

Transportation & Parking Committee (TPC)
27 January 2014 Minutes
Third Floor Conference Room, Holtzman Alumni Center

Members present:

Ladd Brown, Gregory Fansler, Kevin Foust, Bruce Harper, Kathy Hosig, Mackenzie Jarvis, Richard McCoy, Kasey Richardson, Patricia Williams

Members absent:

Virgilio Centeno, Leon Geyer, Ben Poe

Agenda and minutes:

The 18 November 2013 minutes were approved as amended.

Parking and Transportation (P&T) update:

As an initial step in creating a recommendation from the TPC to the Commission on University Support (CUS) to establish the Parking Appeals Hearing Committee (PAHC aka Second Appeals Subcommittee) in university governance, McCoy created and distributed a draft of the PAHC Background Information and Operation Procedures.

The draft suggested that the PAHC membership should logically mirror the TPC membership which draws from the four university constituencies (faculty, staff, undergraduate students, and graduate students). McCoy said that this would insure adequate membership and attendance as well as enable P&T to eliminate the free parking pass incentive for qualifying PAHC members.

Subsequent TPC discussion brought attention to these points:

- The TPC agreed that the term of appointed service should reflect that of the constituency (three years of service for faculty and staff; one year of service from undergraduate students and graduate students).
- The TPC agreed that the PAHC recommendation should go to CUS this spring with a goal of having the PAHC recognized as a governance body for the Fall 2014 semester.
- In the draft, the sitting PAHC should consist of a minimum of three voting members. With a possibility of eight members and alternates appointed through governance, a decision needs to be made regarding the final number of members and alternates.
- The number of appellants each meeting is 12 to 15 at the high end and 5 to 6 during slow periods.
- The original documentation created for and used in PAHC hearings is kept according to university records management guidelines.
- Ideally, PAHC members would represent the major permit types (Faculty/Staff, Resident, Commuter/Graduate).
- PAHC scheduling is based on the availability of PAHC members with an approximate commitment of 90 minutes per biweekly session.
- TPC membership would not necessarily be a conflict of interest for those TPC members who sought service on PAHC.
- Equine transportation to and from campus does not seem to pose any parking and/or transportation problems at this time.

McCoy mentioned that the PAHC operational procedures are working well. PAHC co-chair Wyatt Sasser will attend the 17 March 2014 TPC meeting to share information and experiences.

In other P&T news:

- “The Classroom Building” adjacent to Derring Hall will displace parking in Derring Lot.
- The construction timetable for the Multi-Modal Transit Facility (MMTF) is difficult to predict; parking will be displaced in Perry Street Lot 1; shuttle / Hokie Express service will be expanded to assuage displaced permit holders.
- The Duck Pond Road Lot (Cage) has lost spaces due to Human and Agricultural Biosciences Building (HABB) construction and the creation of the Chiller Plant but still has 1700 spaces.
- There has been a small decline in Resident permits, which are the most expensive permits because residents’ vehicles spend the most time on campus.
- Once the Signature Engineering Building construction is complete, about 70 spaces will be returned to the P3 Perry Street Lot.
- McCoy wrapped his report up by giving brief updates on other campus parking lots.

Virginia Tech Police Department (VTPD) update:

Foust reported that the latest round of campus security cameras installation included parking lots in the Veterinary Medicine complex and also the Chiller Plant area.

He also stated that:

- Cameras on the area buildings partially cover the Perry Street Lots as well as crosswalk activity
- The security cameras are live, but not actively monitored fulltime; student assistants will be employed as fulltime monitors by the time the Fall 2014 semester begins.
- If any security camera in any location captures activity that warrants an investigation, the VTPD responds.
- As well as cameras in the Slusher Hall elevators, there are cameras on Cassell Coliseum, Ambler Johnston Hall, and McComas Hall that scan the Washington Street area; the Kent Street and the Duck Pond areas will soon have security cameras.
- College Avenue is now completely covered by security cameras; since this is a campus/town landscape, the Blacksburg Police Department has access to the College Avenue coverage.

Constituent Reports:

1) Safety and security in the parking garage [Richardson, Graduate Student Assembly].

McCoy stated that there was security camera coverage in the Perry Street Parking Garage at the entrances, exits, up ramp, down ramp, and elevators, but no cameras scanning interior parking spaces; there are cameras being installed in the North End Parking Garage.

Foust mentioned that Blue Light Emergency Phone calls generate a call to a 911 dispatcher and that every Blue Light call is considered an emergency until proven otherwise.

There was a question regarding whether the Safe Ride escort drops passengers off at a parking garage entrance or at the passenger’s space inside the garage. Safe Ride does drop off passengers at the passenger’s space in open lots.

2) The possibility of more short-term exclusively commuter (undergrad) parking to save space for grad students who are typically here all day long [Richardson, Graduate Student Assembly].

Richardson explained that most graduate students have different parking needs than those of commuter students (e.g., employment, teaching assistant, and laboratory commitments).

McCoy replied that P&T has applied many solutions to this standing problem of balancing graduate student parking concerns with commuter student parking requirements: increased parking on the Drillfield, Teaching Assistant parking options, and timed spaces in select lots.

There was lengthy TPC discussion on this topic and McCoy agreed to present several options for at a future TPC meeting for review. Graduate Students with Assistantships as a possible parking permit classification was one option mentioned as an example.

3) Student Government Transportation Website [Jarvis, Student Government Association (SGA)]

Jarvis announced there is an SGA transportation website <http://www.sga.vt.edu/transportation/>. She also announced that SGA will be working on a campaign to combat texting while driving. The SGA Transportation Committee <http://www.sga.vt.edu/transportation/committee.php> is also interested in pedestrian issues and behavior, crosswalk concerns, and other campus transportation matters.

It was mentioned that there should be some sort of transportation safety video for New Student Orientation; Jarvis replied that monthly SGA transportation- and safety-related videos may be produced.

February / March Meetings:

The next meeting is Monday, February 17th at 11:00 am. in the 3rd Floor Conference Room in the Holtzman Alumni Center. Wyatt Sasser, Co-Chair of the PAHC, will provide feedback on the appeals policy and procedure document the TPC is amending.

The March meeting is Monday, March 17th at 11:00 am. in the 3rd Floor Conference Room in the Holtzman Alumni Center. Jason Soileau, assistant vice president for the Office of University Planning, will present on the Drillfield Drive project at this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Ladd Brown
Recorder