

Bemidji State University
Parking Committee/Advisory Board Meeting
November 24, 2020

Location Date & Time:

Meeting was held November 24, 2020 at 10:00 AM via Zoom conference.

Present:

Travis Barnes, Mark Johnson, Paul Ekhoﬀ, Stephanie Bard, Mike Smith, Bill Joyce, Aaron Ebbighausen, Casey McCarthy, Alissa Carlson.

Absent:

Larry Strowbridge, BSU Student Senate Rep, NTC Student Senate Rep.

Casey McCarthy noted that there was a quorum present and called the meeting to order.

New Business: 2021-2023 school year parking permit rates, meter rates, violation rates, new permits – contractor/vendor and day permits, semester permit pricing vs yearly permit pricing and Bangsberg parking lot future infrastructure.

Future, school years 2021-2023, parking permit rates were presented (see attached) and proposed to committee members. Members expressed concern whether the proposed permit revenue even covers yearly maintenance costs as well as overall parking lot infrastructure. Carlson explained that the proposed rates are based on comparison to other MinnState schools, past rate pricing trends along with COVID-19 considerations. Johnson stated that approximately 80% of his students at NTC park on the street due to permit costs and nearby street availability. McCarthy discussed that NTC in particular has always presented us with a challenging issue as the location and set structure surrounding NTC has abundant street parking availability. For that reason NTC parking permits are extremely low. Further discussions were mentioned for alternative ideas to maximize parking lots while maintaining reasonable permit costs at NTC.

Smith motioned to accept proposed parking rates as written noting the rates are low but it's a good starting point, Barnes seconded. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Discussion regarding concern with revenues not covering the cost of maintenance and infrastructure, specifically Bangsberg lot ensued. It was determined that parking revenue would not feasibly cover these costs. McCarthy provided information and the difficulties we're often faced with related to yearly lot maintenance (asphalt repair, re-seal, re-stripping, potholes, etc.). McCarthy noted that we try to do as much as possible each summer and the general schedule ends up with alternating various lots every other year. Unfortunately, our winter months cause havoc with freezing/thawing creating many potholes and cracks along with the continual salt/dirt and scraping of lots. With exception of the Walnut parking lot, built in 2018, over time our quick fixes are going to require major overhauls. Barnes indicated with any major overhaul current laws and regulations then require curb/gutter, water sheds, lighting, an many other costly requirements. In order to afford any future reconstruction costs, specifically Bangsberg lot, Barnes suggested we request leadership to discuss and provide direction on how money should be allocated toward this project as bonding is not available for parking lots. Barnes also noted there have been preliminary talks to decrease Bangsberg's square footage at the time of any remodel. Committee members opposed this suggestion, citing the occupancy of the lot during normal school days and the lot being at max capacity on specific days such as AARs is vital. Future involvement and continued discussion with this topic were noted by members.

Parking meter rates were addressed with the committee. Carlson stated the current rate of .25 per half hour was well below a comparable MinnState school (Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM)) with a rate of \$1.00 per half hour. It was also noted meter rates have not changed in at least 10 years. A new proposed rate of .50 per half hour was

discussed. Barnes suggested a .75 per half hour rate and Joyce suggested a \$1.00 per half hour rate figuring more alignment with other State schools and the cost required to change meter pricing, (i.e., renting PDA to change each meter head, laminated pricing on each meter, etc.). After discussion on rates higher than the proposed .50 per half hour, members concurred that the higher rates could result in resistance but agreed that meter rates could be a yearly topic of discussion.

Barnes motioned to accept the proposed meter rate of .50 per half hour. Motion carried with a 5-1 vote, Joyce noting his opposition was for a higher rate of \$1.00.

Parking violation/citation rates were discussed with committee members. BSU, compared to MSUM, currently carries minimal violation fines, \$15 or \$25, whereas MSUM fines range from \$10 to \$500. Smith suggested a percentage increase in fines each year versus a sizable increase. Joyce suggested that an offender's second violation match the permit price to deter repeat violators from parking illegally versus purchasing a permit and supported a \$500 fee, like MSUM, for handicap violations. Smith agreed with the \$500 handicap violation fee. Mark Johnson said the current fees for NTC are upsetting and suggested aligning rates with the City of Bemidji. McCarthy again indicated the balancing act to appropriately set said rate, the violation penalty must also appropriately fit the offense. Over the years with permit prices moderately increasing the need to adjust penalties must also be maintained. Carlson noted there are many violators who are willing to risk receiving a citation knowing they can pay up to 13 violations before they would meet the parking permit cost. Members noted understanding and noted appropriate penalty costs should be adjusted.

Semester pricing versus year pricing for parking permits was brought forward to the committee. Carlson suggested that a semester permit would logistically assist the BSU Cashier's Office due to the number of refunds being issued mid-year. Smith raised many valid points that this will require adding new physical permit into our overall structure which will then add costs, designs, enforcement difficulties, etc. Future discussion was tabled if any other thoughts or ideas in this area can be suggested.

Lastly, new permits for contractors/vendors and day permits were conveyed to the committee. Currently, there is no permit cost for contractors/vendors and visitors. Most system schools have various permits with costs related to this but BSU/NTC continues to offer free passes via visitor permits. Smith suggested likely resistance from contractors/vendors due to factors such as presence on campus and the upkeep of which employees receive these permits. Ekhoﬀ discussed the possibility of contractors/vendors incorporating the additional permit cost into the job cost. McCarthy discussed the issues and perception with current permit holders, including students, faculty and staff, contributing to maintenance costs by the way of purchasing a permit but other users such as contractors/vendors not being required to do so. Members tabled the item noting future ideas to be brought forward if continued discussion to better our parking structure may help in this area.

Motion to adjourn by Smith, seconded by Ekhoﬀ.

The meeting was adjourned.

Permit	Year	Current & Past Permit Rates			Proposed Future Permit Rates		
		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22 (0%+)	2022-23 (~1.5%+)	2023-24 (~2%+)
Oak Lot		\$130.00	\$135.00	\$140.00	\$140.00	\$142.00	\$145.00
Walnut Lot		\$180.00	\$185.00	\$190.00	\$190.00	\$193.00	\$197.00
Rec Lot		\$255.00	\$260.00	\$265.00	\$265.00	\$269.00	\$274.00
Birch/Linden		\$300.00	\$305.00	\$310.00	\$310.00	\$315.00	\$321.00
Cedar		\$230.00	\$235.00	\$240.00	\$240.00	\$244.00	\$249.00
Commuter		\$180.00	\$185.00	\$190.00	\$190.00	\$193.00	\$197.00
AIRC		\$360.00	\$370.00	\$380.00	\$380.00	\$386.00	\$393.00
LR		\$510.00	\$520.00	\$530.00	\$530.00	\$538.00	\$549.00
7 Day Temp		\$8.00	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$9.00	\$9.00
14 Day Temp		\$16.00	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$17.00	\$17.00
NTC		\$50.00	\$55.00	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$61.00	\$62.00
Motorcycle		\$30.00	\$35.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$41.00	\$42.00

Commuter Permits

Commuter (PE, Lake Blvd. and Bangsberg)

AIRC

LR

Motorcycle Permits

Valid in designated motorcycle areas.

NTC Permits

Valid at NTC only.

Residential Permits

Oak

Walnut

Rec

Birch/Linden

Cedar

Note: Sales tax for commuter permits. No sales tax for residential permits.

7 Day & 14 Day Temporary Permits (Green or Blue lots)

7 day passes for Oak, Bangsberg, PE and Lake Blvd.

14 day passes for Oak, Bangsberg, PE and Lake Blvd.

Note: Prices not including sales tax.