

TSAC Minutes
December 3, 2014

Present:

Dr. Fuller Bazer
Mr. Mike Caruso
Mr. Joe Dillard
Dr. Angie Hill Price
Dr. Margaret Hobson
Mr. Collin Kruger
Mr. Peter Lange
Ms. Robbie Lukeman
Mr. Chris Lyons
Dr. Beth McNeill
Mr. Michael Murtha
Dr. Joe Newton

Mr. Robert Pottberg
Ms. Flora Reeves
Ms. Veronica Sprayberry
Dr. Bob Strawser
Mr. Travis Walters
Dr. CJ Woods

Absent:

Dr. Deb Banerjee
Mr. David Glockzin
Mr. Rod Weis

1. Dr. Angie Hill Price asked members to review minutes from the November meeting for corrections or additions. Mr. Travis Walters motioned to approve the minutes, Dr. Beth McNeill seconded and all members voted to approve the November minutes as written.
2. Mr. Peter Lange said because the scheduled meeting for January falls during the time before classes begin, we will forego that meeting and reconvene in February. Also, the meeting location for February will be Rudder Tower, #301.
3. Mr. Lange introduced Dr. Jerry Strawser, Vice President for Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer.
 - 3.1. Dr. Strawser said he has been asked the most surprising thing learned in his first 6 months in current role – replied he is amazed at the complexity in transporting students to campus on buses, and parking all of them every day. Also, when he asked for financial data regarding our fee request from the University Advancement Fee, he was astounded to see the number of riders from our transit data. He thanked all members of TSAC for their time and service.
4. Mr. Lange introduced Mr. Brian Bochner of TTI to provide a post season overview of the game day traffic plan implemented this year.
 - 4.1. Mr. Bochner said we were able to make adjustments as the season progressed, essentially tweaking the plan from game to game.
 - 4.1.1. For example, after the first game, we altered pedestrian traffic exiting Pickard Pass to include a crossing at Kimbrough instead of routing them around the south and west side of West Campus Garage.
 - 4.1.2. Also, improvements were made to traffic signal timing to better handle traffic congestion and allow for traffic flow.
 - 4.2. There were many successes and the single biggest success was the collaboration that took place between groups to bring the plan together and

to make changes after each game – he said it is the best coordinated effort he has ever seen and included TTI, Transportation Services, cities, law enforcement, etc.

- 4.3. There were more people on campus and no more congestion than in the past. 3 new records were set for shuttle ridership.
 - 4.4. Chancellor has pledged \$1 million to help cities with traffic signal improvement and TTI will be working with them in upcoming months.
 - 4.5. Dr. Bob Strawser asked the cost for parking at games and how it compares with other schools? Currently is \$15 and \$20, depending on location and will rise to \$20 and \$25 next year. He suggested considering raising the rates even further, said we are still considerably less than other schools such as LSU. Mr. Lange responded that it's a balancing act – we have to keep it attractive so that fans want to come to the game instead of staying home and watching.
 - 4.6. Mr. Mike Caruso said he noticed pedestrians are not exiting the stadium at the south end and walking that direction. He said Athletics will make a concerted effort to recommend that exit route to avoid congestion in the north areas of the stadium.
 - 4.7. When asked about the exiting of West Campus Garage, Mr. Lange said it was slow for first two games, but improved significantly for later games. We were exiting 350 cars within 15 minutes which is a good turnover rate. We will evaluate to see if we can split the traffic among exits to make it more efficient. Part of the issue is there are people at each game who are attending for the first time and don't know their way around.
5. Mr. Lange welcomed a member attending her first meeting, Ms. Robbie Lukeman, who stepped into a spot for University Staff Council that was vacated. He shared that he attended a meeting with the Dr. Hussey, students, faculty and staff to discuss the scenario for bringing new garages online. He said steps will need to be taken to replace parking lost over the course of 15 years. He also shared that Transportation Services has been asked to take over the maintenance of streets and sidewalks.
 - 5.1. Dr. Angie Hill Price said it isn't logical that permit costs should have to pay for street and sidewalk infrastructure. She predicted an outcry from faculty and staff opposed to that arrangement. Why not use money set aside for deferred maintenance.
 - 5.2. Mr. Lange responded that the deferred maintenance funds are being used for buildings with none left for streets and sidewalks.
 - 5.3. Dr. Jerry Strawser indicated that this is only a proposal at this time, but the current scenario is as close to a user pay system as you can get; you park, you pay. For example, a \$275 permit increasing over 5 years by 5% would be \$305 at the end of 5 years.
 - 5.4. Mr. Lange said with a 3% increase per year, we can take on \$1 million per year for streets and sidewalks and still build 1 garage every 3-5 years. He indicated a garage at Cain seems to be the most likely at this point to be built first. Next, a garage in the Engineering corridor, and the preference of Transportation Services is to build 3 smaller garages instead of 1 large garage, in order to spread the debt over time.
 - 5.4.1. What about a garage at Kyle? Mr. Lange responded that has lost traction.

- 5.4.2. What about a garage on West Campus? Mr. Lange said that since the west campus dorm project (White Creek Dorm) has been downsized, there is not a need – we will build a large surface lot there with 850 spaces. Residents would have priority, then employees.
 - 5.4.3. Mr. Lange said a large number of students pay visitor rates to park and that is a nationwide trend. He said it is beneficial to the parking system, but is also about balancing space inventory to make the system work.
 - 5.4.4. When asked to clarify the increase so that members could share with constituents, he said it will be 3% per year for 5 years. Also, when you look at our rate increases over the last 10 years, the average is 2.8%; years of no increase at all and other years of an increase.
 - 5.4.5. Will rates increase for visitor parking, citations, etc? Mr. Lange said it is something that we will consider along with collections and other revenue streams.
 - 5.4.6. Is there a thought on making reserved numbered spaces valid only Monday through Friday, 8 am – 5 pm? Mr. Lange said that those spaces are an inefficient use of resources, but people really like them. We already have less than half the number of reserved numbered spaces on campus as compared to 10 years ago. We see people choosing to purchase non reserved spaces in garages and are removing the reserved spaces as people turn them in.
6. Mr. Lange said Hensel Park is part of Student Affairs and they are considering revitalizing it. They have asked about repairing the parking lot, installing signage, etc. Currently, it is not a permitted lot and we would have to reach out to landscape employees who currently park in the area and walk to work. There could be a revenue aspect on game day to recoup some of the costs of repair.
 7. Ms. Debbie Hoffmann said a request was received recently from Dr. Vanegas in Architecture to close the loading zone between the buildings and create an outdoor classroom area and a pedestrian promenade. We are currently gathering staff and student input, as the area has been popular for temporary parking for students delivering projects, etc. Environmental Health and Safety has no concerns in closing the area from an emergency access standpoint and we would recover any lost accessible spaces when lot 54 is renovated.
 8. Ms. Hoffmann also shared a student request that was recently shared, asking that the night privileges designation be made clearer/more prominent on signs at lots where it is available. She showed an example of 2 types of signs currently on campus that denote night privileges, one had text and the other had an icon.
 - 8.1. Mr. Caruso proposed that we take time to look at signs on campus and bring feedback to the next meeting.
 - 8.2. Could it be another color? Mr. Lange said we must abide by the sign standard for bronze with white lettering and we can add vinyl overlays to change the text on the sign, instead of having to pay for a new sign.
 9. Mr. Lange asked for other business.

- 9.1. Status of gates in the Fish Pond area being open in the evening? We are waiting on the marking design from our engineering firm and once markings are installed, we will begin raising gates as discussed.
 - 9.2. Status of Brazos Transit Authority agreement to let their riders use our transit service? Mr. Lange is sending a memo to Dr. Jerry Strawser highlighting concerns voiced at last meeting from TSAC members.
10. After a reminder that the next meeting will be in February, the meeting was adjourned.