

Parking and Transportation Standing Committee Meeting
Lyceum Room 110 – 3:00 p.m.
Monday – January 8, 2018

Attended:

Dr. Bob Barnard, Paul Caffera, Thelma Curry, Mike Harris, Lisa Park (attended for Linda Christian), Ashton Pearson, Erin Ridout, Steven Ridout, and Grant Wichman

Discussion:

- Minutes from the last meeting (November 13, 2017) were approved.

- Following the meeting agenda – Old Business – Construction & Parking/Transit Updates
 - Mike referenced a handout in the meeting agenda packet of the RH3 (new residence hall) handicap designated parking area off Rebel Drive. The only parking now allowed is for handicapped motorists in handicapped designated spaces. Mike indicated that an area in the opposite direction from the handicapped spaces will be developed to create 2 timed-parking spaces for non-handicapped students who need to run into their residence hall for a brief period of time. These spaces will have a 30-minute limit.
 - Mike also referenced a handout photo of the driveway of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity house off Poole Drive. This drive area is to be paved thereby developing 4 or 5 parking spaces which will be designated faculty/staff parking with one space reserved for the Beta house director (who lives in the house).
 - Purple Heart Parking – Mike advised that the creation of a designated Purple Heart parking space has been approved by the University administration. Mike referenced a copy of the UM Purple Heart Recognition Program in the meeting agenda packet and reviewed it with the committee. This new reserved space will be located on the Circle with special posted signage. Those faculty, staff, or students who are recipients of the official Purple Heart military medal will be eligible to be issued a special UM Purple Heart parking permit to allow them access to park in this reserved parking space. All University affiliated recipients will pay the equivalent UM parking permit fee per their classification when issued a Purple Heart permit. Purple Heart parking permit holders will be allowed access to the special Purple Heart designated space on the Circle, but they may also park elsewhere on campus in a legally marked parking space that is not otherwise reserved or restricted by special posted signage. It was asked if this special parking space is occupied consistently every day would there be any other such spaces added. Mike replied that we would address this if the need arises in the future and bring it before this committee. Mike mentioned that there is much interest from various off campus groups in the creation of this special parking space.

- New Business – Faculty/Staff Parking
 - Paul recently emailed Mike to inquire about the possibility of creating a faculty/staff-only parking area 24/7/365 for faculty and staff who need to come to campus outside regular business hours. Mike had advised Paul this could be discussed at the next committee meeting. In today's meeting Paul expounded on his inquiry. Paul explained that many faculty/staff leave campus and later come back during evening hours and there are no faculty/staff spaces available. Paul suggested designating spaces – possibly near Lamar or Bondurant Halls – 24/7 faculty/staff-only to ensure parking spaces close to buildings.

Mike suggested that the committee look at the pros and cons of doing this. Considerations include whether this is a large or small issue – how many people need this. Mike said he isn't for or against this, but he doesn't want parking areas underutilized since students often complain they don't have anywhere to park.

Mike stated DPT has one enforcement agent who works from 5pm-9pm Monday-Thursday in fall and spring semesters. If this designated parking is restricted 24/7, UPD would have to patrol and enforce this. Thelma mentioned that a 24/7 designation would not be a good idea because of various athletic events. Mike mentioned that some faculty/staff will be relocated eventually to the old hospital which will free up some of the faculty/staff spaces on main campus, and this might or might not help the after-hours parking issue. Mike mentioned that faculty/staff may park in metered parking after 5pm (there is no enforcement of metered parking after 5pm weekdays and on weekends).

Mike reminded the committee that after 5pm weekdays there are no zone restrictions per parking permit type. It was asked whether commuter-only designated lots could be designated faculty/staff after 5pm. Mike explained how that would not be a good idea. Mike suggested that if designated spaces are developed for after-hour faculty/staff, the enforcement should run only from 5pm-9pm weeknights.

Mike said this is the first time this request has been made – and it involves issues such as its enforcement, determination of the location, and how we answer questions to students. Paul stated he doesn't know how many people want this special access (he has spoken with about 4). Paul asked whether it would be easier to designate some spaces in a lot opposed to an entire parking lot. Mike explained that it costs roughly \$400 to put up a sign for each reserved parking space, but if a lot is to be reserved it would only require one sign at the point of entry to the lot.

Mike stated that any policy changes are not made mid-year but would be made in the summer (July 1 and effective with the start of the fall semester).

It was suggested that the campus may grow large enough in time that the 5pm time would need to be pushed out and that a solution would then need to be found to provide for this.

Bob suggested a survey be conducted of faculty/staff to get an idea whether a designated lot would or would not be used by them. Mike then suggested that the committee members forward to him possible questions to create a survey for after-hour parking. He then would like to present a draft of the survey to the committee in the February meeting. Thereafter the final survey would be sent out. Mike would then share the analyzed data of the survey at the March meeting of the committee.

- Paul asked the status of the street name recommendations discussed in the last committee meeting. Mike replied that Larry Sparks advised him they are being considered by the University administration.
- The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be Monday, February 12, 2018.