TPAC Minutes

November 18, 2011

Meeting called to order by the Chair at 1:30 pm.

Attendees:


Non-voting members: Esmeralda Valdez, Angelar Jackson, Syed Kamran Riaz, Ruth Manny for Donald Fox, Bob Browand, Paul Lozano, Eric Holamon, Kenny Mauk, Brad Wigtil, Pat Sayles, Lindsay Blagg, Katrina Wamble.

I. Open Forum

A. RHE parking

1. Fourth garage will start construction next summer in lot 1A. Construction workers are required to parking at ERP.

2. There will be no RHE parking lot during construction. There will be a total loss of about 400 spaces. To temporarily replace these spaces for one year until construction is complete, there are two options. Option 1 is favored by residents and Parking and Transportation. Allow 500 spaces in the Welcome Center garage for residents. The residents can sign up until a certain deadline, which will be the housing deadline of May 30th. After the deadline these spots will be turned over to other students. Option 2 is to make lots 4A and half of 9C RHE parking with RHE rates.

3. Lot 6A may no longer be RHE but will become Faculty/Staff, visitor, and Handicapped to accommodate parkers displaced by the Cougar Village II project. Revisit in 2012.

II. Introduction of New Members

III. Approval of October Minutes

A. Minutes approved.
IV. Updates and Information Items:

A. City Letter

1. Optometry students, staff and faculty filed a complaint to 311. The city responded to the complaints and came out to talk about the speed limit reduction and the crosswalk on Calhoun.

2. To reduce the speed limit we must make another complaint with 311. The speed limit can only be reduced to 30 mph because it is the standard speed limit for a non-thru road where buildings are located on each side. Reduction to 25 mph is not an option due to the fact that it is a 4-lane road. It is not considered a school-zone either. Currently there is speed radar on Calhoun to see whether people are obeying the current speed limit.

3. City stated that they do not want to promote mid-block crossing, we suggested speed humps, reflector buttons, or LED lights on pedestrian crossing signs. The city recommended that the university file another complaint to 311 to make these additions, but they may not be funded by the city.

4. Alex Obregon and Brad Wigtil stated that they know people that work with the city and will see what they can do. They will update at next TPAC meeting.

B. Appeals Policy Update

1. Handouts were provided with a draft of appeal recommendations written back in 2010.

2. Second level appeals are said to be oral appeals should new evidence be available. This review board would consist of 3 different individuals than the first review board, on a majority rules basis. Decision to grant a second level appeal is to be decided by Linda Staber in the Parking and Transportation office. If she feels as though there should be a second appeal then she will set up a meeting with the review board for an oral appeal.

3. If the second appeal is denied and a third appeal is requested, a TPAC nominated review board can determine if due process was violated.
C. Stadium Garage
1. They are finishing up the last of the topping. Lighting, safety equipment and parking equipment still needs to be added. The garage should be open by late June 2012, may be used for parking at the May graduation ceremony.

2. Offices inside the garage should be open by late June as well.

D. Game day
1. Takes place on 11-19-11. College GameDay with ESPN will be in the Cullen Circle. The show will take place between 8-9, and 9-11. Students will be allowed to occupy Cullen Circle by 4 am.

2. University drive after the information booth, will be closed until noon, the rest of the day will be a normal game day event.

3. 1C and 1D will not be available.

4. Parking and Transportation did their best to make sure this information was communicated with everyone through email, press releases, and social media.

E. Lot 9C
1. Lot 9C expansion is complete. 10-12 more spaces were added.

2. Motion to refer students previously ticketed for parking “illegally” to enforcement.

3. Motion denied.

F. RHE Lots
1. Discussed in Open Forum

G. Alternative Parking
1. Green UH issued about 70 more METRO Q-cards. They have also made getting a Q-card available online.

2. UH is 8th in the nation with HERTZ on Demand program.
V. New Items

A. Once all the new housing is built there will be close to 8,000 beds on campus. The University is looking into making it mandatory for all freshmen to live on campus, possibly by 2013. They might also decide to not allow cars on campus for freshmen if it is required they live on campus. There will be exceptions for these requirements. For now the University is looking at aspects that may be affected very closely, and this research will continue until a decision is made. TPAC committee members showed much concern.

B. The committee needs by-laws. Sign in sheet should be signed by all attendees, as well as who voted at the meeting.

VI. Members Items

A. Location Change

1. In the Dining Hall from now on unless otherwise stated. Members can sign in at the register to eat lunch provided by the Fresh Food Company.

2. May 18th meeting has already been changed to 302 Melcher, not the Dining Hall.

B. Cedric Bandoh pointed out that the Parking and Transportation website is currently under construction, and no information is visible. Suggestion was made to make the rest of the website available and only pull the sections that need to be fixed, such as the appeals process and the discounts for citations. Bob Browand and Eric Holamon stated they will fix the problem some time the following week.

C. It was also suggested that the guidelines for the appeals process and discounts for citations be stated in an email that is to be sent as soon as the citation is issued, because the time frame in which you can get the discount starts when the ticket is issued. Bob Browand and Eric Holamon will check with Fidel Ramirez. The hand-helds are supposed to have WIFI. The ticket stock may be old, and not have this information on the ticket either.

D. Suggestion made to look at the corners of the East Garage. Maybe think about adding a yield side, or make the road way a one-way to avoid possible collisions.

VII. Adjourn

A. Meeting adjourned by the Chair at 3:11 pm.