

Transportation and Parking Advisory Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Date: October 18, 2013

Place: PTS Conference Room, Stadium Parking Garage

Time: 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

I. Open Forum

- a. Francis Eyth – to discuss shuttle service to Sugar Land campus
 - i. Digital Media degree program of the College of Technology is moving to Sugarland campus (due to limited facilities and resources during its rapid growth), and Eyth petitions that there is an important need for shuttle service to connect both campuses
 - ii. Eyth says that this indirectly affects public perception of a Tier One university who is not providing an essential resource of transportation choices, especially for those living on campus. UH has a goal of becoming a residential school and this cannot be realized if a certain population of students find itself without a resource to commute. This may also affect decisions to choose majors due to these facility location issues for Digital Media.
 - iii. Need to address financial aspect of covering for this extra shuttle service:
 - Bob estimates 1 bus = approx. \$250-300K per year, but to run efficiently, more than 1 bus is needed, thus raising total costs
 - Eyth suggests working with the Dean at Sugarland for a compromise
 - iv. Chair Parks suggests PTS reach out to Dean/Chair at Digital Media department, find a contact person and collect more info (costs/answers) for further review
 - Mentioned existing carpooling option which is currently in place with Metro Star vans, to specifically ride from SW Houston/Sugarland to UH

II. Approval of September Minutes

III. Frontier Fiesta (FF)

- a. March 20-22 (the weekend after Spring Break)
- b. Brandon Blue: last year's event ran smoothly, but they did not possess a piece of lot by the East Garage, which hindered their operations
- c. Hunter Lewis: Problems with teardown schedule and spaces allocated for the event:
 - i. FF needs one extra day added for sufficient time to teardown structures safely,
 - ii. And expansion is needed NW of original location from last year, which is at SW corner of the East Garage, because this space has less obstructions from the medians and leveler groundwork

- d. Having East Garage open Thurs-Sat during this time last year greatly reduced the amount of displaced parkers and increased overall satisfaction
- e. Chair Parks recapped that with the 2-year agreement set for this location at lots 20A and 20C, FF is looking to adjust this agreement and needs to detail their new plan at the next meeting.

IV. Parking Relocation Cost Rollover – Dr. Jeremy May

- a. Summary: this proposal is to award a percentage of construction costs to PTS from projects which eliminate surface parking spaces.
- b. Garages built to make up for demand in parking are 4 times the cost of the surface parking being replaced.
- c. F/S and students are therefore burdened with paying higher parking permit prices
- d. Other universities have similar policies in place to compensate for the replacement cost; this proposal provides data comparisons of a sample of universities.
- e. Proposal has been taken to Faculty Senate, and Dr. Carlucci and Emily Messa have provided agreeable feedback and approval to move forward; input now needed from Staff Council and Student Body
- f. Advantage: permit prices will stabilize and additional funding would be available for infrastructure needs ... Disadvantage: new construction costs go up
- g. Jeremy: suggests creating subcommittee to move this proposal forward
- h. Xiaojing: will spread support to others and at next Faculty meeting
- i. Chair Parks: deadline for final edits to this proposal to be sent to Bob by November 12th

V. PTS Updates

- a. Marketing (Ed Bell):
 - i. October 23rd at PGH Breezeway - tabling to promote Hertz and Metro membership, encouraging campus to sign-up and register
 - ii. Monday - launch shuttle service advertisement on PTS website and newsletters
- b. Operations (Bob):
 - i. Moving ahead with winter maintenance following bid for 2-yr contract with vendor
- c. A&F (Bob):
 - i. Reorganizing organizational chart of personnel at PTS, with more updates provided at next meeting

VI. Discussion Items

- a. ERP Shuttle to Law Center
 - i. Bob: After running some numbers, the best option for discussion is rerouting service of the return trip from ERP, which includes adding 3 bus stops en route for Architecture, Law, and Bauer colleges; also eliminates existing ERP Express that takes riders directly to UC

- ii. Initial reasons for extending ERP service at Law Center comes from the Dean for the safety and convenience of students and faculty/staff who park at ERP
 - iii. No impact to Groome Transportation's current costs, except that this new route adds an estimated 6-10 minutes to trip time
 - iv. Voting to keep existing route or to change route?
 - Keep: 5
 - Change: 0
 - Abstain: 1
 - v. Motion passed to keep the existing ERP route
- b. MSM Reserved Spaces – Texas Center for Superconductivity
- i. In Entrance 16, TcSUH received curbside, parallel parking spots for after hours and weekend use by research and grad students, but MSM also has an area of reserved spaces for loading/unloading. TcSUH was not given the option to be involved in this decision, considering that this area has limited space.
 - ii. Esmeralda: Discussion will need to be made between both parties involved in order to reach a compromise.
- c. Extended Shuttle Service on Friday Nights
- i. Currently buses at each stop end at 9pm
 - ii. Estimated calculations for extending shuttle service:
 - To add 1 hour each Friday night for 8 weeks left in the semester plus 17 weeks in spring = \$3,500 per route, or \$10,600 for all 3 routes all year
 - To add 2 hours each Friday night will be about \$21,000 for all routes all year
 - iii. Kamran Riaz: The student who initiated this request needs to have this in writing with details provided to bring awareness to Provost's office, and Chair Parks agrees to move forward with this
- d. Wording for Voting Quorum
- i. Original wording that used to be in By-Laws: "Issues requiring a recommendation will, at the earliest, be voted on at the second meeting. A quorum, 50% of the voting members, must be present for a vote to be conducted. If a quorum is not achieved, the vote will be postponed to the following meeting at which time a quorum will be defined as those present. Members will be notified in advance that a vote will take place. There may also be times in which voting is conducted via e-mail, in such cases the 50% quorum rule will be in effect."
 - ii. First sentence removed after Ruth Manning's recommendation that voting two meetings later is unnecessary
 - iii. Last sentence containing voting quorum via email is changed to 67% as per Xiaojin Yuan's recommendation
 - iv. Chair Parks suggests creating subcommittee who will review By-Laws as a whole, and present recommendations for TPAC
 - v. Voting on voting quorum wording:

- Accept wording temporarily as is after initial changes made: 6
- Make further changes: 0
- Abstained: 0

VII. Member Items

- a. Issam Kadiwala reported at Calhoun residential lots that painted lines for parking space are fading, and Bob will observe to fix and repaint
- b. Bob addresses upcoming March for Babies event on campus happening April 27th and will need space to set up tents in lots 16B and 18A, while other events will simultaneously occur at the Arts and Theater buildings during this time. Esmeralda adds awareness of street closures for March for Babies and its impact to community and the other events going on. Bob will gather detailed information for further review at next meeting.
- c. Chair Parks reminds Committee that the Transit fee discussion will need to be addressed again.

VIII. Adjournment

NEXT MEETING:

Date: November 15, 2013

Place: PTS Conference Room, Stadium Parking Garage

Time: 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm