

Transportation & Parking Committee
November 16, 2011 Minutes -- Amended
Parking Services Satellite Office (Perry Street Parking Garage)

Members Present:

Ladd Brown, Angelo Colon, Dennis Gehrt, Bruce Harper, Spencer Joslin, Richard McCoy, Lyndsay McKeever, Achla Marathe, Steve Mouras, Patricia Williams

Members Absent:

Wendell Flinchum, David Russell, Emily Satterwhite

Attendees:

Joey Albert (for Flinchum), Shepard Zedaker (guest)

Spencer Joslin reminded the committee that his new e-mail address is SJoslin@vtti.vt.edu

Agenda:

Shepard Zedaker address to T&P Committee re: football towing policy:

[Zedaker's motorcycle was towed from the Cheatham Hall parking lot on Friday evening before the Saturday, October 8, 2011 home football game. Zedaker asked to be included on the agenda in order to have a discussion with the committee about the football towing policy and related issues.]

Zedaker thoroughly presented his side of the October 7th towing incident to the committee. Richard McCoy then supplied complete information concerning the pre-home athletic event procedures of Parking Services, some insight into the basic duties of the towing companies when clearing VT lots, as well as answering Zedaker's specific questions.

The committee continued lengthy discussion of these points, including lot signage and policy language (which are strictly-controlled by university offices) and Zedaker offered these recommendations before his departure:

- The green log (contacting Parking Services to alert them of a particular parking situation) information should be more prominent in the various parking and traffic information communications for home football games.
- If Parking Services can take the time to e-mail the owner of record for a registered vehicle before towing, Zedaker asked, then why can't Parking Services take the time to call the number on file?

Minutes approval:

The October minutes were approved as written.

Report from the Commission on University Support (CUS):

Achla Marathe reported to the committee that the CUS had been listening to stakeholder's concerns about the construction of the multi-modal transit facility (MMTF) in the Derring Lot. These concerns included:

- The potential damage to Derring Hall laboratory experiments from bus exhaust fumes as the buses idled near laboratory exhaust systems.
- The increase in unwelcome foot traffic through Derring Hall and environs.

Steve Mouras offered the committee some background on this issue (the MMTF project committee recommended the Derring Lot site; the BOV is interested in an environmental impact study) and reported that these concerns will be taken under study.

Vice Chair Election:

Bruce Harper volunteered to be T&P Committee vice chairperson.

Setting Year's Agenda:

The formal review of the operational and governance documents for the Parking Appeals Hearing Committee (PAHC) aka 2nd Appeals Committee, was mentioned as the primary agenda item for the 2011-2012 term.

Future agenda items could also include addressing cycling on campus in general and supporting the specific bicycle safety / bicycle education initiatives from Alternative Transportation (AT) as explained by Lyndsay McKeever:

- Smart Cycling program featuring certified instructors
- SGA is promoting a Share the Road campaign
- AT will be emphasizing bike education
- Bicycle light discount / give-away sponsored by local bike stores

PAHC bylaws review:

Vice Chairperson Harper distributed Parking Appeals Hearing Committee Background Information and Operation Procedures.

It was mentioned that Parking Services' Bo Frazier be invited to a future T&P Committee meeting to report on the PAHC and other parking-related issues.

Other Business:

Joey Albert reported follow-up information on the Derring Lot / Perry Street pedestrian / vehicle traffic relationships and said that additional manpower at the location would not solve the problem and added that it had been observed that there was more traffic coming out of B Lot than Derring.

The topic of BT's summer bus schedule changes due to funding issues was introduced just before adjournment.