

Public Safety Advisory Committee

February 8, 2008

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 1pm. Present: Steve Pavelec, Dave Zarifis, Mike Licari, Michael Blackwell, Jason Vetter, Mary Hover, Nick Casper, Jen Younie, Kathryn Van Wormer, Milissa Wright.

Absent: Dean Shoars

A. Minutes approved.

New Business

A. Review 2008-2009 parking Rules and Regulations including proposed rates for permits.

Mike Licari made notice of the narrow gap between expenses and income coupled with a decrease in fine revenue. He asked what the projections were for 2009 and suggested that perhaps a greater increase in permit prices would be in order.

Dave Zarifis responded construction is the reason for the increase and projections are included as part of the reason for the increase in permit prices. He noted that the parking deck will also cause revenues to drop. He stated that there are no new lots to be constructed in the upcoming year and this will help ease the expenses.

Mike questioned the reserve level and asked if we can operate at a loss for a year and still be ok. Dave responded that we try not to spend below \$400,000. He said he would suggest to UNI Administration no expansion of parking space numbers but an expansion of the transit system to increase usage of existing spaces.

Kathryn Van Wormer asked why the meters are enforced between school sessions when there is no one here. Dave stated the meters are enforced due to persons with no UNI affiliation making use of them. It is how we get revenue from those who do not purchase a permit.

Steve Pavelec asked if we have any comparisons on rate structure with University of Iowa and Iowa State. Dave replied that the rates are much higher at the other two institutions. Dave added that the "other" revenue line applies to events on campus and it should increase. This is because we are getting a larger portion of the parking revenue from event parking.

Nick Casper asked why there was a jump in "other" revenue from 06-07 fiscal years. Dave said that parking started getting 20% of all sales rather than just 20%

of sales of \$5 event fees. He added that snow removal will hit us hard this year due to the amount of snow we have received this winter.

Mike Licari asked if quarterly projections could be provided to the Advisory Committee and Dave Zarifis said that would be possible.

Motion to approve and seconded. Nine ayes, one nay, Mike Licari.

B. Review University of Northern Iowa Security Improvements submitted to the Regents and the Iowa Legislature. Discuss funding and project status.

Dave explained: Emergency Communications was contracted with Connect Ed. The first test of the system was on Wed Feb 6th but there was a delay on the text message portion of 42 minutes. There will be a training meeting at the end of February for UNI dispatchers. If all goes as planned the system is slated to be fully functional by end of February. He said that University of Iowa and Iowa State University have also contracted with Connect Ed.

Dave said that the stripped down web site that is put up during emergencies is projected to withstand the load it will need to bear. The same goes for the phone system.

Discussion on the outdoor speaker system: Dave said there is a meeting with the vendor next week. He said it is part of our radio system so we may use one vendor that already has responsibility for the radio system. The possibility is being explored to have a person responsible for each building that could operate the pa system with a 110 plug in unit.

Steve Pavelec said there are 27 buildings with Simplex speaker systems. Dave said we will look at options out there to see what is available and workable. The company we are exploring provides systems for military bases and installed the Virginia Tech system. It is thought five speaker banks are necessary to cover campus and tie into the buildings. Projected time for speaker system acquisition is currently two months.

Jason Vetter said the digital content message boards are slated to be discussed at an upcoming information session to look at options.

Dave Zarifis said that real time messaging is as important as the Connect Ed component. He added that University of Iowa looked at this due to last years tornado incident.

Dave Zarifis said the Threat Assessment protocol is in place. There is a smaller group working on this. Four people attended a conference in San Diego in January. The concept of police switching from response mode to planning mode is new. Training has taken place on campus for Threat Assessment and will

continue. We are slated to speak with Price Lab School staff next month for a special K-12 scenario.

Dave Zarifis stated that a training position is being added to Public Safety this summer. This position will coordinate the massive amounts of training the department provides each year on a wide array of subjects and will incorporate the weapons training.

Three new police officer positions which have been requested have not been funded. This goes along with the three counselor positions that were requested. University of Iowa and Iowa State University have requested similar positions but in higher numbers.

Dave discussed critical incident response on campus and stated that “locking down” campuses are a misconception. Fire code requires that exit is maintained and if any door is opened building access can be gained. Discussion about the vital need for information in these situations is paramount.

Steve Pavelec added that locking doors by electronic means could also lock out safety for an individual seeking refuge. He added that for buildings not equipped with electronic access the cost is estimated at \$10,000 per door for installation. Discussion about cost effectiveness followed.

Dave stated that the department approach is to look at case situations and apply best practices. In that light, information is still the most vital tool.

C. DPS Advisory training for next meeting:

Next meeting Joe Tyler will provide presentation on tasers and use of force. The meeting will be **February 29th at 1pm in Mau College Eye room.**

D. Open discussion:

Regular meetings for the Advisory Committee are planned for the last Friday of the month.