

Parking Advisory Council Meeting

March 26, 2010

2:00 p.m.

Auxiliary Services Conference Room (bldg 8, room 1106)

MINUTES

Members Present: Everett Malcolm (Chair), Diane Tanner, Jeff Durfee, Gayle Stillson, Mack Volk, Anthony Mack, Matthew Yost

Members Absent: Marcia Lamkin, Alison Cruess, Glenda Kelsey, Thomas Blanchard

Others Present: Vince Smyth (Auxiliary Services), Cindy Haile (Parking & Transportation Services), John Dean (UPD), Mark Richardson (UPD), Joanna Horton-Liao (Graduate Student).

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 PM by Chair Everett Malcolm.

1. Approval of Minutes:

- The minutes of January 22nd meeting were approved as written.
- Everett Malcolm introduced graduate student Joanna Horton-Liao to the Members of the Parking Council and explained that her visit is associated with the current time restrictions on Night Premium parking (parking permit is valid after 5:00pm).
- Joanna Horton-Liao raised her concern about start time of Night Premium parking permits (5:00pm). Joanna Horton-Liao believed that starting time currently in place is inconsistent with academic schedule (classes start at 4:30pm) and suggested changing starting time of Night Premium parking permits to 4:30pm.
- Joanna Horton-Liao further commented on costly penalties for parking violations and proposed waiving the first ticket in situations where new students do not understand that parking and evening class schedule start time do not correspond.
- Everett Malcolm noted that the issue will be discussed closely by the 2010-11 Council Members and explained that the voting regarding parking structure for 2010-11 academic year already took place, and 2009-10 Parking Advisory Council Members decided to retain the system currently in use.

2. Approval of recommendations from VP Shuman:

- Everett Malcolm informed that the recommendations discussed during the January 22nd meeting (restriction of specific groups to specific areas and hierarchy of permit sales to specific groups for 2010-2011) were approved by VP Shuman (will remain unchanged from 2009-2010).

3. Lot Counts:

- Cindy Haile and Vince Smyth reported no major changes and noted that the trend of having more open parking spaces during the Spring semester compared to the Fall semester continues.
- Everett Malcolm asked how many Night Premium parking permits were sold so far and Cindy Haile and Vince Smyth responded that approximately 750 permits of that category were purchased.
- Everett Malcolm stated that the start time of Night Premium parking permit was determined by the fact that most of the faculty and staff members leave at that time as well as by the fact that the vast majority of graduate students already have regular, full-time jobs and are unable to enroll in classes that start before 6:00pm.
- Everett Malcolm noted that it is a difficult task to find a time that will satisfy the interest of those students who purchase Night Premium parking permit with the interest of those students who pay more money and purchase a regular Premium parking permit, taking into additional consideration that most of the students' academic schedules vary greatly from term to term.

4. Presentation/ update by UPD on "Parking Permit Theft":

- John Dean recalled the discussion about a type of parking permit "sticker" that can be moved from car to car that the Council had reviewed a couple years back and thought that the issue should be readdressed due to increasing numbers of parking permit thefts. Many students simply forget to lock their cars or leave their car windows partially open which creates an opportunity for thieves to steal parking permits.
- Mark Richardson reported that in 2009 out of 60 thefts, 49 were parking permit thefts which accounts for 82% of all thefts (only 4 of those were actually forced entry to the vehicle), and added that in 2010 the numbers continue to be concerning with 17 thefts, of which 14 are parking permit theft related and of which none were forced entry, which again accounts for 82% of all thefts.
- John Dean informed that the Police Department is placing reminders on the cars that are unlocked but felt it is not working effectively. John Dean thought that having a transferrable "sticker" would make it more challenging and more difficult to steal if placed in a hard to reach place, such as the back windshield of the vehicle.
- Cindy Haile informed that it is too late to make any changes to parking permits for 2010-11 academic year as the order was already put in and permits are in production but agreed that the option should be re-considered by the Council next year.
- Everett Malcolm asked if the permits that are mailed to faculty, staff and students are hangtags or "stickers" and Cindy Haile responded that the hangtags are sent out to everyone and that they can be exchanged for a fixed parking permit at the Parking Service office free of charge.
- Vince Smyth added that the company that produces parking permits does not have operational technology to be able to distinguish between hangtags and fixed permits

when the order for mailing out is placed but can mail out all “stickers” instead of hangtags if that is what a given university chooses to use.

- Everett Malcolm suggested informing the students, faculty and staff of a possibility of an exchange of hanging permits for a “sticker” by placing a message in Campus Update and by emphasizing the fact that it can help to reduce parking permit thefts.
- Gayle Stillson asked why faculty and staff have to buy their permits on-line and cannot pick them up at the Parking Services office anymore and Cindy Haile and Vince Smyth explained that using the mail is much more efficient and reduces waiting lines for the students, faculty and staff members and that having inventory in two distant locations significantly increases the costs.
- A question was raised about using receipt of purchase as a temporary permit until one comes in the mail and Cindy Haile responded that the idea is in the works.

5. Discussion on Parking Council Charge for 2010-11:

- Everett Malcolm informed that each year there is a standard charge put together that might contain additional items depending on areas of parking structure needing attention and/or improvement.
- Everett Malcolm encouraged the Council to work as a group to put the charge together for the next year.
- Everett Malcolm felt that Night Premium starting time should be addressed again and was glad that Joanna Horton-Liao, on behalf of Graduate Students, presented the Council with the issue.
- Anthony Mack asked how many thefts actually occur in faculty/staff group and John Dean responded that they only account for 10% of all auto burglaries.
- Anthony Mack suggested using faculty and staff as a pilot group for trying out repositionable/transferable “stickers” to see how it affects theft rates in that group.
- Everett Malcolm asked the Council to think about possible discussion items for the 2010-2011 Parking Council Charge and e-mail the ideas to Everett Malcolm no later than June 30, 2010.
- Cindy Haile added that the process of ordering permits usually starts in December and Everett Malcolm responded that the idea of using transferable “stickers” in place of hanging parking permits will be discussed early in the Fall semester to assure that a decision is made in a timely manner.

6. Other Business:

- Vince Smyth informed that Lot 7 will be soon taken out of operation to allow construction of a new Science and Humanities building and reported that the grass area just north of Lot 7 (President’s Circle) will be transformed into parking spaces to offset some of the spots lost. Vince Smyth hoped for the project of remodeling the President’s Circle area to be finished by June 30, 2010 but added that the completion date is still tentative.

- Everett Malcolm informed that Lot 5T will also be affected by construction (expansion of fitness center) but emphasized the fact that the project does not start until Spring 2011.

7. Future Meetings:

- Everett Malcolm thanked the Members of Parking Advisory Council for their hard work and a productive year as well as for great input and constructive discussions.
- Everett Malcolm stated that the next meeting of Parking Advisory Council will not take place until September (Fall 2010).

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50.
Prepared by Marta Cylwik