

Minutes of the Helena Vigilante Runners
Organizational Meeting, December 15, 2008
Lewis & Clark Library

Present:

Michele Bazzanella
Elaine Dahl
Steve Engebrecht
Marta Fisher
Mike Jacobson
Pat Judge
John Hallsten
Martin Miller
Scott Story
Brian Wieck
Alan Wintersteen

Call to Order: Steve Engebrecht convened the meeting at 8:05 pm.

Purpose of Meeting: Steve described his desire for bringing greater structure to the group, by means of obtaining formal status as a tax-exempt charitable organization and as a non-profit corporation registered with the State of Montana. He also described how our membership in the Road Runner Clubs of America can facilitate the process of becoming a 501c(3), at no extra charge. 501c(3) status means that people can deduct contributions from their taxes, which is an attractive enticement when soliciting sponsors for races, etc. By way of background, the Helena Vigilante Runners (HVR) joined the RRCA in 2007 for a cost of \$474. The membership fee included insurance for all of the club-sponsored races, which worked out to about \$94 per event (which is an excellent price). The RRCA insurance also covers the regular club workouts, and even club social events. But it should be noted that it does NOT cover non-running events (such as the Great Divide Ascent, triathlons, or even field events in a track meet). The Spring Meadow Triathlon is insured through USA Triathlon.

Pat Judge moved that the HVR renew its membership in RRCA for calendar year 2009, and that it pursue obtaining 501c(3) status through the RRCA. He further moved that HVR file official Articles of Incorporation with the Montana Secretary of State. Alan Wintersteen pointed out that registering as a non-profit corporation at the state level offers several advantages, in terms of liability protection for officers, etc. John Hallsten seconded the combined motion, and it passed without objection.

The first step to making these things happen will be to write a mission statement, and a set of Bylaws. Mike Fanning was nominated (in absentia) to help out with this effort. Marta Fisher, Steve Engebrecht, and Pat Judge will also help.

The next step will involve electing a board of directors. It was suggested that the board include representation from each of the sub-groups (Track, Tri, HURL, Hash – although Marta reminded us that the Hashers are anarchistic by nature, and may opt out of such formal proceedings as these!). The group thought it sounded like a good way to go, and noted that each of those groups was well represented at this meeting.

Treasurer's Report: The club has about \$5200, which is another reason that Steve would like it to become a more formal entity. He would like to share the administrative duties, and empower a few other people to write checks, etc. (with proper controls). He also noted that in 2008, the club made a number of charitable donations to groups like the Friendship Center, the Shriners, the Search & Rescue, and the Amateur Radio Operators. These were all groups that either helped out with races, were identified as beneficiaries for fundraiser races, or who were otherwise involved / supportive of HVR's activities. The group also supported a motion by Steve to contribute \$100 to Rebecca Shaw's Leukemia & Lymphoma fundraising efforts.

Needed Items: The group came up with the following two suggestions for capital expenditures:

- 1) a large finish line clock, which could be used at multiple events (possibly solar-powered). Brian Wieck thought the cost would be about \$600. Brian Wieck was also going to check with Jim and Bobbie Pomroy to see about the clock that was previously used for the Race to the Sky sled dog races.
- 2) the Jeff Thomas canvas tent, which he acquired / assembled for about \$200.

The group also expressed interest in having an inventory of equipment already owned by the club (including a printing stopwatch, several tables & garbage cans, etc.), and consolidating that equipment at a central location -- a storage shed perhaps, or a "race trailer" akin to the one owned by Runners Edge in Missoula.

There was a discussion about purchasing a timing system through RRCA, but it was fairly pricey and the group thought that continuing to contract with Perfect Timing for a couple races per year made more sense at this time. Perfect Timing charges about \$625 per race, and is used for the Mount Helena Run and Railway 8k. The timing system had a price tag in the neighborhood of \$5000.

Website: Alan Wintersteen and Charlotte Lauerman have been working to improve the website and keep it current. Pat Judge advocated for using a new domain name that better reflects the new club name, and has reserved www.vigilanterunning.org which he would offer to the club. Michele Bazzanella agreed that the new club name is an improvement (in a state with many creative running club names). Brian Wieck expressed a different philosophy, and his desire to keep the current website as the overarching club site (with Vigilante referring more narrowly to the track activities). Scott Story expressed his view that having a single, coordinated recognizable club is a desirable thing for newcomers.

If the club does make the transition, all parties felt it was important to keep the <http://www.helenarunningclub.com> site live for a lengthy period of overlap – with a redirect message to the new site. John Hallsten argued that the new site would have to have key words that could easily be accessed by search engines (such as "helena" "running"). Alan Wintersteen said that that would not be a problem.

Next Meeting: The group will meet again on Monday January 12th, at 7:00 pm at the Lewis & Clark Library meeting room.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

These minutes were prepared by Patrick Judge. Please contact him with any corrections:
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Other Useful Info:

The following weekly training runs are alive and well:

Monday –

Tuesday – Track or other interval workouts (12:15 pm, mid-March through October)

Wednesday – Distance run (5 mi. avg.) from the Lewis & Clark Library (5:45 pm, year-round)

Thursday – Tempo run from Crossroads (12:00 pm – snowshoe running starting December 18th)

Friday –

Saturday – 8-15 mi. distance run from the Bagel Co. (8:00 am Summer, 9:00 am Winter)

Sunday –

One of the important objectives for the new club is to provide better communication and coordination. Toward this end, the following races have been penciled in for 2009:

Jan 10 Fat Ass 50k

May 8 Don't Fence Me In (2nd Saturday of May)

May 16 Race for the Cure

Jun 13 Governor's Cup (2nd Saturday of June)

Jul 12 Spring Meadow Tri (1st Sunday after the 4th)

Aug 1 Elkhorn (1st Saturday of August)

Aug 8 South Hills Trail Series Race #1

(Aug 14-15 Spokane to Sandpoint Relay)

Aug 20 Augúst Road Race (3rd Thursday of August)

Aug 22? Railway 8k – Pat, Steve & Brian suggest that a change to Aug 26 (We) be considered

(Aug 22? York 38 Special)

(Sep 12 John Colter Run)

Sep 19 Mount Helena Classic (2nd Saturday after Labor Day)

Sep 25 (Fr) South Hills Trail Series Race #2

Oct 11 (Su) South Hills Trail Series Race #3

Oct 18 (Su) South Hills Trail Series Race #4

?? Queen City Tri

?? Carroll Invite

?? Turkey Trot