

Parking Advisory Council Meeting

September 26, 2014

10:00 a.m.

Business Services Conference Room

Building 8, Room 1106

Minutes

Members Present: Everett Malcolm (Chair), Diane Tanner, Paul Mason, Barbara Dupuis, Celeste Watkins, Daniel Koker, Daniel Powers, Collin Waychoff, Joseph Turner

Members Absent: Casey Knowles

Others Present: George Androuin (Business and Parking Services), Neal Fisher (Parking Services), Virginia Smith (Parking Services), Bill Strudel (UPD)

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m.

1.) Approval to Audio Record Meeting

- Everett Malcolm made the council aware that the meeting is being recorded to help with the accuracy of the minutes.

2.) Review of Minutes or Changes

- No changes of the minutes were recommended by the council.

3.) Review of By-Laws and Recommendations for Changes

- Everett Malcolm explained the Council reviews the by-laws on an annual basis. Everett stated Marc Snow in Legal Counsel reviewed the Parking Advisory Council by-laws and has recommended the Chair be an active voting member instead of only voting in the case of a tie. Everett explained that with the chair now voting, there may be times when the council is in need of a tie breaking vote. Since PAC is an advisory style council, VP Shari Shuman would be interested in who voted on items and why they voted that way. Everett added the President and Vice President may add or take away members as needed. Everett recommended the change to the Council allowing the Chair to become a voting member. Joseph Turner moved the item and Colin Waychoff seconded with the council all in favor.

4.) Selection of Vice-Chair

- Everett Malcolm explained the by-laws state the Vice-Chair is selected within the Council and it has traditionally been a student representative. Joseph Turner nominated Chief Justice Daniel Powers for the Vice-Chair. Daniel Powers respectfully declined the nomination and instead nominated Daniel Koker. Daniel Koker accepted the nomination with the council all in favor.

5.) Discussion on Types of Permit Categories, Number of Spaces for Each Category and Sales Ratios for Every Category for 2015-2016

- Everett Malcolm stated the data provided to the Council is the most up to date information from Parking Services. Everett explained the council may face some challenges with the issue of the Blue permit category being oversold and that Neal Fisher may be able to provide some ideas on how to rectify the issue.

- Neal Fisher stated the lot count provided is the most up to date data with a revision of removing 10 spaces in the area for Blue Parking on the 3rd and 4th floors of the Fine Arts Garage where there is construction work. Neal stated another area in Lot 34, there was a duplication of a physician space and has been corrected. Neal referred to spaces available and ratio data that was provided to the council and explained that the current Blue ratio was supposed to be 2.3 but it was at 2.52. Neal explained the Parking Services Program Assistant failed to take into account the change of the 85 spaces in Lot 60 from Blue to Gray which means approximately 200 extra Blue permits were sold. Neal stated Faculty and Staff do not have a sales cap on Blue Permits which includes companies that work at UNF such as Chart Wells and Follet. Neal explained VA students are classified as exceptions and are also able to purchase Blue permits. The Disability Resource Center makes recommendations on behalf of medical reasons for students to purchase a Blue Permit. Neal stated with all of these issues and exceptions, Blue permits were oversold by 457 to date.
- George Androuin explained some ideas to resolve the issue. George stated one way would be to not offer Blue permits for the Spring Semester to get back down to the ratio. George added there will be additional Blue parking spaces opening that may also offset the oversell such as the new garage which may have Blue parking for the 3rd and 4th floor. George stated Parking Services will now be doing lot counts in June to collect more accurate data for the sales cap which is determined in July and also collecting data from past sales to Faculty, Staff, Vendors and third parties to hold that amount of parking permits so they cannot be oversold. Everett stated Parking Services has long term solutions in place but asked what could be done currently to remedy the situation.
- Joseph Turner explained his proposal to offer a solution to the dis-satisfied customers. Joseph stated those that purchased a Blue permit be offered an exchange of their permit and refund for the price difference. Joseph added many voices around campus have expressed that parking is the worst it has ever been and feel that they have been wronged by the University for the over sale. George stated there would need to be a cap on the number of refunds. Everett stated the refund cap would need to be offered up to the amount of permits over sold and within a specific time window such as 2 weeks or 10 business days. George questioned if the refund would be pro-rated and Joseph responded the refund should not be pro-rated and offered at the original price as morally right. George also stated concern about reaching all Blue permit holders and ensuring that everyone was offered the change to exchange their permit and receive the refund. Everett asked Neal if parking software would be able to pull a report of all Blue Permit holders and send a mass email or mass text. Neal stated an email could be sent but would take about 2 weeks.
- George pointed out there seems to be many available spaces through-out the day according to the lot counts. Joseph Turner stated he has tried to park in many of these lots with no success and that he does not trust the accuracy of the lot counts. Daniel Powers added these numbers may be accurate for a 3 to 4 minute window only. Daniel stated that students are coming to the University to learn and parking should be the least of their concerns and that the lot count data cannot be trusted and does not add to the success of the students getting to class on time.
- Everett Malcolm explained that he doesn't envision a large amount of people exchanging their permit except for the ones that are really frustrated but it would be the Council and Parking Services "Good Will Gesture" to admit they made a mistake and offer this exchange and refund.

- Daniel Powers added the appeals board had just found out about the oversold ratio and had been making appeal decisions based on the original sales ratio. Neal Fisher explained that information could be reviewed to determine if that will also be an issue.
- Paul Mason stated there is a serious logistical problem that would be best addressed by changing the pricing structure. George Androuin stated there may be a way to add 50 additional faculty and staff parking spaces once the new garage opens with the additional Blue spaces and may not need a rate change. Paul stated if the differential between prices of the Blue Lots and Gray Lots were larger, more students would park in those outer lots and ride the shuttle. Paul also added a suggestion from his colleague which would offer free parking in those outer parking lots. George explained that lots cannot be free because of the cost to maintain them. Paul added that he has been on the council for a long time and that he knows how many excess funds are generated in Parking. George stated the funds provided Parking with the ability to build the new parking garage. Paul stated that the overage fees from the past 1 or 2 decades were charged to people to pay for the garage now built and they cannot use it. Paul stated the fee for the Gray lots should really be lowered. George revealed sales for Gray permits have increased with the “Add to My Wings” feature for payment.
- Joseph Turner motioned to pass the proposal and Colin Waychoff seconded. Joseph stated this is the least the council could do in light of the circumstances and if this can in any way satisfy someone who is currently dissatisfied and improve the situation for everyone who has purchased a Blue permit then it is something the council should do. Paul Mason stated he agrees but that \$65.00 may not be a large incentive for customers to exchange their permit especially for those that know parking eases up towards the middle of the semester and may not want to give up the chance to get the closer parking.
- Everett Malcolm asked the council who was in favor of the “Good Will Gesture” with all in favor and motion passing.

6.) Discussion on Permit Fees and Citation Rates for 2015-2016

- Everett Malcolm stated he does not think the council should add any additional permit categories.
- Neal Fisher stated Parking is looking at the possibility of creating one general Housing parking permit which may alleviate a lot of housing parking inconvenience. George Androuin added it may help with allowing students to move around and visit different housing amenities. Neal stated one issue is that Housing allows students from the Fountains or Crossings to move over to Housing A when there is space available after we have had permit sales but does not advise them that the parking permit for those lots is sold out which causes frustration for those students. Neal stated he has spoken with Bob Boyle and he does not anticipate any issue with moving to one housing permit.
- Everett Malcolm asked Neal Fisher and George Androuin if they could reach out to Bob Boyle specifically about this issue and report back to the council. Everett also asked about the concern with UNF taking over The Flats and how the one parking permit would work for that lot. George stated that is still in the working stages and that lot may have to be a different parking permit and that the general housing permit would need to be a “Core” only permits.
- Neal Fisher stated 150 Disability spaces on campus are included in lot counts and that many are infrequently used and suggested moving those spaces out of the calculated ratio.

- George Androuin stated he did not feel that any fees need to be changed. Everett Malcolm asked George if the Gray permit was reduced would it affect any other areas in the parking revenue. Neal Fisher added the President's office may find a lower Gray Permit price resourceful to their funds with the stipend they provide.
- Everett Malcolm asked for the council's opinion on citation fees. Diane Tanner stated she would like to see an increase of \$10.00 for each citation to bring a bigger incentive to stop violators. Daniel Power stated he would be in favor of raising the fee on certain violations to create a deterrent of violators.
- Joseph Turner asked why Parking Advisory Council has jurisdiction over moving violations. Neal Fisher stated UPD requested those violation codes because they issue those types of citations.
- George Androuin explained how Habitual Boots work which boots repeat violators if they have had 8 or more paid or unpaid citations in one year. George stated the students would have to come in and talk to management about why they keep receiving citations. George explained these violators are paying much more money than they would if they bought the proper permit. George stated instead of booting them, the citation fees could rise the more they receive. Neal Fisher stated Parking has booted 41 people this year.
- Joseph Turner asked George Androuin to bring a proposed solution to the faculty and staff parking issues to the next meeting.

7.) Our Next Meeting, October 17th

- Everett Malcolm stated voting items and recommendations have to be submitted by October 24th. Diane Tanner will be out of the country for the scheduled October 17th meeting. Everett stated his confidence in cancelling the originally scheduled meeting and rescheduling the meeting for October 24th and having voting items submitted. The council was in full support of the date change.

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. Prepared by Virginia Smith