

Bemidji State University
Parking Committee/Advisory Board Meeting
November 3, 2021

Location Date & Time:

Meeting was held November 3, 2021 at 1:00 PM in the HMU Ozawindib Room.

Present:

Mike Smith, Travis Barnes, Jane White, Sharon Olson, Paul Ekhooff, Travis Greene, Casey McCarthy, Alissa Carlson, Student Senate Vice President Caleb Travis, Student Senate President Kendra Draeger, Chair of Student Affairs Jared Zimmerman, Student Senate member Jakob Bohnsack.

Absent:

Larry Strowbridge, Aaron Ebbighausen, Stephanie Bard, Mark Johnson.

Casey McCarthy noted there was a quorum present and called the meeting to order. No old business to discuss.

New Business:

Student Senate brought up the issue that Red permits are oversold and not to the right students in the residence halls. Travis presented a parking proposal so permits aren't oversold and are chosen when students apply for housing and put on hold until end of the second week of the semester.

McCarthy explained how the parking stalls do not coordinate with the number of residence students except for Oak Hall.

Carlson proposed removing Tamarack students from the pool of students able to purchase Red permits and by doing so would allow 20% more Red permits to be sold to Birch and Linden residents. Tamarack residents would be allowed to purchase Yellow, Orange and Blue permits.

Draeger thought that eliminating the Tamarack residents from purchasing the Red permit would be a good alternative proposal. Draeger said she was a Tamarack resident at one point, owned an Orange permit and thought the Walnut lot was good parking option.

White declined the 2 week hold as logistically it would not be feasible. Olson agreed and went into detail on the process of issuing parking permits. Olson also stated that several students wait until November 1st to purchase parking permits.

Smith discussed street parking and Nov. 1st no overnight parking communication struggles. Draeger suggested that we should work with the office of Communicating and Marketing to involve social media outreach with students.

Smith wanted to know where the 2 week hold period proposal idea came from. Draeger stated that this aligned with the 2 week course registration hold. Smith brought up the fact that most students know if they will have a vehicle or not prior to coming to campus. Travis was concerned with the students who decide to leave or drop out and how it would open up a parking permit. In turn, Olson explained how the refund/return process works and the wait lists that are available.

McCarthy advised the committee that any proposals or changes would be enacted next school year.

Bohnsack brought up the concern of the overflow of Red permit holders into the Yellow lot which forces Yellow permit holders out of the lot. Carlson explained how BSU's tiered parking system allows for the higher priority, higher cost permit holders to have more parking options for lots vs the lower priority, lower cost permit holders. It was noted that overflow occurs to the Yellow lot, then the Orange lot and finally the Blue lot which does not reach full capacity

during the school year. Carlson brought up the notion that if permits were not oversold by 10%, less students would be able to purchase permits as a whole and we would see an increase in permit pricing.

Snow removal issues were discussed by McCarthy, Draeger and Barnes. Members were trying to brainstorm ways to keep the lots clear from snow and how to effectively communicate this with residents. At the end of this topic, it was noted that current snow removal notification and towing procedures were appropriate.

Olson noted prior to COVID-19 that Red, Orange, Yellow and Black permits would sell out leaving only Blue permits left.

Draeger spoke about having the option to choose whether you have a vehicle on campus on Residential Life's StarRes housing application. Smith spoke about how StarRes and Public Safety's platform do not communicate. Draeger brought up the idea of having the StarRes direct the resident to the permit registration link or permit information in which Smith said this was a possibility depending on how system edits are made.

Lastly, McCarthy reiterated the counter proposal to eliminate Tamarack residents from purchasing Red permits and requested that Student Senate bring the proposal to their members for further discussion.

Motion to adjourn by Barnes, seconded by Joyce.

The meeting was adjourned.