PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

MEETING ON DECEMBER 13, 2016

MEMORIAL UNION ROOM 308 12:00PM-1:30PM

AGENDA

I. Welcome and Introductions
   We have invited members from the President’s Commission on People with Disabilities along with Joe Wanat from VHB

II. Review of Minutes from Previous Meeting for Approval

III. Update from Parking Manager re Permit Sales and Enforcement

IV. Presentation by Joe Wanat from VHB regarding Transportation and Parking Master Plan

V. Question and Answers re VHB Presentation

VI. Next Meeting Date
PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

Minutes for Meeting on December 13, 2016

Members Present: Joseph Paradise, Michael Novak, Pamela Rohland, Ryan Carrillo, Rae Ferguson, Linda Lowe, Stephen Baker

Members Absent: Eric Wang, Benjamin Smith, Sheleen Clarke


Meeting began at 12:01 pm in the Memorial Union Room 308

Director Baker welcomed the attendees and introductions were given. Members of the President’s Commission on People with Disabilities were invited to attend this meeting.

The minutes of October 26, 2016 were approved with one correction for spelling.

Joe Paradise, Parking Manager, presented his update regarding Permit Sales and Enforcement. He reported that permit sales are up over 24.2% in total with commuter permits up 23% due to our enforcement. He also reported that citations (previously warnings) have decreased from 3,055 to 2,072. The total for all permit types is 10,763. Novak asked about the monetary amounts involved.

Director Baker explained the new system of ticketing rather than issuing warnings. He reported that we have an increase in compliance and less towing this semester and he feels that we have the right strategy. Novak explained the State statute requirements and how with the new system fines came into effect.

Parking Services has hired VHB to work on the master plan on parking and transportation. Joe Wanat from VHB reported that they started working on the master plan in September 2016 and they are estimating a master plan completion in April 2017. Wanat gave an overview of the study. He continued saying that VHB is in the “discovery” phase of the Plan which includes the inventory of parking lots, what is the supply and demand, where are the spaces utilized and an aerial overflight of the campus done at peak parking times. Wanat's preliminary data indicates that many of the URI parking lots are over-subscribed.

The University of Rhode Island is an equal opportunity employer committed to the principles of affirmative action.
Wanat discussed future strategies, specifically, transportation strategies between all the different modes. He also discussed the different layers involved including policy, safety, and enforcement. Wanat said that VHB is currently creating a parking tool for the master plan. There was discussion re the issue of the URI marching band using a designated space at the Fine Arts lot during a 3-month period. Wanat responded that he is aware of the issue.

Wanat presented a detailed spreadsheet with parking stats. He said that VHB will be developing a survey tool and will set up future informational meetings as well as syncing with the landscape master plan. Wanat further discussed the transportation plan which includes bicycling, walking and remote lots with shuttles. He said that URI is unique and has unique issues.

Rohland reported that there is a disconnect between the current transportation plan particularly when it comes to student and faculty/staff disabilities. She hopes that this would be included in the VHB survey.

A meeting attendee asked about the metric of accessibility. Wanat discussed it and said it was a good point and that it could be added to the survey. Lowe said that the union coalition would not support any policy to have faculty and staff pay for parking. She also asked about future recommendations to improve lighting on Campus. Wanat responded that they have both the interior and exterior circulation elements covered.

Discussion followed regarding accessible and non-accessible ramps and routes on campus. A question was raised on the Dairy Barn lot construction in which 280 spaces will be lost. More discussion involved the spaces lost with the new construction of the Chemistry Building. Wanat said that the VHB parking tool will cover short-term, near-term, and long term issues.

Hernandez raised questions regarding sidewalk re-paving and the lack of enforcement of handicapped spots.

Rohland said that we need to have an advertised policy in place. Carrillo agreed that proactive education in the community is an ongoing issue. Many ideas were presented and discussed. Baker also agreed that incoming students need to be better educated on our policies. Gomes suggested that this information should be included at a new employee’s orientation.

Snow removal issues were discussed, for example, snow piled up in handicapped spots. Issues regarding bicycling on campus were discussed. Carrillo reported that there is a 2018 plan for a bicycle path connection from the current bike path to Flagg Road.

Carrillo said that we should be concentrating on the problems we are trying to solve. He also said that there will be two additional gates added, one at East Alumni road and one at Lippitt Road. Davis Hall is on the long-range plan for renovation. Carrillo also reported that a master plan was completed last summer for the Bay Campus. Carrillo then asked Wanat about proposed solutions for feedback. Wanat estimated February 2017 and said...
that there would be another informational meeting before any proposed solutions. Carrillo reported that in 18 months there will be another issuance of a $10 million bond for future implementation.

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.