



Minnesota Law Enforcement Explorer Association

Wednesday June 16, 2010

Meeting Minutes

Location: Grump's Restaurant 2801 Snelling Ave, Roseville, MN

Meeting called to order by Chair Brandon Brugger at 1130 hrs.

Present:

Chair Brandon Brugger (MLEEA/ Minneapolis PD), Co-Chair Scott Kostohryz (MLEEA/ Moorhead PD), Secretary Desiree Toninato (MLEEA Coon Rapids PD), Jenny Hedal (Northern Star Council), Scott Tulus, (Rochester P.D.), Daren Keasling (Coon Rapids P.D.), Mike Peterson, (Brooklyn Center P.D.), Dan Meyer, (St. Louis Park P.D.), Cheri Dexter (Washington County), Joe Tran (Maplewood P.D.), Kathy Mcneely (New Brighton DPS), Michelle Stark (Oakdale P.D.), Scott Whiteford (Plymouth P.D.), Kaitlyn Kavanaugh (HCSO youth rep), Jeffrey Tomaszewski (Brooklyn Park P.D.), Brian Owens (Blaine P.D.), Gabe Lee (Blaine P.D.), Jim Schilling (Blaine P.D.), Shannon Odegaard (MTKA P.D.), Heather Olson (MTKA PD), T.J. Henderson (Edina/Eden Prairie), Kenna Dick (Edina/Eden Prairie) and Jon Gudeman (Plymouth PD).

Chair Brugger requested an approval for the minutes dated April 30, 2010. Motioned to approve the minutes by Brooklyn Center P.D. and seconded by Plymouth P.D. **MINUTES APPROVED.**

Committee Reports:

Treasurers' report: Dixon absent Brugger presented. Profit and loss sheets handed out dated from May 2009 through April 2010 and May 1 through June 14, 2010.

Brugger explained some of the debit has not yet been received and they are still waiting for the check from the FOP. Brugger requested a motion to approve the Treasurers report. Treasury report motion to approve by Washington County and seconded by Brooklyn Park P.D.

TREASURERS REPORT APPROVED.

Scholarships:

Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Nothing to report.



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NEW BUSINESS:

State Conference: Brugger advised after reviewing the survey that some of the same issues as last year were documented. Some of the main issues involved the Kahler, Food issues and Safety concerns.

The food issues were running out of food and shutting down early.

Lt. Scott Tullius from Rochester addressed the group and advised there are other catering options and he would volunteer to research finding the caterer for our needs. He also spoke at length on safety concerns he had also sent out an email in regard to the incident involving explorers getting mugged. He advised that four suspects were arrested in a short period of time after the incident. He did have additional officers assigned to the area during the conference and will add additional officers next year and will increase extra patrol to the skyway areas. Next year he will provide the posts with maps for areas that could be a potential problem. As far as the concerns of explorers having to room with other explorers from other posts he suggested maybe they get to know each other a little better before the conference via a social networking site like Facebook. In regards to the problems with the Kahler he advised he would work with them closely to block off better rooms. He wants us all to have a happy and safe conference. He also added that in Rochester have good facilities for a conference like ours.

For next year their department will provide a FATS system and a driving simulator to keep the explorers busy.

Cheri Dexter from Washington County addressed the safety issues and stated that if her explorers what to go somewhere that she will be with them and she advised that other advisors should do so too.

Michelle Stark from Oakdale P.D. advised that she had been approached by Alexandria Tech College about possibly having the conference up there. She said she would research it with their Chamber of Commerce.

Scott Whiteford from Plymouth P.D. presented the group with some research he had done involving changing the location and the dates of the conference.

See the attached document for more detailed information on his presentation.

Brugger advised that Rochester did have the nicest range we have had so far and that we might not be able to have any of the shoots at other locations and that the career fair might possible be discontinued as well as casino night.

Brugger asked the group to address Scott with any questions.

Cheri Dexter advised of potential problems with going to college campuses, like May/June dates are difficult when Nationals are on the same year. She felt most departments would not let advisors have all that time off when the events are back to back. Also, there are many summer community events that the explorers are to assist with and graduations are a potential problem.

Brugger advised that Scott's presentation was welcome and his ideas could potentially be options for the future.

The problem right now is timing in signing another four year contract with Rochester. If we want to secure the dates we want we have to move on signing the contract. If we delay we could lose our dates.

The Rochester convention bureau will do what we want and are fighting for us and are working for us. In regards to the past contract with signing with individual Hotels the next contract will be with the convention bureau and might not include the Kahler.

In regard to the vote that was sent out to stay at Rochester or go back to Breezy out of those that responded the majority wants to stay in Rochester and only five posts wanted to go back to Breezy.



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Therefore we will be signing a four year contract with Rochester. We will be working with the Convention Bureau to get the problems addressed and get things changed. We might potentially be getting rid of the Kahler at least in the capacity of having explorers housed there. We might just have the role players at the Kahler and move the explorers to the Holiday Inn Express. We are still held in the current contract for one more year.

The safety issues, food and housing will be addressed. As for sharing rooms – you will get 3 to 4 to a room determinate upon the demographics of your post. Issues in sharing rooms will come up. The next contract will be good until 2015.

Cheri Dexter advised stated she wanted to thank the board for doing a good job and that the convention bureau is doing a good job. She advised there should be no expectations on the part of rooming with people you know. As for the Kahler, it is going to be a problem – it's just the way it is.

Scott Whiteford advised that for the vote the third option (location change to a campus and date changes) was not brought up for the vote.

Scott Kostohryz thanked him for the effort in his research but advised him that there was just to short of a time period and the main issue was the location between Rochester and Breezy.

Brugger advised that everyone's opinion matters and are considered. He said that the majority of explorers and advisors that attended the Rochester location from the first year to the second year said the conference was much better and had improved from the year before.

As far as the Kahler only one resident refused to move and that was her problem because she was given a choice. The Kahler also had the problem with checking in and rooms not being ready even after sending people up to them.

Someone suggested that they have a separate line at check-in for just our people and keep us separated from the other guests. Also have more desk clerks at that time.

Mike Peterson from Brooklyn Center advised that his explorers want to stay at Rochester. He said they are out of the elements, (the snow storm at Breezy and the rain). He also said he is looking to the future of our conference possibly becoming a regional one which could potentially include North Dakota, Iowa and Wisconsin. If we went back to Breezy this would not happen.

Explorer Rep Kaitlyn Kavanaugh advised that none of her advisors received the email about the vote and someone else forwarded it to him. Someone asked how many emails were received on the vote. Brugger advised there were 18 posts that voted to stay at Rochester and 5 voted to go back to Breezy and all five board members voted to stay in Rochester. He stated a lot of posts did not vote.

Another issue to be addressed was that of the handguns at the range. One advisor had requested to use their own guns; Range Officer Dan Meyer addressed this and said that they would continue to use the guns provided to them. This was a plus because then posts did not have to carry and have guns in their rooms and have to carry eyes and ears. They are all provided to the posts. He said we really moved up when we moved to this range. Considering the switch from revolver to semi-autos there have been no problems with any explorers.



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Brugger asked for any further discussion on staying at Rochester. Nothing further, he asked for a motion to approve to sign the four year contract with Rochester. Motion approved by Cheri Dexter from Washington County and seconded by Mike Peterson from Brooklyn Center.

MOTION APPROVED.

NATIONALS CONFERENCE: Gary Cayo not present. If you are ordering T-shirts get your order into DuWey via Email.

Motion to adjourn: Motion by St. Louis Park and second by Brooklyn Park. **Meeting adjourned at 1255 hrs.**