

TRANSPORTATION and PARKING COMMITTEE
November 9, 1995

Present: Richard Alvarez, Pat Ballard, Becky Brim, Jean Eversole, Erin Fahl, Hayward Farrar, Curtis Lynch, Krissy Mather, Bruce Obenhaus for John Tombarge, Gene Reed, and Widget Shannon.

The meeting of the Transportation and Parking Committee was called to order by Widget Shannon.

Announcements: Widget expressed appreciation for those attending the meeting and coordinating agenda items, etc.

Approval of October 12, 1995 minutes: Erin Fahl made motion, seconded by Richard Alvarez, and by unanimous vote of the Committee, the October minutes were accepted.

OLD BUSINESS

Letter of complaint: Richard Alvarez had agreed to respond to the faculty member's letter of concern (see September minutes). Richard stated he had responded.

Dot Cupp's letter of complaint - size of Parking Spaces: Widget had contacted Ms. Cupp and explained the mandate for the size of the parking spaces and explained there is no easy solution to this parking dilemma. If the parking spaces were made wider the cost would be monetary as well as fewer parking spaces. Widget agreed to follow-up once again with Ms. Cupp.

Faculty concerns: Due to the absence of Terry Wildman this agenda item was tabled until December. Terry was going to try and broaden the feedback from other colleagues across campus, especially faculty that are on or near the drill field area, and to obtain the perceptions on transportation and parking from these faculty.

Other Items Tabled Until December:

1. Map detailing location and frequency of traffic accidents
2. Financial Statement of Parking Services

NEW BUSINESS

Signage in Cage Parking: Widget shared with the Committee the frustration of a student trying to locate her vehicle in the area known as the Cage Parking Lot. The question was raised as to whether the rows could be marked/numbered/named in such a way students would be able to locate their vehicle without having to wander aimlessly around the lot. Richard Alvarez agreed to look into this as well as to whether sufficient bicycle racks were in place.

Student Parking Survey: Erin Fahl working with the SGA shared results of a recent survey where the students counted almost 50 empty faculty/staff parking spaces in the designated parking area behind

Whittemore Hall. Erin asked whether some of these spaces could be freed for at least graduate teaching assistant parking or computer student parking. Richard Alvarez responded to this inquiry and provided a very detailed explanation as to the development/completion of a nearby lot in this vicinity. Richard said that he and Curtis Lynch's office would be more than glad to work with the SGA body and hopefully within the next month (and certainly by the return of the students from semester break) adjustments could be made in some areas of the parking. With the students helping, parking counts can be ascertained with suggestions and recommendations made and put into action.

Richard also shared with Erin that he would be more than glad to talk with the SGA any time and if possible accompany Curtis Lynch to the upcoming SGA meeting.

Owens Parking (evening mealtimes): Jean Eversole shared the concern that students living in Special Purpose Housing come to campus for their evening meal and that parking, especially at Owens, is very difficult if not impossible. Jean asked has there been a recent review of the available parking/signage in this area. Students taking the bus spend anywhere from 45 minutes to two hours for their dinner time. Is there any way to make it easier and more convenient for the students?

This issue lead into the discussion of the Parking Meters on campus. Meter time at the core of the campus is 45 minutes, outlying meters are 2 hours. The University Bookstore is in close proximity of Owens Dining Hall, however, the Bookstore does not want nor encourages students to park using meter time in order to dine. Meter time for the bookstore should be consistent with it's hours of operation. Curtis will investigate.

But in response to Jean's initial inquiry -- there is no immediate solution for students desiring parking during this peak mealtime.. Even having short-term parking for carryouts didn't appear to be a workable solution.

COMPLIMENT: Committee member, Hayward Farrar, asked that it be duly noted and recorded in the minutes how satisfied he was personally with the parking situation at the university. He felt that there was sufficient space(s) for faculty and the current \$50 annual fee was not unreasonable. He would be more than glad to pay more. Dr. Farrar has had the opportunity to visit other campuses and often times the faculty/staff and students don't realize what a bargain they have here at Tech. Dr. Farrar wanted to go on record that he personally feels that the Public Safety, Health and Transportation Department, the Parking Services Staff, the Transportation and Parking Committee are outstanding in their charge to accommodate the needs of the university.

On behalf of the committee, Widget expressed thanks and appreciation for Mr. Farrar's kind remarks.

To Do List:

1. Widget Shannon to contact Ms. Dot Cupp in follow-up to earlier

complaint.

2. (Carried over from October Meeting) Gene Reed to ask Richard Alvarez for a copy of Parking Services Financial Statement.
3. Krissy and Erin agreed to work with Richard Alvarez and Curtis Lynch on parking space(s) availability. Curtis has been invited and accepted to speak at the next SGA meeting, Richard will also try to attend. (Possible article for Collegiate Times.)
4. Richard Alvarez to assess Cage Parking.
5. Timed meter parking at University Bookstore should be consistent with the hours of operation of the bookstore (i.e., 8 to 5) -- Curtis Lynch to investigate.

REMINDER: Arrangements are complete to meet the second Thursday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the large conference room of Newman Library at least through May of 1996. However, with conflicts to the students and faculty (with upcoming exams and holiday break) the December and January meeting dates are as follows: Thursday, December 7 and Thursday, January 18, 1996.

To keep the Committee focused and as a reminder of the purpose the following will always be a part of the monthly minutes.

Transportation and Parking Committee

Members are selected from a cross section of the university population (faculty, staff, students, and parking administration) to be informed regarding the transportation and parking function and when appropriate to express special needs or problems for their constituents. Members of the committee should also be briefed on significant changes and future plans regarding transportation and parking systems and rules. Members of the committee may make recommendations regarding transportation and parking. Recommendations should first be made to the parking manager and subsequently to the Commission on University Support if deemed appropriate.

Meetings are called at the discretion of the committee chair to discuss issues and to be updated by transportation and parking representatives.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m. The December meeting will be held on Thursday, December 7, 1995 at 1:00 p.m.

- Newman Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Brim
Note taker