

Attachment 970417a

To The Minn-Stf Board Meeting Minutes

(from the Meeting of 17 April 1997)

Date: Sun, 13 Apr 1997 16:29:52 -0500
From: Fred A Levy Haskell <falh@maroon.tc.umn.edu>
Subject: Submitted for your consideration...
To: Minicon-L@mnstf.org

I just recently had an idea the may be crazy, but it just might work.

But I'm sure I can't see all the sides and ramifications of it, so I figured I'd submit it to the list for you all to poke holes in or support or discuss or whatever, and see what (if anything) is left when the smoke dies down.

If anything interesting remains, I might then submit it to the exec and the board.

Okay, here's my idea:

What if Minicon eliminates any event/function which in and of itself is sufficient to cause a "go/no go" decision among a significant proportion of the people who attend that event/function?

So, just to pick an example totally out of the hat, if Minicon were to eliminate, say, the Minneapolis in '73 Suite without changing =anything= else, and that one change would cause a significant proportion of the people who attend the Minneapolis in '73 Suite to decide not to come to Minicon, then perhaps the Minneapolis in '73 Suite should be eliminated.

Exceptions might be made for panel discussions (based on an historical argument—Minicon I was nothing but panel discussions, and they nothing if not traditional as far as Minicon is concerned) and for booze in the consuite (since we tried that and didn't like the results).

Obviously, some discussion might be made about what "significant proportion" means in this context.

My rationale here is that if we are trying to refocus Minicon to reflect the needs and interests of =a= diverse community, rather than a =bunch= of diverse communities which are each pretty diverse themselves, it might help to not present those things which attract people who are interested in only one aspect of the many things that interest the community.

This is =not= presented in a mean-spirited attempt to capriciously eliminate anyone or anything, but rather to see if this might be one way our bright and shining new Minicon can be refocused to serve =one= community really well rather than attempting to serve a lot of communities half-assedly....

So.

What do you think?

P.S. I thought you all might get a kick out of the fact that my spell checker just suggested that I replace "exec" with "execrable"..... <g>

Fred A. Levy Haskell | "We all have a little bit of Homer Simpson
falh@maroon.tc.umn.edu | in us." —Homer Simpson

Date: Sun, 13 Apr 1997 17:09:40 +0000
From: "DreamPark" <dreamprk@minn.net> (Sharon Kahn)
Subject: Re: Submitted for your consideration...
To: Minicon-L@mnstf.org

Fred writes (eyes wide and earnest)...

> What if Minicon eliminates any event/function which in and of itself
> is sufficient to cause a "go/no go" decision among a significant
> proportion of the people who attend that event/function?

Ever thought of running for president, Fred? You've already got a good handle on how to put together a party platform.

> So, just to pick an example totally out of the hat ...

Right. Good choice. Wonderful thing, randomness.

> P.S. I thought you all might get a kick out of the fact that my spell
> checker just suggested that I replace "exec" with "execrable"..... <g>

hee hee

— sharon

Date: 14 Apr 1997 04:07:59 -0000
From: David Dyer-Bennet <ddb@gw.ddb.com>
Subject: Re: Submitted for your consideration...
To: Minicon-L@mnstf.org

Fred A. Levy Haskell <falh@maroon.tc.umn.edu> writes on 13 April 1997 at 16:29:52 -0500

> What if Minicon eliminates any event/function which in and of itself
> is sufficient to cause a "go/no go" decision among a significant
> proportion of the people who attend that event/function?

I think eliminating Mpls. 73 would kill Minicon for me. 10 years ago it would have been the con suite; kill that and there's no Minicon for me. All else is fringe fluff.

Date: Sun, 13 Apr 1997 22:18:38 -0600
From: gfs@toad-hall.com (Geri Sullivan)
Subject: Re: Submitted for your consideration...
To: Minicon-L@mnstf.org

At 10:07 PM 4/13/97, David Dyer-Bennet wrote:

>Fred A. Levy Haskell <falh@maroon.tc.umn.edu> writes on 13 April
>1997 at 16:29:52 -0500

>

>> What if Minicon eliminates any event/function which in and of
>> itself is sufficient to cause a "go/no go" decision among a
>> significant proportion of the people who attend that event/
>> function?

>

>I think eliminating Mpls. 73 would kill Minicon for me. 10 years ago
>it would have been the con suite; kill that and there's no Minicon
>for me. All else is fringe fluff.

And how many other people who spend time in Minneapolis in '73 do you think feel the same way? If it's a significant portion (specific meaning TBD), then I'm with Fred's suggestion and think the department ought to be eliminated.

Reading into your comment a bit, I find myself darned near in agreement with you. If Minicon did away with "Minneapolis fannish hospitality" I'd really have to look at if/why I was interested in attending Minicon. But that's (fortunately) not just one event/function at the convention.

Geri

Geri Sullivan / gfs@toad-hall.com

=====
"The duck is played by a kazoo." — Dave Van Ronk (narrating)

Date: Mon, 14 Apr 1997 00:31:08 -0500
From: Fred A Levy Haskell <falh@maroon.tc.umn.edu>
Subject: Re: Submitted for your consideration...
To: Minicon-L@mnstf.org

At 12:09 PM -0500 4/13/97, DreamPark wrote:

>Fred writes (eyes wide and earnest)...
>
>> What if Minicon eliminates any event/function which in and of
>> itself is sufficient to cause a "go/no go" decision among a
>> significant proportion of the people who attend that event/
>> function?
>
>Ever thought of running for president, Fred?

President of what?

Nope, actually....

(And what's this "eyes wide and earnest" thing? And who's "Earnest"?
Stop calling me "Shirley"! Erm....)

>You've already got a
>good handle on how to put together a party platform.

Huh whaaa....?

>> So, just to pick an example totally out of the hat ...
>
>Right. Good choice. Wonderful thing, randomness.

Yup. Always works swell for Corflu Guests of Honor. Especially that
year in Minneapolis, when Roscoe guided my hand to the slip of
paper with "Stu Shiffman" written on it....

Fred A. Levy Haskell | "We all have a little bit of Homer Simpson
falh@maroon.tc.umn.edu | in us." —Homer Simpson

Date: Mon, 14 Apr 1997 11:56:30 -0500
From: Neil Rest <NeilRest@tezcat.com>
Subject: Re: Submitted for your consideration...
To: Minicon-L@mnstf.org

>What if Minicon eliminates any event/function which in and of itself
>is sufficient to cause a "go/no go" decision among a significant
>proportion of the people who attend that event/function?

I wouldn't want to make a policy of it, but as a way of clarifying a lot
of items and issues, I'd be interested in going through the exercise.

Neil Rest <NeilRest@tezcat.com>
Privy Councilor Anarchist Emeritus Blaisdell Polytechnic

Date: Mon, 14 Apr 1997 20:13:30 -0400 (EDT)
From: GildValar@aol.com (???)
Subject: Re: Submitted for your consideration...
To: Minicon-L@mnstf.org

In a message dated 97-04-14 01:02:17 EDT, you write:

<< My rationale here is that if we are trying to refocus Minicon to
reflect the needs and interests of =a= diverse community, rather than
a =bunch= of diverse communities which are each pretty diverse
themselves, it might help to not present those things which attract

people who are interested in only one aspect of the many things that
interest the community.

This is =not= presented in a mean-spirited attempt to capriciously
eliminate anyone or anything, but rather to see if this might be one
way our bright and shining new Minicon can be refocused to serve
=one= community really well rather than attempting to serve a lot of
communities half-assedly....

So.

What do you think?

P.S. I thought you all might get a kick out of the fact that my spell
checker just suggested that I replace "exec" with "execrable"..... <g>

Fred A. Levy Haskell | "We all have a little bit of Homer Simpson
falh@maroon.tc.umn.edu | in us." —Homer Simpson >>

Part of the reason why I was suggesting doing a new minicon
parrallel to the original minicon,

Date: Mon, 14 Apr 1997 21:10:06 -0400 (EDT)
From: SSKYLARKER@aol.com (Laramie Sasseville)
Subject: Re: Submitted for your consideration...
To: Minicon-L@mnstf.org

In a message dated 97-04-13 17:45:12 EDT, you write:

<< My rationale here is that if we are trying to refocus Minicon to
reflect the needs and interests of =a= diverse community, rather than
a =bunch= of diverse communities which are each pretty diverse
themselves, it might help to not present those things which attract
people who are interested in only one aspect of the many things that
interest the community.

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eliminate anyone or anything, but rather to see if this might be one
way our bright and shining new Minicon can be refocused to serve
=one= community really well rather than attempting to serve a lot of
communities half-assedly.... >>

My first reaction was, 'Lord, no; not another stupid bid to alienate
large portions of Minicon attendees. But by the time I got to the end
of your post I could see where you're coming from - maybe it
would help us to clarify what we want Minicon to be if we could
identify which activities appeal to people who aren't just there for
one thing or another. On the other hand, I suspect that there isn't
even one activity that could be eliminated without causing a few
people to exclaim, 'Well; that spoils it for me.'

It has become apparent to me that the list is a good forum for getting
some REaction to ideas, but it is not a good forum for making
decisions or taking action. How long have we been debating one idea
or another for reducing membership? For deciding what activities are
worth preserving?

I suggest that we put some of these questions to a vote. Perhaps a
ballot could be mailed out with an issue of the Einblatt. I don't expect
it will happen, regardless of what is said here, unless someone takes
the initiative to _make_ it happen. Is anyone out there willing to
compile a list of the suggestions that have been made, so that it can
be submitted to the Exec for possible action?

- Laramie