The meeting was called to order by Robert Browand at 1:35pm.

Approval of minutes from the last meeting
The minutes from September 21, 2007 were approved with several corrections.

I  Old Business
A.  Election of Chair and Vice-Chair
The TPAC committee voted Rick Bannerot as Chair and Shameria Davis as Vice-Chair of the TPAC committee.

II  New Business
A.  SGA UB44008- Student Parking Act of 2007
Committee member Shameria Davis led the discussion. Ms. Davis expressed the students concern that parking fees would continue to increase with no improvements in student parking on campus. In short, the Student Parking Act of 2007 calls for no parking rate increase for student parking until additional parking is provided, improvements are made to the existing parking lots, and customer service is improved.
It was discussed how students are involved every year in the fee hearings and how PTS had requested a 10% increase for FY2008 but was only awarded a 7% increase. This resulted in PTS having to postpone planned improvements.

Mr. Browand addressed all six sections of the Act stating that the speed at which PTS can respond is directly related to the level of funding it has to work with. Because of the reduction in last year’s proposed increase improvements to parking lot 4A had to be separated into 8 phases and will be completed over a three to four year period.

PTS is also working on customer service improvements which include hiring additional staff, providing customer service training for all employees, and increasing/improving on-line services. Changes were also made in enforcement to address Sections 2 and 3 of the Act: the five minute grace period at parking meters and first time failure to display a parking permit.

The remaining issues outlined in the Act deal with PTS’s “strategic plan during construction” and the use of a “universal garage permit”.

Mr. Browand stated that he felt that PTS did all it could to inform students that parking lot 19A was closing due to the Calhoun Lofts construction. Postcards were mailed, emails were sent on campus listservs, signs were posted in the construction areas, and ads and articles ran in the Daily Cougars and UH Today. In addition, traffic was diverted to keep the connection between north and east campus and 350 student parking spaces were add. Mr. Browand also stated that PTS will continue to work with all parties affected by future construction projects on campus.

Mr. Browand explained that a “universal garage permit” would not work because there would be no way of controlling the number of assignments to any one garage thus running the risk of overselling to a point where students could not find a space to park.

B. TPAC Website
PTS has developed a TPAC website which will contain the membership roster (with contact info) as well as meeting minutes, agendas, and dates. Members Raiz, O’Connor, and Chair Bannerot suggested a mechanism for submitting agenda items.

C. Parking Blog
Mr. Browand demonstrated the new Parking Blog on which PTS will post news and announcements related to UH parking and transportation issues including upcoming closures and detours. Readers will also be able to give their comments on the issues posted.

III Other
1. Chair Bannerot stated as members of this committee we should keep our eyes and ears open to things that are happening on campus. Additionally, we should speak with our colleagues and bring their concerns before the committee.
2. Committee member Mr. Byun wants the committee to talk more about transportation issues that concern UH.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm.