

Transportation Services Advisory Committee

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF MEETING

June 22, 2007

ATTENDEES: Sheila Amos
Cheryl Hanks
Sherry Escalante
Dr. Howard Kaplan
Lauren Barron
Ruth Mullins
Dr. Joe Newton
Rich Pontious
Robert Pottberg
Dr. Angie Hill Price
John Summers

ABSENT: member from Faculty Senate
member from General Senate
member from General Senate
Tyler Koch
Cindy Havner
Dr. Alan Love

GUESTS: Lallah Howard
Rod Weis
Peter Lange
Kenny Kimball
Doug Williams
Debbie Hoffmann
Rose Berryhill

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

Rod Weis brought the meeting to order

2.0 Business

- 2.1 Assess the extent to which business permits affect parking space availability for other permit holders and make recommendations on use and costs.
- 2.2 Asses the impact of increased rates on different levels of employees and make recommendations as to any potential changes in the application of parking rates.

3.0 Discussions

3.1 University Business permits

- 3.1.1 Dr. Angie Hill Price discussed the possibility of being designated by different categories
- 3.1.2 What ways are the UB permits being used
- 3.1.3 Things that can be done university wide to aide people in getting to the GSC
 - 3.1.3.1 How is the parking at the GSC?
 - 3.1.3.1.1 Peter Lange stated that we had 750 spaces, and 23 30-minute spaces at the GSC

- 3.1.4 John Summers stated that he felt that parking should be included in salaries instead of the university supplementing employees that make less than the 33,000 per year
 - 3.1.4.1 Rod Weis stated that it was cloudy on what you can and cannot do with state funds
 - 3.1.4.2 John requested to know how do other departments pay for parking
 - 3.1.4.2.1 John would rather the university needs to pay for all parking for faculty and staff. It was stated by a member that this was not the norm and that A&M needed to be the leader in this charge.
- 3.2 Sheila Amos asked who made the decision on the new parking rates
 - 3.2.1 Rod Weis stated that the Transportation Construction Committee set the rates
- 3.3 Rod Weis presented the PowerPoint presentation give to the BOR on November 20, 2006
- 3.4 Angie Hill Price asked How much did cost to work the football games last year
 - 3.4.1 Kenny Kimball stated that it was over 300,000.00
 - 3.4.2 Does the 12th man money go Transportation Services or Athletics
 - 3.4.2.1 Rod Weis stated that it goes to us
 - 3.4.3 AHP asked how much do they pay TS
 - 3.4.3.1 Kenny Kimball stated that 12th man paid \$4-8 per space
- 3.5 Dr. Joe Newton stated that if we look at page 13 we could see why it increased
 - 3.5.1 VPFN wanted the reserve requirements increased – this increase is accomplished by increasing fees
 - 3.5.2 REW stated that he could send a copy of the presentation to the committee, via email
 - 3.5.3 Dr. Newton stated that the increase in permit fees, creates a net increase of 1.8 million
 - 3.5.3.1 Half of TS expenses are on the passageway; who wants the reserve requirements: state, system?
 - 3.5.3.2 What fraction of the permit price increase is set aside for meeting the new reserve requirement?
 - 3.5.4 Dr. Newton stated that the University Business permits are a real can of worms
 - 3.5.5 Dr. Newton stated he was also there to assist the staff in his college to see if anything can be done to spread out the rate increase for staff surface lot permits so that it does not have to jump from \$175 to \$240 all in one year
 - 3.5.5.1 When he was on the TCC neither he or the committee noticed that increase was so significant the first year
 - 3.5.5.1.1 He asked if TS could more evenly spread staff permit increases over the four year period
- 3.6 Dr. H. Kaplan stated that we were not where we needed to be in the progress of the meeting.
 - 3.6.1 We need to clarify Business permit
 - 3.6.1.1 There are two reasons departments usually request Business Permits
 - 3.6.1.1.1 To ensure faculty and staff can function in their position
 - 3.6.1.1.2 As a perk to others whom the department determines should have it
 - 3.6.1.2 He recommended for us to decrease the # of University Business permits needed and to increase their costs
 - 3.6.1.3 The approval/decision belongs with administrative unit/department; not with TS
 - 3.6.1.3.1 If the administration unit approved/decided Business Permits and also had to pay for them, it would decrease the number requested

- 3.7 Dr. Joe Newton stated the committee did not perceived \$150 to be much of a burden; thought it would be high enough a rate to make some departments reduce the number they requested if they were not necessary; we did not perceive \$150 to be too high a rate
- 3.8 Ruthie Mullins stated the Transportation Construction Committee considered that the cost would eliminate some of the customers that really did not need the permit; that this would eliminate some of the nonessential users and would help resolve the space issue when we loose lots 54 and 55
- 3.8.1 The TCC felt that the department should purchase these and check them out
- 3.9 Cheryl Hanks had concerns on offering individuals business permits, should this not be a department's decision
- 3.9.1 Peter Lange stated that initially, customers could request a business permit when ordering a permit; but that option it was removed
- 3.9.2 Cheryl stated that it should be the department should decide who needed UB's and not TS
- 3.10 John Summers said that TAMU should not give to employees perks or to be a big shot
- 3.11 Dr. Kaplan stated again that the departments needed to decide who was using UB permits
- 3.12 Robert Pottberg stated that some departments would need 20 university business permits; we should consider the number of FTE's to determine a certain number of free business permits issued to each department; his feeling was why should the customer pay double
- 3.12.1 How do we know that people using UB's are not in lots for business purposes
- 3.12.1.1 Ruth Mullins stated that she had seen vehicles parked in lots all day using a UB
- 3.12.2 How many have renewed; have we seen a change in the numbers
- 3.12.2.1 Some departments are holding back to order until they see what the Transportation Services Advisory Committee is going to do
- 3.13 Peter Lange stated that he had heard some good ideals in the meeting
- 3.13.1 Do not automatically renew existing UB's
- 3.13.2 Issue only through departments after obtaining approval
- 3.13.3 Offer different types of business permits; such as a lessor price business permit that authorizes parking in fewer parking lots and not in the garages; should there be time limits on business parking?
- 3.13.3.1 Set guidelines?
- 3.13.3.2 Do departments get UB's as long as they pay for them
- 3.14 John Summers stated that UB permits are good and bad; good because if you are working all over campus they get you where to need to be; bad if they are used as perks
- 3.15 Dr. Kaplan stated again that oversight of permits should be exercised at the department level
- 3.16 Rod Weis asked what if use was up to the department and the department paid \$50; Dr. Angie Hill Price stated that you would have 3000 of the business permits in use
- 3.17 Dr. Joe Newton asked if was to late to change the cost of staff lots; \$175 to an increase of \$240 was steep for the staff in his department
- 3.18 Robert Pottberg stated the major complaint from his office was the increase from \$175 to \$240
- 3.19 Cheryl Hanks said it is not a surprise to faculty and staff that permit princes will continue to go up; she could not understand the pre-tax memo; if we know now that prices will increase for the next 3 years, we should communicate these changes up front
- 3.20 Rod Weis suggested that the committee let TS run the numbers on Joe Newton's proposal and send the information to the TSAC members for reviews and comments; see the impact on the reserves; I understand that you want the UB's to be decided by the departments

- 3.21 Peter Lange confirmed they wanted the UB's to be pulled back; reissued through the department; dual levels of service: Moderate (lots only) and Premium (lots and garages); allocated through departments, how do we do this, through a graduated chart? Robert Pottberg suggested to use the numbers of FTE's
- 3.22 Permit holders will not pay for out of pocket; paid by departments?
- 3.23 Peter Lange asked, what about a 2 hour permit with a lesser price?

Other Topic(s):

****Take aways**

**Rod will send the committee information on restructuring the staff lot permit price; revise the numbers on UB's out today at \$150. PowerPoint presentation from the Transportation Construction Committee. He requested that the committee send their comments to him and copy Rose Berryhill

**Lallah Howard will bring information about the reserve requirements to the next Transportation Services Advisory Committee meeting

MEETING ADJOURNED