

Parking & Transportation Advisory Board November 13, 2013

Members Present: Jeri Baker, Greg Wheeler, Ann Carr, Rob Hendry, Niels Lacour, Jennifer Bennett, Andy Steinberg, Maxine Greenblatt, Martha Patrick, Savannah Van Leuvan-Smith, Juanita Holler

Members Absent: Srinivas Lankala, John Collura, Pam Monn, Tom O'Donnell, Ernie May, Zachary Broughton, Stefan Herlitz

Guest speaker: William Watts

Vacant positions: AFSCME, GEO, Southwest Area Government, UMPD

Motion: Maxine Greenblatt, motion to approve minutes as written from September 18, 2013. Niels Lacour, second.

Vote: Motion carried.

Transit Update:

Jeri Baker spoke of the Puffer's Pond bus (Route 44) addition to include service to the Amherst Survival Center, 138 Sunderland Road, North Amherst. Time changes are minimal. Juanita Holler added that this change would be in effect until the end of the Spring semester. It would then be evaluated for its efficacy. Jeri Baker announced that Parking Manager, Mr. Mike Brennan, would be leaving the University. The job description would be available shortly with the hopes of filling the position by mid-January.

Parking Update:

Greg Wheeler reported that Lot 30 has been completed adding a total of 90 new spaces. Lot 45 has also been completed. The metered spots have been relocated. Lot 41 (NE of the Physical Plant) has added additional short term parking available for visitors. Greg added that there are several lots still available for online purchase. The complete list can be found on the Parking Services home page. Addressing a concern raised by Savannah Van Leuvan-Smith at the last meeting, Greg spoke of yearly permit pricing. He wanted to assure the SGA that permits were not designed to be cost prohibitive. Permit fees go to fund facility maintenance, snow removal, lot repair, etc. Savannah's concern was that a student parker, (the majority of which already under heavy financial burden) are forced to pay considerably more than faculty members in the highest salary tier. Rob Hendry attempted to explain how the sliding salary scale worked and that the University was limited by union regulations. Student permit holders are also physically parked on campus much more (i.e. nights and weekends) than faculty and staff. Jeri Baker suggested re-evaluating the salary cap to make it more equitable. She also suggested parking enforcement in the evenings and on weekends to help combat high permit prices by adopting the "You park, you pay" philosophy.

EV Update:

Bill Watts of Transportation Services spoke of the green benefits of all-electric vehicles. The University has received grants for two "Level 2" charging stations; one to be located at the Visitor's Center, the other to be located in the Parking garage. Nissan USA has also donated a "Level 3" charging unit, valued at \$35K, to be installed by the end of the year. This unit would put charge times at under an hour. Nissan USA also has a special lease incentive for faculty and students on one of their EV Nissan Leafs. For students: \$2000 down, \$199 per month lease. For faculty/staff: \$0 down, \$207 per month lease. Bill, a Leaf owner himself, spoke of the incredible cost savings. The vehicles are virtually maintenance free.

Commuter Update:

Rob Hendry: In collaboration with the Department of Environmental Protection and Dr. John Collura, a PhD student from U.C. Davis will be emailing students, faculty, and staff to survey their daily commuting routines. NuRide will also be tracking the environmental impact of daily commutes in collaboration with the MassDOT.

Follow up:

Jennifer Bennett inquired as to the status of the bike racks for Commonwealth College and the Recreation Center. Jeri Baker offered to follow up with Pam Monn in the Physical Plant.

Future Agenda Items:

- Sustainability
- Expanded parking restrictions/options for evenings and weekends
- Construction updates
- Overflow garage parking (conferences, events, etc.)
- Bike Racks
- Garage attendants / Automation?
- Reminder sign for those exiting the garage to turn on their headlights
- Parking Manager Search

Motion: Maxine Greenblatt, motion to adjourn.