

TSAC Minutes
November 7, 2018

Present:

Ms. Ashali Chimata
Mr. Bill Cox
Mr. Andy Deuel
Mr. Joe Dillard
Dr. Eleanor Green (Ms. Misty Skaggs)
Dr. Julie Harlin
Dr. Angie Hill Price
Ms. Erin Jones
Dr. Andrew Klein
Mr. Peter Lange
Dr. Clint Magill
Ms. Katie Morris
Mr. Chris Nygren
Ms. Renee O'Banion

Mr. Robert Pottberg
Ms. Flora Reeves
Ms. Deborah Wright

Absent:

Dr. Fuller Bazer
Dr. Zachary Grasley
Dr. C.J. Woods

Guests:

Mr. Jett Black
Mr. David Brown
Ms. Lisa Pierce
Mr. Landon Mendez

1. Mr. Lange opened the meeting at 11:47 am, asked the committee to review the minutes. Mr. Chris Nygren motioned for approval of the minutes as presented, Mr. Bill Cox seconded; minutes approved.

2. Mr. Lange introduced alternate designees who were present: Mr. Landon Mendez, representing the Student Body, and Ms. Lisa Pierce, representing the University Staff Council. He then gave a brief update of the status of Polo Road Garage and the MSC streets renovation project <https://transport.tamu.edu/Parking/faqmscstreet.aspx>.

3. Ms. Therese Kucera gave a brief update about the future of Lot 50 and the impact on its permit holders when Polo Road Garage needs to use the lot as a lay-down/construction area. She said Lot 50 permit holders will be staying in the lot, while newer, Lot 50X permit holders will be moved to West Campus Garage. Lot 50X permits will allow them access to the garage, and they will receive Lot 50 permits (if desired/applicable) when the construction is complete. West Campus Garage is the closest undergraduate parking area we can provide for the undergraduates affected by this change.

3. Ms. Debbie Hoffmann gave a brief update concerning the bike share program. She said there are two components of the program, the university component and the city of College Station component. From the university perspective, the project went out for bid, we signed a contract with ofo to be our bike share vendor with exclusive rights to operate on campus. The city of College Station enacted an ordinance requiring ofo (and other bike share companies) to request a permit to operate in the city. The city revoked ofo's permit for several reasons, and gave ofo a 10-day period to remedy the problems. Ofo was able to meet the requirements by that deadline, and is now able to operate in the city again. Ofo did not meet all the contractual agreements

with Texas A&M, however, and we have given the company a 60-day notice to discontinue the contract. Ms. Hoffmann said we are now in negotiations with a second vendor to be in place by the spring semester. We have a third vendor in mind as well, if anything should happen with the second vendor.

3.1. Ms. Deborah Wright asked if the new vendor would provide the same number of bikes.

3.1.1. Ms. Hoffmann said the contractor we are working with can commit to providing 2,000 bikes right away.

3.2. Mr. Nygren asked if there would be any rate changes with the new vendor.

3.2.1. Ms. Hoffmann said their rates would be the same or lower.

3.3. Mr. Cox asked if we would have to deal with the abandoned bicycles.

3.3.1. Ms. Hoffmann said it was likely, and we have a plan in place. She also mentioned that the next vendor will need to have a permit in place with the City of College Station before we sign a contract with them.

3.4. Ms. Hoffmann mentioned we are changing our employment model concerning upkeep of the bikes. The vendor will provide five employees, who will be managed by Ron Steedly (Alternative Transportation manager). Each employee will be responsible for a different city zone. We will also use student labor to manage the bikes.

3.5. Ms. Hoffmann mentioned that the City of Bryan is also developing an ordinance concerning alternative transportation modes. The city has allowed five Byrd scooters to operate. We let Bryan officials know that the scooters are not permitted on campus. Ms. Hoffmann also pointed out that we are in frequent, friendly communication with scooter companies, and when they engage with other campus agencies they are referred to us.

3.5.1. Ms. Katie Morris said students were using social media to stir up consensus for Byrd to be allowed on campus.

3.5.2. Dr. Angie Hill Price said we need to have a conversation in the future about dangerous modes of alternative transportation, such as scooters, skateboards, etc.

3. Mr. Kenny Kimball gave an updated presentation about Business Permit usage. See presentation: <http://transport.tamu.edu/About/tsac.aspx#presentations>. Mr. Kimball said we received good feedback about Business Permits at the October meeting, and have come up with some ideas to gather more data, especially usage in surface lots. We want to eventually move toward a License Plate Recognition (LPR) campus, and the ability to better gauge business permit usage will be a big step in that direction. Right now we can only gather data from our garages. We will come back with ideas on how to implement LPR with business permits. Mr. Lange said this may take a year to solve.

3.1. Dr. Hill Price said she is concerned with privacy issues associated with using LPR. Ms. Hoffmann said we will incorporate a privacy message with our communications when LPR comes online.

3.2. Mr. Lange said we are working through Business Permit custodian data that will help us to get a better understanding of usage in surface lots. We are trying to think through the easiest way to gather data, especially concerning shared Business Permits.

3.3. Ms. Kucera said we need to look across campus where Business Permits are valid and see if we can reduce or consolidate the number of business spaces in adjoining/near lots.

3.4. Dr. Hill Price asked about counts for Service Permits and how they are controlled. She cited abuse of the permits by service vendors.

3.4.1. Ms. Kucera said Service Permits are allowed in different areas, but are similar to Business Permits, because they are hard to track. We know the quantity of Service Permits issued, but do not know how they are being used and shared in surface lots.

3.5. Dr. Andrew Klein asked if it might be a good idea to produce a mobile application to handle the problem.

3.5.1. Mr. Lange said he wanted the solution to be even easier than an app. He mentioned that LPR-enabled parking will allow us to collect better and more accurate data in the future, and the current testing of LPR at RELLIS will move us toward some solutions, but the process will be slow.

4. Mr. Kimball gave a presentation about visitor parking rate increases. See presentation: <http://transport.tamu.edu/About/tsac.aspx#presentations>. He said we will increase the daily rate starting in the fall semester, 2019. We do not raise visitor parking rates incrementally each year like parking lot/garage permits. Instead, we need to keep visitor parking revenue at 20% of our total income to keep permit prices down. We will front-load the first 3-4 hours and raise hourly rates, but not the daily maximum rate. We will also extend the daily rate beyond 5 pm to 6 pm.

4.1. Dr. Clint Magill asked about visitor parking rates potentially going up as someone is parked as a visitor and committed to an on-campus meeting.

4.1.1. Mr. Lange said this could be offered as a product suite to groups that want other options for visitor parking for events, conferences, etc. Our ability to offer different "products" for our special event parking is something we want to consider.

4.2. Dr. Klein asked is we could relieve pressure on the time night parking rates begin in highly trafficked lots (like 54 and 55) by moving the time so staff can get out and students in without causing undue congestion. Dr. Hill Price suggested 5:30pm might be a better time.

4.2.1. Mr. Lange said we can watch the lots, gather data and do better to lessen the impact on all concerned.

4.2.2. Ms. Hoffmann mentioned that we also need to consider those undergraduate and graduate students who come in for night classes and rely on spots afforded by their night parking permits.

5. There was time for some general discussion, in which members brought up some safety issues:

- Dr. Hill Price mentioned a large number of bicyclists are causing safety concerns by driving the wrong way on Ireland toward New Street. She also asked if we can put up a sign at the gate access to Spence Street that says "no through access."
- Ms. Lisa Pierce asked if it would be possible to put signage between lots 114 and 122 to promote safety there, as people are using the throughway to speed through the lots.
- Ms. Misty Skaggs suggested a yield sign at the Lot 24/25 entrance from Lot 101, which has been dangerous for pedestrians.

- Mr. Lange said we would take a look at how we could make all those areas safer.

6. Mr. Lange concluded the meeting at 12:55 pm. *The next meeting will be Dec. 5th, Rudder 601.*