

September 23, 1993

Parking/Transportation Committee Meeting

Present: J. B. Sutphin, R. Alvarez, George Lux, George Sanzone, Bill Aliff, Widget Shannon, Rob Moliue, Patty Murdock and Carl Polan.

The meeting was conducted by retiring Chair Polan.

Items discussed follow:

1. Polan updated the Committee on the Administrations decision for graduate student parking and the implementation of it. Instead of our recommendations, some nearer spaces in Lot B and behind Hillcrest have been specifically designated for TA's. Permits are obtained from the Graduate School which includes days of the week when permits are valid. Alvarez reported that Parking was watching the use of these spaces and were adjusting the number so that a large number were not left vacant.
2. Safety with bicycles is becoming a bigger issue. More are riding on pedestrian areas. Placement of racks seems to be critical for traffic and safety also. The Committee wants to meet with Peter Karp and Bobby Criminger concerning bicycle issues.
3. Student leader parking privileges were discussed. Special tags were issued complying with Dr. Goodale's request list. The concensus of the Committee was that we should determine if this privilege should require Faculty/Staff fee rates.
4. Special Purpose Housing- House leaders have complained that they should not have to buy a parking permit to park over there.
5. New Chair- Alvarez moved that George Lux be recommended as this years Chair. Motion seconded by Sanzone. Nominations were closed and Lux reluctantly accepted after other members offered full assistance on his request.
6. The meeting was then adjourned.

Parking and Transportation Committee

Meeting: Nov. 16, 1993, 11:00 am - 12:25 pm

Present: J. B. Sutphin Facilities Planning
Pat Ballard Staff Senate
Richard Alvarez Public Safety
Cameron Weaver Graduate Student

Assembly William R. Aliff Faculty Senate
Carl Polan Immediate past chair
George Sanzone Faculty Senate
Widget Shannon Staff Senate
Rob Moilque Graduate Student

Assembly George Lux, chair Faculty Senate
A. Curtis Lynch Parking Services
Gail McMillan, scribe Faculty Senate

President for Guests: Bob Criminger Associate Vice
Peter I. Karp Facilities
University Architect

Lux outlined some concerns about parking and transportation on the Virginia Tech campus.

Turner Street is a parking and transportation nightmare, especially when vehicles drive down the street, don't find a parking spot, and then have to drive on the sidewalk to get out of Purgatory.

Bike racks in pedestrian-only areas, for example in Cowgill and Library plazas

Whitemore parking lot: what will happen when the new engineering building is built?

What are the plans for future parking needs at Major Williams Hall and Upper Quad?

There are trade-offs between parking structures and lots.

Karp's responses did a great deal to reassure the committee that planning is never done in isolation, but in close association with many areas of campus. Many of the issues Lux raised are a result, not of plans being put in motion but of very preliminary discussions.

Bikes are a large and complex problem. We want to encourage students to ride bikes where it is safe for them as well as for pedestrians.

An engineering building is at least six months away from going out for bid. However, the Stanger lot was paved so it would be ready to absorb parking displaced by the new building or its construction.

Major Williams is going out for bids for construction; Aug. 1995 the date set for occupancy.

Turner St. has been studied, discussed, but not yet in the planning stages.

A major update to the University Plan is in our immediate future. The outcome will shape the university for the next 40 years. Transportation and parking are a special component of the plan and the firm hired to do the plan will be meeting on campus with lots of groups, including this committee.

Criminger added that fire access to Cowgill and loading docks for Burruss must receive special consideration for life safety, access, and service in making future plans for Turner St. Sutphin added that when it was studied in the past, the decision was made not to cut down mature trees and too many parking spaces would have to be eliminated to provide for adequate turning radius to exit Turner St. The intersection of Turner and Stanger has been studied and it was determined that there was sufficient traffic to warrant making it a four-way stop but there was not sufficient traffic to warrant putting in a traffic light.

Alvarez commented on the above issues also.

Bike update:

There are not enough bike racks, in part due to the dramatic increase in the number of bikes on campus this year. During Thanksgiving break, bike racks will be moved from under-utilized areas to areas of greater need. There has also been greater enforcement of bike rules violations. Lux suggested to the student committee members that they work with the local bike clubs and that they write articles and promote bike registration and safety.

Parking update: Fees and fines are the only revenue source for the university's parking and transportation system. Fines are down, fewer tickets are begin written, voided tickets are down, and improved signage on I81 and Rt. 460 has led more people to the Visitors' Center. As a result, revenues are down \$20,000 from what they were last year.

The automated parking system has improved efficiencies in recordkeeping for parking registration and services. After some more testing, hand held computers will be used to produce parking tickets; therefore, this information will be downloaded nightly into the automated system, further reducing the need for data entry.

Lynch also contributed some statistics about bicycle registration and ticketing.

Widget reported that she is serving on a subcommittee to review graduate student leaders parking privileges. This subcommittee will recommend any needed changes in the current policies to the Parking and Transportation Committee.

Sutphin raised the issue of stopping rumors by having more open discussions at the committee meetings. Today's was an excellent example of this. Sutphin is in an excellent position to keep us informed and Lux will invite Karp and Criminger to more frequently meet with the committee.

Aliff asked Lynch to study the feasibility of curbside parking at Vet Med.

The question was raised about online minutes. McMillan will distribute the draft of the minutes to each committee member's VM account and when they are approved, she will send them to the proper account to get them posted for university-wide access. The standard committee meeting time is 11:15 am - 12:15 pm Tuesdays as called by the chair.

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Minutes amended and approved by the Parking and Transportation Committee on Feb. 1, 1994.

Parking and Transportation Committee
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE ATTENDEES AT THE JUNE 30, 1994
PARKING
AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING.

Meeting: Feb. 2, 1994, 11:00 am - 12:25 pm

Present: Pat Ballard	Staff Senate
Richard Alvarez	Public Safety
Cameron Weaver	Graduate Student Assembly
Widget Shannon	Staff Senate
George Lux, chair	Faculty Senate
A. Curtis Lynch	Parking Services
Gail McMillan, scribe	Faculty Senate

Lynch will check on another student member for the committee.

Agenda item 1.

The committee approved the minutes of the meeting of Nov. 16, 1993,
with few changes.

Agenda item 2.

Lux read Ann Spencer's request that employees with 30+ years of service
to the university be granted free parking while employed at Virginia
Tech.

Some discussion ensued including the number of employees (40-50) and
how this would not significantly impact on parking revenues. There was
unanimous approval for this recommendation and a small demonstration of
appreciation for the significant number of years of service to the
university. It was also noted that this committee does not take making
exceptions lightly.

Agenda item 3 (re proposal for faculty and graduate students to use
loading zones for pick-ups and unloading)

Following brief comments, the committee agreed that adequate procedures
already exist for anyone to load and unload in restricted areas by
calling the Parking Office. If the office is notified, it is recorded
so that if a ticket is issued, it can be voided.

Agenda item 4 (re potential bus service to Brooks Forest Products
Center on Ramble Road)

After discussion, the committee unanimously denied this request as not
being cost effective. In fact, student fees might increase to cover the
cost of additional services.

It was suggested that workers at the Forest Products Center might want to join with the workers at the Corporate Research Center and approach the town committee with a joint request.

Agenda item 5.

Lux read a request to designate part of the commuter lot for students who do not live near BT route. The committee discussed several aspects of the proposal, including how difficult it would be to administer such a program (i.e., the need to correlate student's addresses with their parking permit purchase. The request was denied, unanimously.

Alvarez suggested that rescheduling some of the very big lecture classes to nonprime time, would alleviate some parking congestion. This committee will take the recommendation under consideration and discuss it further at another meeting.

Alvarez noted that the Virginia Tech Traffic and Parking Regulations: Students, Faculty, Staff, Visitors, 1993-94 had been accepted into state law and that it would not need to be revised for 1994/95.

Shannon gave a preliminary report about parking for student leaders. Their parking privileges will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Shannon questioned why some cars parked in snow routes were not towed during January's snow storm. Alvarez suggested that since the campus population was so reduced during the winter break, the parking enforcement officers had been more tolerant than usual. However, whenever someone calls the Parking Office and reports a specific problem, that problem is addressed. Alvarez also noted that the Parking Office should be informed about problems with parking lots, such as pot holes needing repair.

The university-wide priorities for snow clearance by the Physical Plant are:

1. roads
2. sidewalks
3. parking lots

GMc 2/16/93; 7/6/94