

Transportation Services Advisory Committee

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF MEETING

September 23, 2008

ATTENDEES: Dr. Angie Hill Price
Mike Caruso
Hunter Bollman
Leah Flores
Lallah Howard
Dr. Dave Parrott
Dr. Howard Kaplan
Beth McNeill
Dr. Mike Messina
Rod Weis
Logan Nichols
Robert Pottberg
Cheryl Hanks
Dr. Alan Love
Ann Wallingford

ABSENT: Sheila Amos
Dr. Joe Newton
Kakani Grihalakshmi

SPECIAL GUESTS:

Srirama KrishnaReddy, University Apartments Council
Soma Dhavala. University Apartments Council

GUESTS: June Broughton
Clint Willis
Kenny Kimball
Rose Berryhill

1.1 Welcome

- 1.1.1 Dr. Price called the meeting to order
- 1.1.2 Dr Price asked for the committee to read the petition from the University Apartment Residents concerning their parking permit fees
- 1.1.3 Dr. Price requested that the committee also review the minutes from the July 16th meeting.
 - 1.1.3.1 Asked the committee member for corrections
 - 1.1.3.2 None noted

- 1.1.3.3 Hunter Bollman made a motion to approve the minutes
- 1.1.3.4 Cheryl Hanks 2nd the motion; all voted in favor to accept the
July 16th, 2008 minutes

2.0 Business

2.1 Appointment to the Transportation Services Advisory Committee

- 2.1.1 Mr. Weis stated that he had written to Dr. Newton about the Council of Deans representative. He asked if he would continue to be the representative. Dr. Newton answered back that he would need check with the Council of Deans, at their next meeting and will let us know
- 2.1.2 Other committee members agreed to continue as the representative for their organization
 - 2.1.2.1 Dr. Price requested that when they sent a representative for them, if they would get someone from the organization that they are assigned from
- 2.1.3 Committee members asked if we needed a member from the Council of the Built Environment
 - 2.1.3.1 Lallah Howard stated that she is a member of the Council of the Built Environment
 - 2.1.3.2 Dr. Parrott stated that he was a voting member on the Council of the Built Environment and that he would report to them the items from the Transportation Services Advisory Committee, he would be the representative
- 2.1.4 Rod asked if he and Angie should work on a draft of operating procedures for the committee
- 2.1.5 Dr. Parrot asked if the mechanics were in place that the advisory committee information could be on our web page
 - 2.1.5.1 List the minutes
 - 2.1.5.2 List the agendas
 - 2.1.5.3 List the members, and who they represent
 - 2.1.5.4 Rod stated that he and June were already working on getting this information and additional notes listed
 - 2.1.5.4.1 It would be a tab on our home web site
 - 2.1.5.5 It was asked if it would be possible to hear ideals/suggestions from any group or individual and they be answered by the committee
 - 2.1.5.5.1 Emails to be sent to Rod and Angie
- 2.1.6 Rod asked the committee if we could do anything else to make it easier for them to share the information with their organizations

2.2 University Apartments petition for abolishing parking permit fees

- 2.2.1 Rod Weis stated that he had visited with the University Apartment Council. The council asked why they had to pay parking fees. He explained that is all part of the Texas A&M System. That parking fees were paid by all parts of the system. Everyone contributes. The University Apartment area did have some improvements last year. Parking areas were repainted and some minor lot repairs, a total of about 36,000.00
- 2.2.2 Hunter felt that the services that the apartment areas receive are the same as for students living in the dorms.
- 2.2.3 Lallah Howard stated that all students have the opportunity to choose what level to buy into – parking is not a required fee for all students. The fee is only paid if you wish to park on campus.
- 2.2.4 Dr. Price assured the University Apartment Council that if you live on campus and need parking, it must be permitted.
- 2.2.5 Dr. Parrott assured the University Apartment Council that is not possible to take part of their rent to pay for parking. All money that is received for rent goes to Residence Life, there is not any transfer that occurs between funds; Residence Lift and Transportation Services
- 2.2.6 Rod Weis let them know that the transit side of Transportation Services had improved the routes, and more bus stops in the university apartment area. For them to keep in mind that the buses are a different fund than the parking fund. It is two separate areas.
- 2.2.7 Dr. Price assured them that we understand their concerns; to be equitable to everyone, it would be hard to agree to the plan they presented
- 2.2.8 Dr. Parrott told the committee members that he understands their concerns. International students are restricted by laws on how much money they can make, then can't get second jobs and their spouses cannot work
- 2.2.9 Lallah Howard stated that this is a bigger issue than just parking; that that helping the international students is a university wide issue
- 2.2.10 Rod stated that some improves have been made to their permits
- 2.2.10.1 They have mobility, allowing them to use the UA permit in all "Any Valid Permit Lots" or the university apartment students can purchase a permit for a lot on the campus and use it in the UA lots
- 2.2.11 Srirama felt that the committee did not understand the request to abolish the fees
- 2.2.11.1 The committee stated that they did understand the request but felt that it needs to be equitable to what is required by other resident students.

2.2.11.2 The University Apartment (UA) permit on cost \$216 per year; other residents pay \$264 to \$432 depending on their choices

2.2.12 Logan Nichols made a motion to vote against the petition

2.2.12.1 Beth McNeill seconded the motion; all committee member voted in favor of the motion

2.2.13 Dr. Price requested for the Transportation Services Committee Members to keep this request or issue in their mind as we go forward in considering future parking fees

2.3 Faculty – Staff use of Para Transit Services

2.3.1 Rod Weis explained the operations of the Para Transit Van services for the handicapped and disabled. When the service began we allowed faculty and staff to use the service because we had less number of Para transit riders and room was available

2.3.2 Now we are running 3 vans a day and all times are filled. Some of the times are used by faculty and staff who do not pay any transit fees. The fees to run this service come from the Transit fees that each student pays every semester. The van cost \$20-\$23 per ride and buses run about .40 cents per ride.

2.3.3 Transit has additional para students that need help but we cannot offer the service because we do not have the room. Should student fees be consider in how to do it

2.3.4 Logan Nichols felt that students should have top priority

2.3.5 Leah Flores asked if staff could make arrangements and rides with the Brazos Transit Systems; Rod stated that this could be possible

2.3.6 Dr. Price if Transportation Services could work on a draft proposal on how this should be done; Rod stated yes

2.3.7 Dr. Parrott suggested that we needed to invite Ann Reber, from Students with Disabilities come to TSAC and give a presentation to include

2.3.7.1 Policies at other institutions

2.3.7.2 What student disabilities does

2.3.7.3 What is available from Brazos Transit

2.3.8 Dr. Price stated that our biggest issue is no shows; or discontinued service and no notice,

2.3.9 Hunter felt the committee members did not know enough about the topic to make any decisions

2.3.10 Rod Weis did tell the committee that Para Transit services currently has rules in place; Transportation Services has had no success in saying no; the rule states that riders cannot live $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from the serviced area. We currently have faculty-staff riders that are grandfather into the program, living 10 miles from the serviced area

- 2.3.11 Rod stated that we would not leave anyone stranded this year, the current procedure would be used through the 09 Spring Semester. Would like to have new procedure in place by the 09 Fall Semester

2.4 Permit Fees

- 2.4.1 The committee reviewed a presentation from Transportation Services from the fee scheduled that was approved three years ago
- 2.4.2 Lallah asked Rod to make this presentation at the next Council of the Built Environment meeting.
- 2.4.3 Mr. Weis said that he had received official word that the Liberal Arts/Humanities building would be built on lot 23
- 2.4.4 Dr. Parrott stated that a critical discussion should be made every time a building location/site is discussed by the Council of the Built Environment
- 2.4.4.1 Projects need to be paying into a reserve fund when they consume spaces on campus
- 2.4.4.2 The reserve fund would then be used to pay for surface parking or parking garages
- 2.4.5 Rod stated that the committee needed to decide what should our strategy be and what should happen
- 2.4.6 Dr. Price recommend that we add another column to the fee page; show that not increase are planned after this year

3.0 Meeting adjourned

Other Topic(s):

Tasks to be completed;

1. View cost per space presentation on Visitor/Client unpaid parking spaces
2. Recommendations from Committee Members on Construction Permit Parking Fees

Future Discussion Items:

1. Parking for University Vehicles
2. Visitor Validation Process
3. Uniform rules to address the preponderance Golf carts, gators, motorized bike-skateboards, etc
4. Vehicles parking and driving on sidewalks
 - a. Inviting a guest from Facilities or Physical Plant to explain policies and procedures
5. Service Spaces

Next Transportation Services Advisory Committee meeting: October 23, 2008 at 11:30 am in Koldus, Room 110-111