

# **PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**May 14, 2024 at 2:00 pm**

## **ATTENDEES**

**MEMBERS:** Emily Bartley, Jennifer Clark, Marty Dempsey, Margaret Fields, Sarah Gamble, Thomas Hawkins, Emily Hind, Carolyn Kelley, Walter O'Dell, Scott Washburn, Matt Williams

**LIASONS:** Linda Dixon, B. Kirvares (?), Will MacDonald, Lynda Reinhart, Seth Wood

**NON-MEMBERS:** Kaylee August, Tamera Baughman, Thomas Feather, Laurie Hall, Matthew Hartley, Bart Knowles, Andrew Meeker, Mike Ryan Simonovich, David Sowell, Milo Zapata, Nina Shubert (Recording)

**MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:** Charles Kammin, Matthew Terza

**STUDENT MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:**

**CHAIR:** Scott Washburn

## **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Scott Washburn. As Scott Washburn was on Zoom and not feeling well, he deferred conducting of the meeting to associate chair Thomas Hawkins. Thomas Hawkins stated he would conduct the meeting except for the PATAC chair and co-chair elections.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Thomas Hawkins asked the committee to review and approve of the minutes from March 2024. The motion to approve was set by Walter O'Dell and was seconded by Matt Williams. The minutes from March 2024 were approved.

As Lynda Reinhart would be arriving to the meeting later, Mairead Baker stepped in to talk about the new TAPS Senior Director, Will MacDonald. She stated that he was also detained at other meetings but would attempt to attend. Will MacDonald's first day in the office was May 13, 2024.

Thomas Hawkins stated that Lynda Reinhart can provide TAPS updates and introductions upon her arrival.

## **UPDATE – PARKING POLICE VEHICLES ON BIKE LANES AND SIDEWALKS**

**PRESENTING: DEPUTY CHIEF BART KNOWLES, UPD**

### **DISCUSSION:**

Deputy Chief Knowles discussed police vehicles parked in bike lanes or in an area that would normally be prohibited. Discussed were the following incidences:

- A photograph was forwarded by Scott Washburn to Deputy Knowles showing a police vehicle blocking a bike lane, showing the vehicle number. The police vehicle was K9 Unit and the officer had pulled off in the bike lane as the dog need an immediate walk. In this situation it was possible for the officer to find another area to park that would not be blocking a bike lane and an impediment/danger to cyclists. A supervisor spoke with the officer about parking and not blocking the bike lanes in a non-emergency scenario.
- Two photographs were submitted with Facilities Services vehicles parking illegally with a UFPD vehicle visible in the area. It was questioned as to why action wasn't taken for vehicles parked in the bike lanes and on curbs and sidewalks. In this case Facilities Services had place cones around the work areas cordoning off to do work. Obvious alert that work is being done. There were other vehicles in the area that were not coned off. There will be further discussion with Facilities Services to put our cones or have vehicles use flasher lights to indicate work in the vehicles' area.
- UFPD officers providing emergency services will park as needed to respond to the emergency. They will most likely not have on vehicle lights. There has been discussion regarding continuing to run vehicles even when parked. Although they have been told it saves fuel, shutting down the vehicle

disrupts computer and information access for the officers. The current thought is to leave vehicles on with flasher lights/cruise light parked in bike lanes or other of these areas.

Discussed by committee members:

- Emily Hind talked about an electronic sign at Grinter Hall that stated, “No parking in bike lanes.” She stated that she was saddened that the sign, put in the area by UFPD, seemed directed at the “totally peaceful protest” and not for general traffic purposes. Deputy Chief Knowles responded that the sign has a camera which allows UFPD to monitor the area at the sign’s location. The sign was activated to monitor parking in the bike lanes and indeed erected for general purposes. There was additional discussion regarding the campus protests and behavior. Emily Hind stated that she was angry that she was unaware of the sign with camera and that it could have utilized anywhere to keep vehicles out of the bike lanes.
- Ryan Simonovich talked about the good faith partnership with the University of Florida, the City of Gainesville and Alachua County for “Zero Mission” - zero fatalities for bicyclists and pedestrians. He read from an email sent in March 2024 by Thomas Hawkins to PATAC members from The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices regarding safety/signage for bicycle lanes. He asked/commented why UPD is using their discretion to allow Facilities Services vehicles to “endanger bicycle users and pedestrians and other non-car-oriented road users, if we are actually serious about being good partners with our community and pursuing Vision Zero.”
- Scott Washburn discussed the continued work on the topic (traffic, bicycle, pedestrian safety, state vehicles illicitly parking, etc.) and although everyone is operating in “good faith” for solutions, he asked that the discussion be tempered. He congratulated Deputy Chief Knowles on the promotion and thanked him for his response to concerns.
- Marty Dempsey talked about the previous meeting’s discussion with Facilities Services and also thanked Deputy Chief Knowles for his assistance.
- Margaret Fields, who has been on the committee since August 2023, concurring with Scott Washburn’s comments, stated that she was disappointed that PATAC meetings seem to be dominated by the same discussion. She continued:
  - She was present at the meetings when both Gregg Clarke and Deputy Chief Knowles spoke and believes everyone continues to do and progress as they can to address the issues and concerns.
  - She noted that as a pedestrian on campus, she has had close calls with and near hits with bicyclists, e-scooters, etc.
- Deputy Chief Knowles addressed the inquiries by Emily Hind and Ryan Simonovich -
  - Plan and implement a realistic approach/solution for the Facilities Services workers.
    - More efficient to have the vehicle close by work site.
  - Educational approach
    - Provide information on the rules and procedures through venues such as social media.
  - Continuing with the discussion and plans to close off the central part of campus.
- Tamera Baughman was asked and noted that Linda Dixon and Rachel Mandell were unable to attend the meeting.
- Lynda Reihart arrived at the meeting. She concurred that the plans for campus core are continuing with the new leadership, still with goals of making the area pedestrian friendly. There will be a re-evaluation for making the area completely auto free.

## **TAPS UPDATE**

**PRESENTING: LYNDA REINHART, TAPS INTERIM DIRECTOR/DIRECTOR, O’CONNELL CENTER**

### **DISCUSSION:**

(This item moved to accommodate Lynda Reinhart’s schedule.)

- Announcement of the new Senior Director for TAPS, Will MacDonald.
- Confirmed Mairead Baker as Associate Director.
- Ron Fuller has extended his DROP to assist with administration transitions.

- Lynda stated that she would remain as long as needed.
- Adam Wells has been promoted to Operations Manager for the customer service division of TAPS.

Thomas Hawkins asked if there were additional comments or questions. Emily Hind (as she needed to leave the meeting early) shared that she was “astonished” to see the UF budget cut, millions of dollars, for RTS bus service. She continued that a functional bus service was essential to keeping parking functional. She inquired if there was conversation about the cut in bus service and would that automatically raise the cost of parking a vehicle. She commented that she viewed the bus route reductions to impact campus parking management.

Will MacDonald arrived at the meeting and was introduced to the committee members. Originally from Florida he provided brief information about his background and stated that he has been in the industry he will be learning about the campus and the needs of the students, staff and faculty.

Lynda Reinhart addressed Emily Hind’s concerns. There was a lot of misinformation and UF does not desire to destroy the bus system. Lynda noted that much of the budget for the bus service originates from the student transportation access fee. By law are obligated to ensure the fees are only spent on student transportation services. This fee has been \$12.5 million since 2015. The bus expenditure is \$12.7 million. Although the intent is to raise the fee to \$13.1 million the still must pay for the other campus transportation services:

- Gator Lift - Disability mobility transport
- Campus Connector shuttle service
- SNAP – Student Nighttime Auxiliary Patrol
- Lyft Safe Rides

As the talk of this became something larger than it should have, this has been brought back to table to buy another 6 months of service and to continue discussion and evaluation. Noted that several bus routes have not been changed or updated since the 1980’s and do not correspond with current student transport needs. Seeking better utilization of fees and service.

Emily Hind stated that framing the bus conversation around students “insults faculty who want to take the bus.” She stated that she did not think that this was “good stewardship of the parking problems on campus.” She further expressed concerns about cutting the bus service budget and the contribution it would have to parking problems and traffic problems in general.

Scott Washburn welcomed Will MacDonald. He then stated the committee would need more information to put the bus service and budget on the PATAC meeting agenda. Will MacDonald discussed working for the transportation solutions, the relationship between parking and transportation and solving the issues as a whole and within budget.

Deputy Chief Knowles acknowledged and thanked Lynda Reinhart for stepping into the role as TAPS director. The committee thanked her as well.

**UPDATE – PARKING FOR FACILITIES SERVICES VEHICLES**

**PRESENTING: GREGG CLARKE, FACILITIES SERVICES**

**DISCUSSION:**

Scott Washburn stated that Gregg Clarke and Ron Fuller were going to discuss the action that would find a solution for Facilities Services parking. The idea was to reassign some spaces in the northeast part of campus. Ron Fuller and Gregg Clarke were unable to attend the meeting. Scott Washburn offered that Will MacDonald could review the March 2024 minutes to get the initial discussion overview.

This agenda item was postponed to a future meeting.

## **UF 675 DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER – ADVANCED SCHEMATIC DESIGN**

**PRESENTING: TAMERA BAUGHMAN, PD&C, LAURIE HALL, CHW**

### **DISCUSSION:**

Tamera Baughman introduced the advanced schematic design phase for the Disability Resource Center. This project has been presented at two previous PATAC meetings. This presentation includes plans to provide temporary parking until the UF Testing Center is on board. Lori Hall of CHW discussed the project's presentation points:

- Project Overview
  - Project includes removal of existing parking lot, modifications to Fletcher Drive and a service road and construction of a two-story building.
  - The DRC will be a new 16,083 sf facility including testing spaces, meeting rooms and other resource materials.
  - The project is pursuing LEED Gold certifications.
- Existing conditions – Site photos
- Site Plan – Elevations of building – Southwest and east facades
  - Originally thought to demolish the parking area
    - Significant grade changes made it difficult to connect parking area and building for disability access
  - Proposed change in building direction to allow drop-off/accessible parking at the front door of the facility.
  - Resurfacing and repaving of existing area for parking.
  - Include parking in the service drive.
    - Parking on the east side and adding parking along the west side.
    - Impact to bike parking.
- Parking Impacts
  - Existing - 53 spaces
  - Proposed - 32 spaces
  - Net loss of 21 space which will be mitigated
  - Adding two golf cart spaces and 6 EV charging stations
- Drop-off area at Fletcher Drive
  - Road direction changing to move south for the cycle track/one-way pairs project.
- Bike Parking
  - Bike space required – 19 spaces
  - Impact – 64 spaces to be removed
  - Proposed – Adding 48 bike spaces – Space loss due to trees in area.
  - Net loss – 16 spaces

There was a short break in the presentation for some technical corrections. Walter O'Dell had commentary/questions regarding e-scooters' popularity, accommodations for e-scooter parking areas and implementation. Laurie Hall showed an area northwest of the new DRC that would accommodate e-scooters. The concerns are the ability in the parking area to lock up the personal e-scooters. Intend to continue to use loop racks for locking e-scooters. There was additional discussion regarding the painted rental scooter parking areas. These areas have geo-fencing by the companies.

The presentation continued with the following:

- Pictures of areas for bike rack placement.
  - Requested feedback for the committee
- Showed again proposed bike parking.
- Required Utility Improvements
  - Extensive utility improvements required to accommodate project and the future UF 689 Hamilton Center project.

The committee discussed the following:

- Bike and e-scooter parking
  - Locations
  - Area safety
    - Spaces near corridors
    - Lighting
    - Cameras

Tamera Baughman stated that cameras are planned for the area

- Pedestrian safety – Crosswalks
  - Two crosswalks close together – One will be removed with the Fletcher/Buckman intersection improvements
    - Improve safety in the area for pedestrians and bicycles.
- Service road on the east side of Florida Gym
  - Noted congestion point for pedestrian and bicycle traffic.
  - Future development providing space for mixed use.
- Noted the 24 parking spaces shown are temporary and will eventually be removed.
- Proposing to add some spaces on the left side of the building.
- Matt Williams had comments and inquiry about bike and EV parking.
  - There is enough space in rental scooter area for bike racks.
  - Discussed Walter O'Dell's point regarding e-scooters and charging areas.
  - Twelve cover bike racks – Loop or Peak racks?
    - Committee recommendation for bike rack type
  - As potential hub for students, genuine need for bike and e-scooter lock up.
  - Retaining all 64 bike spaces
  - Unsure EV charging is necessary for temporary parking area.
    - Looking for new EV provider.
  - Need to provide charging for e-scooters and access control as golf cart charging areas will become targets.
- Thomas Hawkins inquired regarding the width of the sidewalk on the building's east side.
  - Concerned about pedestrian access
  - Possible to make ADA space parallel?
  - Laurie Hall did not have sidewalk measurements, however the project can be considered a curbless area, bollards or something equivalent to provide safe extra pedestrian space.
  - Tamara Baughman added that the sidewalk in the east area may be 6 feet.
  - Sarah Gamble spoke of adding additional trees. Thomas Hawkins agreed.
    - Laurie Hall stated that adding trees to the area is a challenge
    - Campus utilities project is the consideration and there is limited space.

Prior to exiting the meeting due to exiting the meeting due to a prior commitment Emily Hind added in the chat comments the following:

"I profoundly apologize for having to leave. Please do not take away bike parking. In the long run, reducing bike capacity while leaving numerous spaces for private cars to park contradicts best practices. Also, I hope that "EV charging" will include posts that allow people to charge their pedal assist e-bikes. Remember that some of us need extra space for bicycle parking, so the racks need breathing room."

#### **ACTION:**

Thomas Hawkins asked the committee for a motion and Jennifer Clark moved to approve the project as presented. Matt Williams seconded the motion with the caveat to provide amendments to the motion per comments:

- Request to retain all existing 64 bike spaces and personal e-scooter parking spaces, to be renewed by evaluating additional areas by the Florida Gym.

- Reevaluate the need for EV charging – Removing the EV stations.
  - The cost savings of \$40,000 from the removal to be used for personal e-scooter charging.
- Adding a need for pedestrian shade by trees, canopy addition, etc.
- Evaluate widening sidewalk by having a curb-less relationship with sidewalk area and bollards.

Jennifer Clark was asked and agreed the amendments were acceptable for continuation of the motion. Tamera Baughman added a correction this is the DD set and not the ASD set. The motion was approved with the amendments.

## **UF-681 FLAVET OUTDOOR RECREATION COMPLEX – SCHEMATIC DESIGN PHASE**

**PRESENTING: ANDREW MEEKER, PD&C, LAURIE HALL, CHW**

### **DISCUSSION:**

Andrew Meeker introduced the schematic design phase for the Flavet outdoor recreation complex project. The project is to convert the area back to recreational use.

- Project Overview
  - The site is located east of Flavet Field, north of Museum Road.
  - Site features a surface parking lot, 6 tennis courts, restroom building, 4 pickleball courts.
  - The project aims to meet the needs of the UF community with modern recreation facilities.
  - The project team completed the CSD package in March 2024.
- Project History
  - 2018 – UF converted existing 12 tennis courts on the east side of Flavet Field into temporary parking lot during the construction of the new Garage 14.
  - In 2024 a portion of the parking lot was demolished and six (6) tennis courts were constructed.
  - The plan for this area was always to remove the parking lot and restore the recreational area.

Laurie Hall continued the project presentation.

- Project is the previous site of Florida Veterans Village (Flavet), from 1945 to the 1970's.
- Originally constructed to house veterans and their families.
- Bandshell was constructed in 1978.
- Project Vision & Guiding Principles
  - Vision –
    - Create an inclusive outdoor recreation complex which promotes physical and mental wellness through a variety of passive and active recreational opportunities.
  - Guiding Principles –
    - Provide unique recreational opportunities on campus that support the diverse needs of the campus community.
    - Decrease barriers to participation and engage users that are not currently utilizing RecSports facilities.
    - Create flexible spaces that can be used 24/7 and year-round.
    - Provide connections to the surrounding context and thoughtfully integrate activities where students can gather, play, relax, interact and celebrate.
    - Exemplify UF's commitment to sustainability while creating a space that is uniquely UF.
- Stake Holder Engagement – Survey and Events
  - Online Student Survey – Open December 5, 2023 through January 14, 2024 – Over 1100 responses
  - January 10, 2024 – Tabling (Reitz Union)
  - January 11, 2024 - Tabling (SW Rec Center)
  - March 20, 2024 – UF RecSports Advisory Board
  - April 1, 2024 – UF Planning, Solid Waste, Grounds, Utilities and EH&S
  - April 3, 2024 – UF RecSports Staff
  - April 4, 2024 – Special Events Review on-site meeting
- Site Plan – Arial drawing, overview and site key

- As the project progresses to the design development phase, the uses for the area and the users' preferences will be considered.
- Solid Waste Concept Plan
  - Overview site map of dumpster area and photo of current dumpster area
  - 6 dumpsters to be relocated to centralized area
  - May impact some parking
  - Consideration of truck movement/turning area
- Access – Maintenance
  - Sidewalk usage for maintenance needs
- Access - Special Events - considerations
  - Loading and unloading
  - Servicing the stage
  - Catering
- Removeable Bollards to Control Access
- Parking Impacts
  - Bleachers will be removed from the area.
  - 9 spaces to be removed
  - 2 ADA and 7 standard spaces will be restored for net 0
- Bike Parking -
  - As this is a non-building project there was a general estimate of occupancy
    - Non-residential projects to provide 25% total occupancy for bike racks
    - Site requirements – Provide parking for at least 6 bicycles within 50 feet of building.
  - This requirement will be met using a formula:
    - 6 pickleball courts x 4 users each = 24 x 25% = 6 bike spaces
    - 6 tennis courts x 4 users each = 24 people x 25% = 6 bike spaces
    - 2 volleyball courts x 12 users each = 24 people x 25% = 6 bike spaces
    - Flex spaces = 50 users x 25% = 13 bike spaces
    - Total bike spaces to be provided = 31 bike spaces
  - Proposed bike rack styles
    - Loop and Peak racks
    - Considering regular bikes and e-bikes and e-scooters
  - Proposed bike repair station
    - Fixit with air kit 2 – Dero

Chat comments:

From Sarah Gamble:

Agreed on the Dero stations! The student gov't managed stations are often broken - and stay that way.

From Matt Williams:

The Campus Bike Program Coordinator is working on trying to get all the "owners" on Dero stations on the same page for repairs. And yes, your observation is 100% correct on the SG managed ones.

- Lynda Reinhart had concerns that the location of the dumpster compound will impact shows and events and make securing the bandshell a challenge.
- Matt Williams stated he appreciated the bike and scooter parking for the area. He inquired about:
  - Utilization at Southwest Rec
  - Additional moped/scooter parking in the Red permit area.
  - Dero fix-it stations – Work with TAPS and Jeremiah McInnis for maintenance
- Marty Dempsey address Matt Williams' inquiries
  - Dero fix-it stations maintenance is being address
  - Southwest Rec bike racks are moderately used
  - Added that Southwest Rec is a mostly commuter destination as there is car parking.

- It is expected this area will be used more by campus residents.
- Walter O'Dell inquired about water fountains/water filling stations. These as well as charging stations will be provided in the area.
- Andrew Meeker discussed the event access concerns. The plan for the area is not complete and the project is open to feedback for modifications and access solutions.

**ACTION:**

Jennifer Clark moved to approve the project; Walter O'Dell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**ELECTION OF PATAC CHAIR AND ASSOCIATE CHAIR**

**PRESENTING: SCOTT WASHBURN, CHAIR**

**DISCUSSION:**

The PATAC member list. Scott Washburn stated that it had a been a pleasure to serve as chair and his term as chair was ending May 2024. He asked for nominees for chair and associate-chair, although associate chair was not a requirement.

Scott Washburn nominated Thomas Hawkins for chair and Walter O'Dell volunteered/self-nominated for associate-chair. With no other nominees and no objections, Thomas Hawkins was elected new PATAC chair. Walter O'Dell was elected as associate-chair.

Scott Washburn commented that he remains interested and will be attending future meetings

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**PRESENTED BY: THOMAS HAWKINS**

No other business was presented.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:51 p.m.