

Transportation & Parking Committee (TPC)
23 September 2014 Minutes
Alumni Board Room, Holtzman Alumni Center

Members present:

Gregory Fansler, Kevin Foust, Annabelle Fuselier, Bruce Harper, Anne Marie Ihling, Richard McCoy, Drew Muscente, Hunter Pittman, Ben Poe, John Seiler

Members absent:

Virgilio Centeno, Leon Geyer

Agenda and minutes:

The April 21, 2014, minutes were approved. Harper was anointed scribe to replace Ladd Brown, whose term on the committee (and as recorder extraordinaire) expired in June.

Parking and Transportation update:

McCoy said the Parking Appeals Committee has been established as a University Operational Committee under Sherwood Wilson, Vice President for Administration. Appointments have been made from the Staff Senate and Faculty Senate, with appointments to be made by the Student Government Association and the Graduate Student Assembly. There also needs to be an Administrative/Professional faculty member appointed by that commission. The committee will start meeting in October and will meet one or two times a month, as needed.

McCoy also discussed the changes that will be coming to the Derring and Perry Street parking lots due to construction of the Multimodal Facility (MMF) and a new classroom building. Parking Services is working with the Center for Survey Research to get feedback from all affected groups. The Transportation and Parking Committee is being asked to work on an operations plan as to how parking will be rearranged around campus, Blacksburg Transit service to outlying areas, etc. This will be a year-long project.

Pittman asked about the MMF, which will be adjacent to the Perry Street parking garage. He mentioned the map included with the report on the building that shows changes to Perry Street and parking lots. McCoy said the building plans are laid out, but the parking impact has not been addressed. The plan the committee will work on is to determine how to best come out of all of this. Pittman asked about access to the Cowgill loading dock and mentioned problems with short-term student parking as they moved items into and out of Cowgill labs. McCoy said access will be maintained to the loading dock and to the Pamplin parking lot.

Ihling asked what will be in the survey and McCoy said it is still under development with the survey center. He said Parking Services is also looking at fill rates in lots in that area, since that is the busiest parking area due to the proximity to the academic area of campus.

In response to questions, McCoy said new parking signs have been installed in several locations and all the signs will eventually be replaced as funds are available. He said Car Pool spaces are open for anyone after 5 p.m. unless it is signed as a 24-hour space or the space is in a 24-hour parking lot. There has been no change, he said, in the system for Parking Services to check license plates. It is tied to the DMV and Banner but has not been connected to any Registrar databases.

Virginia Tech Police Department update:

Foust reported that the year was off to its usual start with no major injuries from accidents reported. He said the grace period for issuing tickets is ending soon and officers will write up violations. He said most of the warnings have been to cyclists riding the wrong way around the

Drill Field. This led to a discussion of problems with pedestrians and cyclists on sidewalks and cyclists who quickly switch between the street and sidewalk and back again. The question was raised as to why bikes are allowed on sidewalks. McCoy said the number of car/bike incidents is higher than pedestrian/bike incidents. He said the rules were changed to allow use of sidewalks to help promote bikes as an alternative form of transportation.

Foust will gather statistics on incidents for review at the next meeting. Ihling said the SGA is looking at education programs, such as how to ride a bike (hand signals, interaction with pedestrians, etc.) and how to put a bike on a bus bike rack.

The matter of bikes and sidewalks will be discussed further after a review of the stats.

Constituent Reports

None offered.

Questions and Comments

A question was asked about construction on the Drill Field. The plan for changes to permit two-way traffic between McBryde and the Bookstore is still on track for next summer. The rest of the plans (as presented to the committee last spring) depend on funding. At the recent Board of Visitors meeting, the Buildings and Ground committee challenged campus planners to find a better material instead of asphalt for Drill Field paths, even if something new has to be invented.

Muscente asked about TA parking spaces. McCoy said there have been no changes since last year, but he will comment after the parking survey is completed because spaces will be directly affected by the upcoming construction.

McCoy said no date has been set for construction to start on the new classroom building, which will be between Derring Hall and Perry Street. He said when construction starts, the large part of the Derring lot will be closed but the small section (with the rocks) will remain open. That lot will eventually be closed, but will be reopened when construction is complete.

The next meeting will be in the Holtzman board room on Tuesday, October 21 at 9 a.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Harper
Recorder