

TSAC Minutes
February 7, 2018

Present:

Dr. Fuller Bazer
Mr. Jett Black
Mr. Mike Caruso (Mr. Steve Miller)
Mr. Bill Cox
Mr. Andy Deuel
Mr. Joe Dillard
Ms. Sue Edmisson
Dr. Zachary Grasley
Dr. Julie Harlin
Dr. Angie Hill Price
Dr. Clint Magill
Mr. Chris Nygren
Mr. Dakota Plesa

Mr. Robert Pottberg
Dr. CJ Woods (Ms. Stacy Wright)
Ms. Deborah Wright

Absent:

Dr. Angela Clendenin
Dr. Eleanor Green
Mr. Peter Lange
Ms. Flora Reeves

Guests:

Ms. Lilia Gonzales
Mr. David Brown

1. Dr. Clint Magill opened the meeting at 11:40 am and asked for a review of the minutes from the December 6, 2017 meeting. Dr. Angie Hill Price motioned to approve the minutes as presented; Mr. Chris Nygren seconded; motion passed, minutes approved. Dr. Magill asked everyone to introduce themselves, as we had several visitors.

2. Mr. Kenny Kimball gave an update on business permit use and provided information about our resident parking policy. See presentation: <http://www.transport.tamu.edu/About/tsac.aspx#presentations>. He reiterated that as the university grows, we need to make decisions about how to free up space for facilities and students, and ultimately balance what is best for all customers. We provide specialty services and want the TSAC's input on changes, modifications or enhancements we can make to free up more space, while staying within the intent of the Campus Master Plan (CMP). He stated that we are providing information at this point, not proposing changes. Once we receive the committee's input and after all of our presentations, we will return for a review and possibly decisions at that time. With that in mind, Mr. Kimball reviewed some statistics concerning business permit use in an effort to answer some questions that arose at the last TSAC meeting.

- 2.1. Dr. Angie Hill Price asked if we had investigated those who misuse business permits. Mr. Kimball said we do run reports and look for misuse. We have noted that Departmental Parking Representatives (DPRs) are allowing existing permit holders to check out business permits to park in preferred lots. Ms. Therese Kucera said that sometimes a business permit gets lost. Instead of reporting a lost permit and paying a \$10 fee for a replacement, DPRs are ordering new business permits, adding to misuse, as we also have to honor the lost permit because it wasn't reported.
- 2.2. Mr. Bill Cox pointed out that the Sustainability Master Plan aims to reduce use of business permits in the future, so these issues do need to be addressed.
- 2.3. Dr. Zachary Grasley said that in his position as the Director of the Center for Infrastructure Renewal (CIR) at the RELLIS campus, he has fielded parking questions. He mentioned three "classes" of individuals who need to park/work at the RELLIS campus:
 - People who work there full time
 - Faculty who work at the RELLIS campus some days and at their main campus office the other days

- People who need to be at RELLIS, at their main campus office, and various other campus locations on a regular basis.

2.3.1. Therese Kucera replied that we are trying some new technology that will allow permitless parking at RELLIS, with a physical permit for use on campus that is easily recognizable for enforcement personnel. She said we are acquiring data on how often staff and faculty are needing this type of permitting, and we gauge this best by performing weekly lot counts. We want to be sure we don't increase visitor parking and thereby deny business and other valid permit holders a place to park.

3. Mr. Kimball presented Resident Student Parking Data, see presentation:

<http://www.transport.tamu.edu/About/tsac.aspx#presentations>. Currently, our resident parkers are paying the same rates as commuters. We studied SEC and Vision 2020 peer institutions to see if they charged variable pricing or other fees specific to resident students. We learned that about 50% of our peers have different rates for residents vs. commuters. Two of the universities polled do not allow resident vehicles on campus. One limits freshmen to hourly paid parking or summer permits.

3.1. Dr. Hill Price asked if we considered providing a discount to resident students who are willing to park farther away from their dorms. Mr. Kimball said we have not considered that because we manage expectations of resident parkers by not selling a permit as a "license to hunt" for a parking place. If they don't get the lot they want, they go on a waitlist. Ms. Therese Kucera mentioned that we have many who park and never use their cars.

4. Ms. Therese Kucera presented information about a student referendum to add one or two more recreation centers, see presentation: <http://www.transport.tamu.edu/About/tsac.aspx#presentations>.

This referendum voting will take place February 22-23, 2018, and if approved, would increase the recreational sports fee from \$106 to \$145 for students and faculty. We need TSAC member ideas on parking for these facilities, considering the limited real estate near each proposed location. For the center proposed for across the street from Southside Garage (SSG), the only options available for parking would be SSG and Lot 40. They are both resident lots, with no visitor components. We would need to rethink how we use them. For example, do we push residents out, or push other options, such as walking from other campus locations or shuttling in?

4.1. Mr. Cox asked who the intended customer for that recreation center location would be.

4.1.1. Dr. Hill Price said she was informed that the Corps of Cadets was the target group, and proposed the Central Campus Garage as a reasonable place to hold the overflow visitor parking.

4.2. Mr. Joe Dillard asked if we know what SSG parking needs will look like if we used it for the proposed golf course area recreation center overflow.

4.2.1 Ms. Lilia Gonzales said from the CMP perspective, the facility by the golf course would fall into the walking distance parameters because it would be close to the dorms, the Corps of Cadets, etc. Parking may not be a big issue.

4.3. Mr. Dillard asked if Lot 55 might be a reasonable place for night parking. Ms. Kucera said it is filled with night parkers, and is a popular night parking lot for those going to the library, etc.

4.4. Ms. Kucera pointed out page 95 of the CMP. The nearest garage to be built in the golf course area would be in 2025, and even that is no assurance that such a garage will actually be built.

4.5. Mr. Cox mentioned that night permit parking in surface lots and after 7 pm parking in the golf course lot might alleviate some of the problems.

4.6. Ms. Kucera said the second recreation center location being proposed would be in the Polo Garage retail space. Our projections for that new garage do not include free parking for something that would incur that kind of parking demand.

4.7. Mr. Nygren wanted to know what percent will go from one recreation center to the other. Ms. Kucera said we don't have that data.

5. Ms. Lilia Gonzales presented a Dismount Zone Expansion. See downloadable PDF at <http://www.transport.tamu.edu/About/tsac.aspx#presentations>. She emphasized that new dismount zones will be gradually introduced so the campus community can adapt to the change. The first area to be renovated will be the east side of campus, as shown in “Location of Interest,” page 6 of the document. The logical time to make this renovation would be in the next two years, while that side of the campus is already under construction for the new Student Services Building (SSB).

5.1. Dr. Hill Price asked if the proposed area for skateboards, bikes and slow-moving vehicles would eliminate truck and car traffic, which currently use the intended area.

5.1.1. Ms. Gonzales said they would have to be redirected.

5.1.2. Mr. Cox said it should not presently be used as a thoroughfare, as SSC has always advocated that people go around that area. Ms. Gonzales said the exception would be utility/SSC vehicles that need to service sites in that area.

5.1.3. Dr. Grasley made the point that signage, marketing, and education will be important, as proper bicycle etiquette is not understood. Ms. Gonzales agreed that education was important to communicate our expectations.

5.2. Mr. Cox suggested that whatever we do, we should not compromise the beauty of military walk, if it takes bollards, etc. to encourage bike dismount. Mr. Ron Steedly suggested leveraging the history/meaning of “military walk” as a way to encourage people go to the right side (boards, bikes) vs. the footpath.

5.2.1. Ms. Gonzales reiterated that it will take education, signage, and a tie-in to the CMP to create a synergy with what is already happening around campus.

5.3. Ms. Gonzales said this phase would coincide with the two-year construction schedule of the SSB, and preparation would probably take place over the summer with the incoming students. The suggestion was made that before implementation, meetings take place with the student government Traditions Council.

6. Mr. Steedly, Alternative Transportation Manager, gave a brief introduction to a free-flow, dockless bike share program that we will introduce this spring. We will launch a pilot, “soft launch” of about 500 bikes in early March. In May, we will front-load dorms with the new bike share bikes to advertise the program. In the fall, we will expand the program to 3,000-5,000 bikes. The fee will be \$35 per semester, and will be charged like permits are currently charged to accounts.

6.1. Dr. Julie Harlin asked if we could implement an education program concurrent to the sign-up for the bikes. Others agreed, including Mr. Andy Deuel, who suggested we include a short, online training clip or a quiz that had to be watched/taken before they could sign up for the program. Dr. Hill Price suggested a discount for those who took the training. Mr. Steedly said he would look into how to facilitate an education plan.

6.2. Dr. Magill asked if the bikes were easily identifiable. Mr. Steedly said they are yellow.

6.3. Dr. Grasley voiced a concern that people might treat the bikes cavalierly and dump them wherever they want. Mr. Steedly said that was a possibility, and if there was too much abuse, the program wouldn’t be continued. He thinks people will police each other’s actions through corrective peer pressure. There is also a component in the app, which rewards responsible behavior.

6.4. Mr. Nygren asked about maintenance, moving the bikes, and mechanism for off campus riders. Mr. Steedly said the bike share company (Ofo) would maintain and move the bikes. The bikes can be taken off campus, but must be returned by the end of the day.

7. Dr. Magill thanked everyone for their input, and adjourned the meeting at 1:05 pm.

Next TSAC Meeting: Wednesday, March 7, 2018, 11:30 am, Koldus 110-111