Transportation and Parking Advisory Committee
September 17, 2010 Meeting Minutes


I. Open Forum
A. Anne Wilburn, from University Advancement department
   1. Concerns about not being able to find parking in un gated lots
   2. Would like to understand more about the scope of the problem
   3. Reviewed 2006 presentation from TPAC about Parking future at UH, would like to know what are the strategic plans for the future
   4. Would like to learn the alternatives and forms of transportation to campus
B. Cameron McHugh, student
   1. Would like to learn about the role and scope of TPAC
   2. Here to observe and learn about the process

II. Approval Items
A. Minutes from the August 18th Meeting was approved
B. Addition of Temporary Handicap Parking Spots during Central Plant Construction presented by Bob Browand
   1. Situation: Lost a total of 10 disabled parking spaces in Lot 19F due to the construction at the Central Plant
   2. This affects the faculty and staff with disabled parking permits from the Honors College and MD Anderson Library primarily
   3. Five spaces of the ten originally lost were reassigned to Lot 19D
   4. Proposal: To temporarily add six non-reserved handicap parking spaces in front of the E. Cullen performance hall
      a. Close proximity to the MD Anderson and the Honors College
      b. Handicap ramps are already in place at E. Cullen, PTS would not have to build new ramps
   5. Discussion
      a. If gates are closed, how will people be able to get in? The handicap parking space users will be given access
   6. Motion to create six temporary non-reserved handicap parking spaces in front of E. Cullen Performance Hall to compensate for spaces lost during the Power Plant construction
      a. Seconded and voted on
      b. The motion was approved unanimously by the committee
C. State Energy Conservation Office Proposal presented by Dr. Alex Ignatiev
   1. Coming to TPAC to get approval to use parking space areas to build solar panels
   2. State Energy Conservation Office is accepting grant proposals for a 1MW of solar panels
      a. Grant and requires a matching of funds of at least 20%
      b. Currently has some interested in covering the 20%
      c. Not asking TPAC or Parking and Transportation for money
      d. Would create electric vehicle charging stations under the covered parking
3. Sustainability and education program
   a. Taking the lead in electric car initiative
   b. Part of the Solar Houston initiative
   c. Help with offsetting carbon
   d. Covered parking
   e. Educating students about solar panels, making them visible in the lots

4. Where and How
   a. Installation of the covered parking in various lots, can still be negotiated on where they can be built
   b. Proposed lots- 15D, 18B, 18A, 16B
   c. Would take about a year to build the panels
   d. Suggestion to the committee that the covered parking could be at a premium price and used for electric vehicle charging
   e. Estimated 20 year life span for the panels

5. Discussion
   a. Construction of panels? How will it affect parking during construction?
      1. Construction will be going on while the garage at Robertson Stadium is going on
   b. Insurance? Can these panels survive the hurricane winds?
      1. Should be able to withstand hurricane like winds
   c. Parking garages and solar panels?
      1. P&T would prefer not to spend on retrofitting current garages, would be costly
      2. May want to consider putting them on roofs of future garages

6. Motion to approve the proposal to use parking locations on the UH main campus to install 1 MW worth of solar panels and to construct electrical vehicle stations dependent upon being granted the SECO grant and a cost sharing partner for this project
   a. Motion was made, seconded, voted and approved unanimously

III. Information Items
A. Athletics and Parking during Game Days
   1. Friday and Saturday- new game day parking policies, haven’t heard a whole lot
      a. Few comments from Child Care Center, but parking is taken care of
      b. Faculty Staff Lot 15D pretty cleared out before the game
   2. Proposal to be talked about: Revenue sharing with parking
      a. Evaluation of Parking Cash Lots and Value- the cash lots on game day are 8A, 9C, 16B, 16D, 16F, 18
   3. Comment from faculty: couldn’t come back to Lot 15D after 3pm, Saturday 13A wasn’t monitored till 3pm, went ahead and parked fine in 13A
   4. Need to continue to make sure that communication is consistent from parking and transportation and athletics, also to make sure that the five-star staff are well trained

B. The Numbers: Permit Sell Numbers and Comparisons
   1. Current Oversell in the surface lots for student parking- 2.71 students to one space, the number is too high and want to get to 2.1 to 1.8 students to one space
   2. East Side Parking Garage has a 1.6 to one spot ratio, opened more spots, sold out quickly
3. Welcome Center Garage- 1.57 to one ratio and is sold out
4. Parking and Transportation goal is to try to work on decreasing the ratios, still about 22.5% are buying economy parking and the ratio is at 1.35 to one
5. Motorcycles on campus have also increased to 327

C. Request from Calhoun Lofts
1. RHE parking is one spot to one person
2. Calhoun Lofts asking for more RHE Parking
3. Occupancy at the Lofts- 75%, have 200 names on a waiting list
4. Currently RHE Calhoun Lofts has 264 spots and requesting about 100 spots
5. Impact- would take away 100 commuter spots
6. Committee Action- requested more data, numbers and names from Residential Life and Housing and asked for RLH to be invited to the next TPAC meeting

D. Overview of Parking and Transportation
1. Timeline: Fall semester-goals and future plans, Spring semester-education on the plans, funding and according to the non-mandatory fee schedule- need to have the permit prices approved by committee by December
   a. Recommendation to the committee- have an information session based on the topic of permit prices, open also to the public
   b. October 29th (Friday) 9am-12pm
   c. Be sure to advertise
2. Shuttle Buses
   a. NEXTBUS- still having issues with the NEXTBUS system, been told that the swipe readers that were installed have been straining their equipment
      1. Working on the data and NEXTBUS is working on fixing the issue
   b. AFC- been meeting with AFC, talking to them about standards and meeting the standards, everything from no cell phones to playing appropriate music on the buses
      1. Sunny 99.1 is generally the accepted radio station
      2. Should suggest playing KUHF on the buses
      3. At the Bus stops, want to ensure cleanliness, have recycling and trash cans
      4. Cougar Line Survey is being established, customer service report card for AFC monthly
3. Introduction of Eric Holamon and Paul Lozano
   a. Eric Holamon, new to the Parking and Transportation Team, currently working on the shuttle surveys and customer service, communications for P&T
   b. Paul Lozano, comes from UH Department of Public Safety, and is now directing the assistant director of operations for P&T

E. Policies in Review
1. Event Policy, Golf Cart Usage and Parking for Golf Carts
2. Review of all the parking guidelines
3. Parking Strategy Proposal
   a. Report from Parking on Game day- Lot 16C was completely full, had an attendant out by 7:30pm Hour and half before the game, no major problems with cars staying in the lots during Friday game day
4. Proposal: 33 passes for 15D during game day and 25 passes for 13A, to be designated for 1 P.I. per lab who needs to come to do lab research during the game
   a. 33 passes would go to the Dean of NSM for distribution to the faculty requesting the spots
b. Is there a need for these passes for 13A? Probably not, there haven’t been complaints about Lot 13A, just make sure there is an attendant

c. Should they just get these passes from Athletics for 15D? No, let the Dean of NSM handle the passes, get the passes from Athletics

1. Driving by there were a few spots still open during the game in the Lot 15D

5. Motion: Approve that TPAC request 33 passes for 15D to be given to the Dean of NSM to distribute for one pass per lab only for active labs

a. Voted on and approved with one abstaining vote

6. Future discussion to keep in mind: Proposal about revenue sharing from events going to Parking and Transportation

a. Things to consider that Parking and Transportation is working on a Special Events Policy and that P&T currently does not receive revenue for use of parking lots during special events, something to explore

b. Committee encouraged to work with the Athletic Advisory Committee as well

IV. Adjournment

A. Next Meeting October 15th 1:30pm @ the UC Big Bend Room