \$12 "early bird" payment option it could be the same cost to park illegally in Lot 6 Gold then to park 10 hours across the street in the Paylot (\$2 first hour, \$1 thereafter x 10 hours = \$12 for 10 hour paylot stay). [The example cited is not an unknown circumstance for students with a full day of day classes and a night class obligation.]

PAC members believe that the \$270,000 twelve month FY'08 estimate for fine collections would not be affected by a \$25 fine for illegally parking in a Gold stall, though 35% of that figure is related historically to tickets issued in Gold lots. The proposed fine increase to \$25 for parking illegally in Gold stalls is not designed as a hike in the citation revenue stream because it is believed that the number of tickets issued would fall dramatically, offsetting what the rate raise would bring in.

[Out of 5,312 parking stalls on campus 963 (18%) are committed as Gold permit stalls. Of 19,558 citations issued in the 2005-06 fiscal year, 7,101 (36%) were for parking illegally in a Gold permit stall. As of 1/25/07 there have been 10,472 tickets issued during this fiscal year and 3,695 (35%) were for illegally parking in a Gold permit stall.]

- **Proposed Increase to Lot 4 Paylot Hourly Rates; Lot 21 Paybox to Remain at \$1 Per Hour**

The use of the Paylot grew by another 5% last year bringing in \$302,330 in 2005-06 compared to \$286,387 in 2004-05. The existing rate of "\$2 first hour/\$1 per hour thereafter" charge has been around since 2001-02. PAC members have struggled over the six years to develop a plan acceptable to the campus community which would deal with increasing demand. Expanding the existing 180 stall Paylot would require chipping away at Lot 4a Gold's 82 stalls and eliminating a highly sought after Gold permit lot in the critical campus core.

Pressure on the Paylot has mounted since the Student Union's major remodeling effort was finished last year. Department conference planners continue to demand close-in parking options for events held in Morris Hall and the Centennial Student Union. Career day events are attracting more company representatives and high profile lecturers are bringing in more and more community members from off-campus. PAC members continue to believe all of these off-campus visitors can be accommodated in the 180 stall Paylot if existing MSU Orange and Purple permit holders would park in their permit areas and avoid using the Paylot on cold and/or rainy days. Permit price increases over the past five years, without a similar increase in the Paylot hourly rate, support individual decisions to pay cash at the Paylot over buying a parking permit.

[A suggestion which surfaced last spring included merging the two lots and mixing cash customers with Lot 4a Gold permit holders. To avoid gridlock at the Paylot Attendant's Booth gate arm, the Gold permit holders would exit from a separate card triggered exit arm where the existing Lot 4a Gold lot entrance is now located. Electrical capacity and card reader hookups were not readily available and complications arose concerning broadening the exit area to accommodate card access device. Adding more vehicles trying to come into the Ellis Street entrance of the Paylot also created concerns about everybody entering at about the same time when cash customers now arrive.]

Shirley Piepho moved that the PAC endorse a proposal whereby the exiting Paylot rates would change from the existing "\$2 first hour/\$1 thereafter" to a higher rate of "\$3 first hour/\$2 thereafter." Motion passed. Piepho argued that this change would act to discourage bad weather day impulse parking on the part of existing permit holders and may help persuade many to finally buy a parking permit and park elsewhere. [This proposed change will be on the "Docket" of the Thursday, February 15, 2007, Annual Hearing on Parking Policies, Capital Improvements, and Budget.]

Departments would continue to purchase Paylot passes for their guests and visitors at these existing rates: \$2.50 for 4 Hour Paylot Pass; \$5 for the All Day Paylot Pass.

For cash customers who don't want to pay the higher rate the Lot 21 Paybox remains an option where they can park in Lot 21 Purple or Lot 21 Orange for \$1 an hour.

Should the Piepho proposal survive the Annual Public Hearing February 15, 2007, and be adopted by the Administration, the PAC believes the \$300,000 FY'08 revenue estimate for Paylot receipts would not need to be changed. What number of MSU cash customers would be lost to the Paylot would be made up in the additional charge picked up by those who continue to use the Paylot.

Expenditure Plan Adjustments

The proposed \$1,391,000 spending plan for 2007-08, which is spread among 8 different Parking Program cost centers, was then reviewed. It was noted that wages were budgeted at 3% over this year's level of \$309,995 and that fringe benefits associated with 8.33 FTE in personnel positions took a 6% hike. FY'07 Student payroll budgets of \$309,995 would likewise take a similar adjustment in 2007-08. Supply budgets for FY'08 were figured with an inflationary factor of 3% and the actual recommendation of \$374,898 for parking improvements this coming summer was used. The PAC did raise by \$6,000 the \$111,200 set aside for the Traffic & Parking Services cost center.

Income & Spending Recommendations Endorsed for Inclusion on Annual Parking Hearing Docket

Evan Trosvik moved that the PAC recommend a 2007-08 Parking Program fiscal year budget of \$1,470,050 in income and \$1,397,000 in spending. Motion unanimously approved. [The proposed budget will be on the "Docket" of the Thursday, February 15, 2007, Annual Hearing on Parking Policies, Capital Improvements, and Budget.]

Scooters & Mini-Bikes – Road Licensed Machines be Treated as Motorcycles Requiring MSU Permits

Sue Edstrom then presented information of how other campuses are handling the influx of scooters and mini-bikes. This past fall scooters and mini-bikes were parking in and near existing bike racks. Edstrom noted that today it is much harder to figure out what is a scooter below or above the existing MSU threshold of "125 cc or larger" used to distinguish between scooters (no permit required) and motorcycles which require a \$60 MSU permit (or \$30 permit if owner has another MSU parking permit). [See Article V – Section H of the Parking Guidelines handbook.]

Nathan Madden moved that the PAC endorse amending the existing Article V. Section H standard by deleting any reference to "125 cc or larger" and substituting in its place language that scooters and mini-bikes which require a Minnesota license plate shall park in campus areas set aside for motorcycles, scooters and mini-bikes, and that they pay \$60 for a sticker (or \$30 with other MSU permit) for that privilege. [The \$60 is the same rate that motorcycles pay.] Motion passed. [The proposed amendment will be on the "Docket" of the Thursday, February 15, 2007, Annual Hearing on Parking Policies, Capital Improvements, and Budget.]

Departments to Receive Reminders on Conference Parking

It was agreed that the PAC Chairperson would send out a reminder to departments that they include University Scheduling in all their planning for lectures and conferences and that they not assume that the Paylot will be readily available to their guests and visitors, especially during class days. There are too many times when University Scheduling, Parking & Traffic Services, and/or Traffic Control find out about public invitations to events by reading the *Mankato Free Press* or by getting vehicles stacked up in front of the Paylot.

Adjournment

Without objection the meeting was then adjourned at 1:52 PM.