

MCPAA Board Meeting Report

Montgomery County Joint Law Enforcement Museum Project

December 10, 2015

While visiting Montgomery County to attend the Dan Waring funeral, I met with several people concerning the Museum Project. Synopsis below:

- With my son, CPL Karl E. Plitt, visited a closed retail store in Rockville Town Center. His contact, the property manager for numerous Federal Realty properties, offered several items to our museum effort. They include four like-new show cases, a reception desk/ cash register counter, several small display shelves, a metal utility shelf set, three torso manikins, two full male manikins, and track lighting equipment worth in excess of \$3,000. Some light units, new in their box, are worth \$50 each.
- MCPD Emergency Services Unit (ESU) stepped up this week to move the show cases & other items to the ESU garage for safe storage until we can get the museum up & running.
- Met with John Binnix on Dec 1st. Agreed with suggestion by Pres. Sterling that we need a letter from each participating agency whereby they designate a Point of Contact (POC) for their participation in this. A form letter to each agency chief requesting such an appointment would be the easiest way to accomplish their "Buy-In".
- John Binnix reported on the cache of display cases at the PSTA, plus many other artifacts stored in the basement. The academy intends to turn over all the show cases currently in the PSTA lobby, along with their contents, to our museum effort.
- Met with Nancy Pickard, Director, Peerless Rockville, about our plans. She is a staunch ally for our effort. She also volunteered to show visitors around our museum when we have no one staffing the place, since they have office staff there daily. She also agreed to help sell souvenir items when we have them for sale.
- Pickard agreed that we need to also plan for display cases lining the central hallway of the Red Brick Courthouse. She plans to use the space for that as well. She also suggested planning receptions (catered) as fund raisers in the museum or the large ceremonial courtroom upstairs. The county apparently allows that use of the building.
- Pickard is a great source of info on things going on in the county government, especially when it comes to funding sources.
- I was reminded that we need someone to give a short presentation to a group that she recommends that support small museums in the county, and other art type efforts. The date is January 30th. I'll find more details as to time & place. We are expected to bring along some item or artifact that we intend to display in the museum. That could simply be a couple of

items from the academy display cases. Or, other artifacts we are accumulating.

- Pickard also noted there is grant funding for small museums available, through the county and an entity called "Heritage Montgomery", which is part of Heritage Maryland. They are the funding mechanism for grant funds from Maryland. More on that later when I have time to look into that.
- Pres. Sterling and I spoke to Lt. Rick Pelicano, MNCPPC Police about their participation. He followed up with his contact info. He is willing to help.

We really need to have the 501.c.3 certification in place. That will greatly help fund raising. I look forward to seeing that happen.

Other details:

- I spoke to Judge Eric Johnson, (Ret.) at the LEOSA qualification on Friday, Dec. 4th. He said he wants to help with the museum. He still hears a couple of District Court cases each month, and does some arbitration hearings, but he is essentially retired and available. We could really use his participation. His influence could help a lot. Unfortunately, he left after the qualification before I could get his contact info. Can anyone help with this? If not, maybe the Range Staff could help.
- The necessary paperwork mentioned earlier still needs completion. Now that I am home and some of the pressing Collie Rescue tasks are handled, I can move on to that.
- Lt. Mark Sheelor noted that the Supply Section has recently moved to the SOD & Fire/Rescue complex on Southlawn Dr. They are still getting moved into their new quarters. As soon as they are ready they will contact Tim Delaney and Brian Ford and schedule a tutorial session for them on the evidence tracking system that will be used to track our museum items. Brian met with me after Dan Waring's funeral and agreed to help with this task.
- On Pres. Sterling's suggestion, I visited the Frederick County Fire & Rescue Museum in Emmitsburg, MD. This is a small museum and archive that is being run by a retired Montgomery County Firefighter, Wayne Powell. Housed within this museum is the "National Fire Heritage Center". It is "An Archives for and About America's Fire Services and Fire Protection Disciplines." Mr. Frank Schmearsal is the Archivist there. It was very instructive to see what they have done and learn the details of the whole archive process. He also recommended going to the National Park Service. They have whole programs available to small museums and lots of advice. I urge board members and any of our members to visit this museum and archives to see how its done. The address is 300th South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD 21727. Its located in a former rescue squad building directly across the street from the National Fire Academy and the FEMA facility. See www.thenfhc.org

There was a suggestion that we schedule an interview with Chief Donald Brookes and Lt. Tom Jaycocks. The purpose would be to record their recollections about the department and the old timers they knew when they were young rookies. They also need to be asked about any artifacts they might have salted away, and maybe solicit their donation. A member who gets along with them should be selected and maybe accompanied by a videographer for the interview session(s). In this Sunday's newsletter, I will ask for volunteers for this task.

Lastly, we need more participation to make this work. I will write another appeal to the membership for help. I can't do this from Middle Tennessee. Bob Philo has been terrific. John Binnix has done all sorts of things, many on the spur of the moment. Others have stepped up, but, we need more help.

SUBMITTED December 10, 2015 by Karl W. Plitt
MCPAA Board Member at Large