

Parking & Traffic Standing Committee Meeting
Lyceum Room 110 – 3:00 p.m.
Monday – October 8, 2018

Attended:

Dr. Robert Barnard, Linda Christian, Sarah Doty, Dean Hansen, Mike Harris, Claire Hausman, Dr. George McClellan, and Steven Ridout

Discussion:

- Mike welcomed the committee members – some had previously served and others are new this academic year. Since Mike was not able to attend the previous meeting, he had the members to introduce themselves.
- The minutes of the previous meeting (September 10, 2018) were approved after Sarah made a motion seconded by Dr. Barnard. Prior to the motions and vote, Dr. McClellan stated he wanted to correct something he said at the last meeting when he mentioned that the number of handicapped parking spaces at the front of Guyton Hall is now less than prior to the recent construction project. He wanted to correct this by saying there are the same number of 6. He stated that this was not meant to be a correction to the minutes but just clarification of what he had said about the number of handicap spaces. He stated that he still believes the process is problematic in terms of handicapped parking in connection with construction projects.
- Following the meeting agenda – *New Business* (since there were no *Items to Discuss* or *Old Business* items on the agenda):
 - Signs at JAC
Mike referred to a handout in the meeting packet that illustrated signage to be placed at the Jackson Avenue Center (JAC). Mike explained that the signage is intended to better differentiate between “University” parking and “Commercial” parking areas at JAC. He mentioned that the JAC Parking Lot was repaved this past summer. New landscaped islands in the lot were developed as part of the re-pavement project. These new islands along with new signage are expected to help make it clearer to motorists which areas are designated for Commercial versus University parking. Motorists who park unauthorized in Commercial spaces are cited. Steven asked who is allowed to park at the JAC. Mike replied that virtually any UM decal type is legal to park in University designated areas. Dean asked how the JAC parking area is enforced. Mike advised him enforcement is accomplished by use of surveillance cameras monitored by the Department of Parking & Transportation (DPT) dispatcher and parking citations.

- Citations Issued & Appeals

Mike next referenced a handout in the meeting packet that depicted statistics dealing with the number of citations issued and citations appealed for the last 3 fiscal years – FY16, FY17, and FY18. Mike explained that the number of citations have decreased each of these 3 years for various reasons – such as better posted signage; painted lines/curbs; better communication through Orientation sessions, EDHE classes, etc.; and more consistent enforcement in the 5 enforcement zones utilized by DPT’s enforcement officers. Mike stated that the number of appeals has remained steady. He mentioned that DPT has a policy to forgive/dismiss a motorist’s first citation in a fiscal year if the charge relates to a non-egregious violation. He went on to explain that DPT is an auxiliary department with a \$6-million annual budget. Dean inquired if DPT relies on ticket revenue for its budget. Mike replied partly, but mostly from decal sales. Mike then gave a breakdown of the DPT annual budget that involves payment of a \$2.3-million debt service for the 2 parking garages, \$1.7 million as the University’s OUT bus service match, \$500,000 deferred maintenance, \$400-500,000 annual maintenance, and the remainder for DPT daily operation costs.

Dr. McClellan asked if the dismissals/warnings are formalized – the process that is involved. Mike replied by explaining that there are 2 separate appeal boards – one for faculty/staff and one for students. The board members are given some training to familiarize them with campus parking and traffic rules and regulations as well as their authority (each board has 3 options: fine assess, no fine assess/dismiss, or reduce fine). Students are hired to serve on the Student Appeals Board which is affiliated with the Dean of Students Office; faculty and staff are appointed by the Chancellor to serve on the Faculty/Staff Appeals Board. Mike mentioned that all tickets issued by DPT enforcement officers include photos taken of the vehicle when cited and are available online for viewing by the violator as well as the appropriate board.

Steven asked if it is in writing about the first non-egregious ticket in a fiscal year will be dismissed. Mike replied no, not at this time. He explained this policy has only be offered the last couple years. Mike said he is thinking of some creative ways this policy might be introduced to motorists. Specifically he mentioned Orientation sessions during the summer months attended by most incoming freshmen and their parents. Mike advised that most sessions offered by DPT during Orientation have very low attendance partly due to other competing sessions offered at the same time that are of more interest to students. Mike speculated that this policy might be incorporated in a posting on the University’s website. He referred to some parking related opportunities that are currently highlighted on the University’s website such as under “Maps” that highlight where motorcycle parking spaces are located; and locations of handicapped designated parking spaces are to be added soon.

Mike mentioned the federal mandated number of handicapped designated parking spaces on campus is 106 but there are actually 397 handicapped spaces available on campus.

Sarah and Claire mentioned there appeared to be a troublesome issue related to the NextBus system where at times it tends to go off and on. The NextBus system is a free app that provides students with real-time arrival information for the next bus at a particular bus stop. Mike advised them that he had already talked to the OUT manager about this, and this should now be corrected. He also mentioned the OUT Safe Ride service (a special OUT route to get students to/from campus and the Oxford Square on Thursday-Saturday nights) and that it is being monitored by an OUT supervisor.

- Trailer Parking at Facilities Management

Mike advised that a request had been submitted via email dealing with parking trailers (those that are pulled by a motor vehicle) at the Facilities Management/Planning Lot (FM/P Lot). He stated that current campus rules/regulations prohibit trailers from being parked on campus. Mike explained that the emailed request was prompted by a change in the use of an off-campus parking area that had been free but apparently is soon to involve a parking fee. This is at the Campus Creek Apartment complex immediately west of the Facilities Management/Planning complex. The private apartment complex has a spillover parking lot adjacent to their complex where several University employees have been parking daily so as to forego purchasing a UM parking permit. It appears from the email sent to DPT there will soon be a parking fee associated with parking in this private lot. The sender of the email has a second-job that entails equipment on a trailer. The request is to allow him to park his vehicle with an attached trailer at the FM/P Lot. This request deals just with parking at this specific lot and not campus-wide.

Dr. Barnard stated this appears to be an analogous case with the University's IT policy – the use of a University resource for private gain. He asked whether a special case is required – that mere convenience does not seem enough in light of IHL policy. Mike replied no. Mike stated further that once the apartment complex starts charging the University employees to continue parking in their spillover lot, these University employees likely will start parking at the FM/P Lot. So availability (for trailers) in the FM/P Lot due to these additional vehicles may be questionable. It may appear that a vehicle/trailer could be accommodated in the FM/P Lot but once multiple University employees revert to parking in this lot to avoid having to pay the apartment complex a fee to park in their lot this may not be the case.

Dr. McClellan stated that it may be nice to accommodate UM faculty/staff/students but others not affiliated with the University might make a similar accommodation request. He questioned whether the University should/would want to accept responsibility/liability in allowing these non-University parties to park on campus

property. He stated there likely is an expectation that to park on campus makes them safer.

Dr. Barnard pointed out that to park a trailer in connection with the vehicle pulling it means this would require 2 parking spaces for an individual. Mike also stated that this request challenges current campus parking rules:

1. The vehicle pulling the trailer must display a parking permit. No permits are available to be issued for a trailer. Only one permit is to be issued to a faculty/staff/student at one time.
2. No trailers are allowed to park on campus. All vehicles parked on campus from 7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. weekdays must display a parking permit.
3. All vehicles must be parked in a legally marked parking space with painted lines. Trailers hooked to vehicles could prove problematic in terms of parking within the confines of a legally marked parking space with painted lines.

Dr. Barnard said there might be bizarre, unintended consequences in terms of availability – such as if students were allowed to have trailers, taking up 2 spaces, but only use/need them on weekends. Mike said the request under consideration at this time only applies to faculty/staff in this one particular lot – the FM/P Lot.

Steven asked about the possibility of a reduced permit for a trailer. Mike said this would require a new decal type as none now exists. He said the only locations he could foresee that this type vehicle/decal type could park would be at the JAC, South Lot, or the FM/P Lot.

Dean stated that since we do not know how many University-related vehicles are parking at the Campus Creek spillover lot and how many of these vehicles will move to parking at the FM/P Lot, perhaps we should table this request for now.

Dr. McClellan stated that listening to all the things DPT would have to do to facilitate this request, it does not seem to be in the best interest of the University to pursue this.

Steven also mentioned the possible impact of University Form 9 (Permission to Engage in Outside Employment).

Mike concluded the discussion by stating that it appears we will not proceed with this request at this time.

- The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be Monday, November 12, 2018, at 3:00 p.m. in Lyceum 110.