

**Transportation Services Gameday RV Advisory Committee Meeting
02-20-2015; 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Village Center conference room**

Meeting called by: Transportation Services

P = Peter Lange
D = Debbie Hoffmann
L = Lynn Wiggs

Welcome & Updates

- **Penberthy Boulevard RV parking**
 - P - Athletics is building a new complex with fields south of George Bush Drive off Penberthy. We will be adding a parking lot in the area and will probably have enough real-estate to put in some new RV parking with full hookups. The plan would be similar to the Equine RV setup. We would probably offer the spaces to 12th Man first since it will be premium RV parking with full water, electricity and sewer connections.
 - Are you sure you are going to have the new RV lot?
 - P - We are not sure yet. Have to go to the Board of Regents meeting. We thought some of our RV customers might want to park in it for this season.
 - If I normally park in another lot and I gave that up for the new lot, would I be able to get back into the lot I was in originally?
 - P - It is worth coming up with a system that is not going to hurt our season pass holders if they want to move to the new lot temporarily.
 - Put it up for sale online.
 - Do you know for sure that 12th Man is interested?
 - P - Met with them last week and they felt it was too much to change for this season.
 - D - The price would most likely be \$215.00 per game.
 - Did equine fill last year?
 - L - Yes.
 - We will never rent at Equine again; it's too far away.
 - I was in R lot and wouldn't have left if for anything.
 - P - Arrival time for the new lot would be better due to its location.
 - Don't think you would have any trouble selling it out.
 - I wouldn't exclude someone from parking in their regular lot again if they decided to park in the new lot this season.
 - P - My vision of one large RV parking area mentioned in our last meeting is no longer possible in the Penberthy area. We might have another opportunity for a small parking area on Luther Street.
 - Are the RV spots going to be offered for a full season this season?
 - P - No, game by game since we won't know soon enough about the completion date for the project.
 - L – Also, “season” for our regular customers implies they would be renewable.

Continued Topics

- **2014 Football RV check-in, attendance & appeals update**

- D - We flubbed it. Things didn't go well; we had wet check-in sheets, a new security team that took the lists with them, and attendants who wrote information on the wrong line. We ended up modifying how we approached season pass holders from the 1st to the 2nd game. We gave everyone the benefit of the doubt if they wrote back that we were wrong in our attendance records. After the 4th game we sent emails to everyone: one email if they had met the requirement and another if they had not as of the 4th game according to our records. Then after the final game, we sent another email if they hadn't met the requirement. This season we had the most turnover we have ever had.
- You might have wanted to send out an earlier email that your efforts had fallen through.
- L - For the 2nd game we started handing out flyers on green paper to everyone to remind them that it was their responsibility to check in, to help clarify the issue.
- D - The results were that 47 didn't meet the attendance requirement and we had 8 appeals.
- L - We have been brainstorming what would help streamline the check-in process:
 - Same attendants in the same lots every weekend
 - Developing training videos
 - Making new signs for check-in
 - Have the person with the check-in list wear a different colored vest for easy identification
 - Use perforated permits stubs as a confirmation for the ID list.
- Maybe you can make a similar (instructional) video for the RV people in the lots?
- You might need to move the attendants at the entrance farther back into the lot.
- Could you check the parking space as confirmation?
- It would be nice to address the problem of people who live locally and do not use their space, but still check in.
- I liked what you were doing with checking the license plates.
- L - Checking license plates and the feedback we received was very tough. People were not nice when they were told that the plate number they provided wasn't for an RV or that it didn't belong to their RV.
- In Penberthy there was too much movement. (Not having the same neighbor each time due to permit resale.)
- Can the RV spaces in Penberthy be repainted, so the space numbers are easy to read?
- How many abusers are there?
- P - I think there is a good handful in each (Penberthy and Olsen).
- L - This season there were only 3 people that did not meet the attendance in 43 but the actual lot was a ghost town the majority of the season.
- In Lot 43 it is just as easy to go around and check to see if there is an RV in the space.
- I don't think it is proper to check-in without an RV in the space.
- Someone from Transportation Services could scan the license plates.
- L - We definitely should, at minimum, make sure that there is an RV in the space.
- D - If we plan to make a change to also check if there is an RV in the space during the weekend, we should update to include this in the Rules.
- L - I think that if we do a better job there would be no reason why we couldn't maintain the attendance requirement.
- Make a statement that there will be no exceptions; Transportation Services' records are final.
- D - I think the rules don't clarify that there must be an RV in the spot.
- P - There may be something we can do with LPR (License Plate Recognition) technology that we already have. Is everyone comfortable with 3 games out of 7 for this coming season? Or do we prefer the half rule?
- I would personally lean towards 4.
- Several Committee members like 4 also.
- L - We have 4 conference games. People say they like to come to conference games.
- Even though there were some issues, it looks like things are moving in the right direction.
- P - 6 games 3, 7 games 4, 8 games 4; Do we want to have to determine this each season?

- Attend 50% of the games, if the number is not a whole number, round up.
- D&L - Yes to 4 games this season.
- **2015 RV calendar**
 - L - We have set the calendar this year as far as renewals are concerned. One of the things we heard was our customers wanted a one-step process, so we have condensed our process into a one-step procedure. All options will be included in an initial email: move space, move lot, and enlarge space (Lot 100e). Existing season permit customers will have 17 days to complete payment and submit change requests. On Monday, 02/23/15 the calendar will be published on our website. If you don't want to be an RV customer anymore then you just don't pay. Tuesday through Friday after payments are made, changes will be made based on availability and seniority (time in lot).
 - How far back do we have seniority?
 - L - Since 2006. Waitlist are filled according to the actual time the customer added themselves to the list.
 - Are all the RV spaces the same size?
 - L - Lot 100e is the only lot that has 4-car RV parking spaces. As RV customers don't renew, we have been expanding the RV spots to 6-car spaces before we open the lot up to new customers. Once a lot is full the waitlist closes.
 - Are you going to use the grass lot again this year?
 - L - We will fill Lot 88 first for Individual games and then RV Field, as necessary.
 - Is there anything new about 12th Man taking over Penberthy or Olsen?
 - P - Not yet, but Lynn offered to take over 12th Man last week. (wink, wink)
- **RV Exchange**
 - L - The RV Exchange worked fairly well this year. The biggest feedback we got is that people wanted back the full amount they paid. We want to open up the 25% RV Exchange fee for discussion. Did you use the process and what improvements would you like?
 - I think the 25% should be paid by the buyer, they are just happy to get a spot.
 - I agree.
 - L - Why would someone pay an extra 25% fee to buy in Lot 88 when they could, most of the time, buy it at the stated price.
 - It's not abnormal for the buyer to pay the fees in most places.
 - If someone wants the full price they can sell the spot on their own.
 - Let me clarify that you are going to charge 25% over face value?
 - They can put it on TXAGS and sell it in seconds.
 - P - We want to price it so they use the Exchange.
 - Do you think 25% was fair?
 - D - We had many conversations about doing away with the Exchange because it was so labor intensive behind the scenes.
 - L - There were games when we did not sell everything on the Exchange.
 - D - Some people may want to sell for less to make it more appealing.
 - P - Do we have the ability to sell it for less than face value?
 - Some would have to (sell for less than face value) in some of the lots for certain games.
 - L - The ultimate goal would be that you couldn't sell it anywhere but the Exchange. However, we aren't there yet. The problem with Craig's List, etc. is permit holders were posting for face value but then not selling them for face value.
 - So you would like to move towards only being able to sell through the Exchange?
 - The only bad thing is if it isn't a popular game you can't sell your permits and RV as a package.

- D - I think in general what we are hearing is that the buyer should pay the fees. We should label the permit price and the 25% is an added handling fee.
- **Decibel level & reading location**
 - P - Feedback from this season was around the current decibel level. From previous discussions it sounds like everyone would be comfortable with a lower level?
 - L - We are currently at 80 (dB) and would like to go to 75(dB).
 - P - To drop the level is one part of it. The other is if you don't have a quiet or inverter style generator should we require a box and should we have the ability to provide them? The reality is that this affects the person who is in the middle of the lot most because they cannot really escape the noise. The situation has improved over the years.
 - If people would quit selling their permits they wouldn't have different neighbors and wouldn't have a generator noise problem.
 - P - Thoughts on dropping the level down to 75 dB?
 - Not changing anything about the place it is measured from?
 - L - It would still be from the complainants' area.
 - P - What about noise abatement devices?
 - Were there any rules from the other schools we looked at last year about generator covers?
 - P - Maybe we should put something in the rules about contractor style generators.
 - L - I think we could get more specific about that. If you do not own this type of generator you must have noise abatement. There is a very short list of inverter-type generators. We could list them by brand.
 - D - Makes me concerned if list Yamaha or Honda is ok and they also make contractor-style generators.
 - P - We could say in the rules that you must have an inverter-type generator like Yamaha or Honda models or you would need an abatement device.
- **Smokers vs. Grills**
 - P - The problem is when the person doesn't care that a smoker is blowing smoke into other peoples' spaces.
 - I think it was addressed clearly in rules last year.
 - D - We had others who had issues.
 - L - We had complaints every game.
 - D - We feel like the defining line is people who use smokers and not grills because of the length of time it takes to cook.
 - L - As far as size, if it fits within their RV space they can bring it.
 - D - We are wondering if smokers, as opposed to grills, should continue to be allowed.
 - Should you outlaw smokers?
 - L - It's the long term smoke affecting more than one area. If you have the smoker set up one way and the wind is blowing in one direction but an hour later the wind could change direction.
 - Fire pits are a similar issue.
 - Think they should just be banned if they are open fire pits.
 - During baseball they put them in parking spaces.
 - Makes me wonder in Penberthy, could they use extra visitor spaces for a pit?
 - P - At 100e there is the whole area around the lot for set up.
 - This is a tough one because people have been doing it since they have had spots.
 - P - Are there words we can put into the rules about long term smoking?
 - Could be handled like generator noise?
 - Nobody reads the rules.
 - P - Is this about people who come to all games?

- L - Yes, 100E and 50 are most affected.
 - P - Maybe we should talk to them individually.
 - L - We've tried, but they set it up so it doesn't blow into a space and then the wind changes.
 - Don't know if there is a solution?
 - Maybe we should limit the size of the smoker and don't permit the big professional units.
 - You could require charcoal use only.
 - P - Maybe we try to talk with people more.
 - Almost getting to the point where smokers and RV's don't mix. If they want to smoke meat then they go smoke in the field and bring the food back over to their RV. The only way to fix it is to take them out of the lot period.
 - P - There is room adjacent to the lots to put smokers.
 - I don't agree because he is in Lot 43 and they don't have this problem.
 - Comes down to the fact that we are in a parking lot. I don't expect it to be in a secluded RV lot. I expect smoke and people playing horseshoes.
 - So what I think you are saying is people should suck it up. I agree. I think if you are looking for a pristine environment then this isn't the place.
 - P - Let's see if we can engage the perpetrators and see if they can help us come up with a solution.
- **Dry lots vs. Lots with hook ups**
 - L - People in the dry lots would like to see if their attendance requirement could be lower.
 - Football is football. Should be the same for everyone.
 - If you don't want to come then don't come and give up your space.
- **Advisory Committee member roll-off and nomination**
 - L - We had some people on the Committee that went to 12th Man lots.
 - Did we have anyone on the committee that didn't meet the attendance requirements?
 - D - That's a good question.
 - There needs to be something in the bylaw's about meeting attendance. What's the point of being on a committee if you aren't going to attend?
 - D - Maybe we should add an addendum about meeting attendance.
 - We should go back to the first meeting. We did discuss attendance.
 - L - In Lot 43 one member rolled off so Allen and Kevin will continue.
 - L - We would like to stick with self-nominations.
 - I hope someone in Penberthy self-nominates.

Other Issues:

- **Additional topics suggested by committee**
 - D - We have talked about RV's blocking the sidewalk in Olsen. We need to address the uneven sidewalk at Olsen. Towards the railroad side of the lot there is a median that blocks the drive lane when RVs are parked that has not been shortened because of fear doing so will kill the tree within it. I have some feedback about the light pole noise issue. There has to be slack in the wiring in order to make repairs if necessary. So this will not be an issue we can solve.
- **RV Storage:**
 - RV Storage during the season?
 - D - In the Penberthy RV lot the student population is growing so we worry about having enough parking for them.

- Mark McSpadden acquired the cost figures for what it would cost the school each month to have someone park their RV with nothing plugged in but a refrigerator.
- Make sure they know that is all they can have plugged in.
- I would be interested in monthly RV storage.
- D - We will try to get an answer to you guys.
- Wouldn't people be scared to leave their motorhomes at TAMU without fencing and security?
- I don't think so.
- I worry about leaving my RV in Penberthy because it may get scratched from tennis vehicles.
- Thanks for selling those extra passes for guests in the lots.
- Had a couple request to open up the waitlist for Olsen & Penberthy.
- Are you all going to use the grass lot (RV Field) again this year?
- L – Only as necessary, we would like to fill up lot 88 first and we would like to be able to use RV Field for additional car parking as needed.
- We had problems with people trying to take port-a-potties from LOT 43 to RV field. May need to talk about making the locations of the porta potties in RV Field clearer.
- L - Was this during the Louisiana game? There are port-a potties at RV Field. They may have been Louisiana fans on the back side of the lot. There was a large party going on there.