**What was discussed?**

As soon as the policy was put into effect the campus was on fire and Mark and Heidi (?) got to campus immediately to solve the issue and get the policy right. The intention was never to tow cars or to be an inconvenience to students. The policy that was put into effect was part of a bigger snow removal policy. What can we do to make parking in this area more convenient? Less of a problem?

The first lady to stand up was an elderly lady that graduated from MSUM long ago and has lived in this area for 50+ years. She was appalled by the idea that college students would have their cars towed and then have fines and fees placed on top of all that. Mark: got comments from folks stating they were ready to leave Moorhead. Old Lady: I like college students. I like college students more than some of my older crabby neighbors. Mark: explained how Moorhead is a college town and that treating them poorly and in the way that this was done had a major bad look towards Moorhead. Students won’t want to stay around the area and buy houses here after they graduate if the city continues to treat their students like such.

2nd guy: Are we going to get our money back? Mark will make a motion on Monday to return $54. $95 was the fee for towing. $54 of the fee was being made to the city. The main purpose was to remove snow from the roads. Not to make money off of students by towing their cars. Heidi went on about hearing both sides of the story and went on to explain that there must have been some sort of miscommunication and she knows that students would not knowingly park somewhere if they knew that their cars would be towed. “We goofed up.”

What about home owners? Do they have to go out and move their cars every 3 hours? Heidi suggested “residential permits” so that they are exempt from the parking laws and regulations. As it sits right now, residents without a driveway have to go to the police department, put their names on a list and then they will become exempt. Is it working? Nope. Residents cars are still being ticketed non-stop. Mark made some very good points about owning your home and your land and only having that place to park. Law enforcement shouldn’t be handling this issue, the council should be and moves will be made Monday to start the motions.

130 people got towed? – **What’s the exact number?**

Students denied the right to move their cars if they were able to get out to their cars before their cars were actually towed…. **No response?**

Snow removal schedule – 8am to 8pm ….police went above and beyond to tag cars that were there but within 2 hours those cars would be gone and the spots would be replaced with a new students car. Whens the best time to plow? Mark: “we’ll have to take a look at that.”

The brochures, Moorhead PD, and the forum ALL had different explanations of what cleaning was going to get done when. There was zero consistency from all sources that they were given. Suggestion: Plow avenues one day and streets the next, plowing overnight. This is done is every other city. Mark: temporary signs around campus. Acknowledged signs were placed in the wrong areas and wrong was done on the cities part. There needs to be consistent communication between everybody to make sure the right message gets out.

3 hour parking doesn’t work for students with classes that are back to back. Moving your car every few hours is unrealistic for students that only have a 15 minute break. Heidi responded that the 3 hour parking came from a study that was done a while ago to prevent students from parking at 7am and not moving it again until 5pm. They were trying to get more students to park on campus and not as many parking on the streets. She stated that some residents can’t enter their driveways due to blocked driveways or a student actually being parked in their driveways. Mark: city can’t do anything about the price of parking passes. 3 hour parking spots came from the students stating that students were complaining about parking there early in the morning and then not moving their cars all day so no one else could get a decent parking spot anywhere near campus.

Another question regarding the Moorhead PD being rude about this issue… (Why isn’t anyone from the police department here?!) Mark: “This was not what they wanted to do.” They dealt with 100’s of angry students and residents about this. Heidi: Can’t assume students have smart phones, internet access, and so forth… back to Marks suggestion of using a simple sign on wooden stake.

**My thought:** how did NDSU deal with this?! Pretty sure they didn’t have this issue come up… Fargo plows overnight, the cities plow overnight. People know not to park at night between 1 am and 7 am. This completely solves the problem; students are not on campus overnight. Maybe our city needs to go over the border and have a conversation with them about how this issue was dealt with. Mark did a lot of back tracking when it came to using the word “fault”. As I understand, I think putting the blame entirely on the city is absorbed. But putting anyone fully at fault is tough to do. Honestly some of these suggestions about rotating days floor me. For being a city that’s been here forever and everybody else has figured this out. Why is it so hard to initialized a simple schedule November 1st to April or whatever it is?

**Who was here?**

Council members: Heidi and Mark **(last names?)**

Only a handful of students (20-30) – interesting for all the complaining that was done.

Members of the Student Senate

Multiple news crews – Fox, Valley News

**Where / When was it?**

Ballroom C – Comstock Memorial Union February 7th 2013 3:00-5:00