

Helena Vigilante Runners

Organizational Meeting #2

Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2009

I. Call to order

Pat Judge called to order the second organizational meeting of the **Helena Vigilante Runners** at **7:04 pm** on **January 19th, 2009** at **107 W. Lawrence**.

II. Roll call

The following board members were present: Michele Bazzanella, Lori Heit, Mike Jacobson, Thomas Jodoin, Patrick Judge, Ann Seifert, Sarah Slanger, Sean Slanger, Jeff Thomas, Brian Wieck, Alan Wintersteen, Scott Story. Chris Beskid also was in attendance.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Pat summarized and the board briefly discussed the minutes from the last meeting. The minutes were approved as read.

IV. Meeting Issues

- a) *Election of Officers:*** Pat Judge nominated Steve Engebrecht as president, and the board elected him (in absentia). Sean suggested Pat assume the role of vice president and he was similarly elected. In the same manner, Michele Bazzanella was elected as treasurer and Lori Heit as secretary.
- b) *Discussion of Bylaws:*** Pat opened the discussion by naming the members who had served on the bylaws committee; Steve, Sean, Mike Fanning, Elaine Dahl and Pat drafted the bylaws, the mission statement, and the articles of incorporation. Marta (in absentia) suggested that the board consider having up to 25 members. Sean mentioned the upper limit should not exceed 21 members, but wanted to check the code to verify. Due to hassles with scheduling and obtaining signatures, it was agreed the board should not grow past 15 members (although we have such a diverse and intellectual group of runners, it would be nice to include 3 times this number).

The board then went on to discuss the frequency of the meetings. From a legal standpoint, the board must meet on an annual basis, possibly following the Montana Cup (Section 6 of the bylaws). Discussion then turned to twice yearly v. quarterly meeting. Marta suggested that if the board decides for twice yearly, the meetings should take place prior to and immediately following the racing season. Sean then commented on the desirability of quarterly meetings for the purpose of dispensing funds. The board opted for quarterly meetings and designated February, May, August and November as meeting months, per a suggestion by Brian Wieck.

- c) *Notification of Meetings:*** It was agreed the list serve would be the primary method for announcing upcoming meetings. The discussion then turned to membership and it appears the organization will not have formal members at this time, although Pat and others were optimistic for formal membership at a later date. The HVR is a private, non-profit entity and membership at this early date could elicit more hassles than necessary.
- d) *Approval of Bylaws:*** Pat requested the board approve the bylaws as they stand and the board can amend as needed. Jeff made a motion for the bylaws to be approved, Sarah Slanger seconded and it passed unanimously.

V. New business

- a) **Community Service:** Tom Furlong articulated to Pat the idea of collecting running shoes for Fleet Feet in Bozeman. Jeff suggested collection bins be placed at the entrance of certain stores for people to drop off used running shoes. More research will go into what exactly happens to the shoes once they arrive at Fleet Feet (will they go to 3rd world countries, be recycled, etc.) Sarah wondered if they would accept battered shoes with holes or if they needed to be more wearable. Hopefully, someone will volunteer to look into this issue further.
- Other ideas for community service were discussed. Michele mentioned the need for volunteers at local schools. While running the Fat Ass 50K, Mike Jacobson and Debbie Gibson came up with the idea of hosting a “kid’s night” at Spring Meadow Lake for children age 8-13. Activities would include running, swimming and biking around the lake. Alan said the local soccer club hosts a weekly event that is well attended by community kids. Thomas suggested the track as a possible venue and Lori chimed in with a bootcamp or obstacle style course for kids on the field as an option, too.
- b) **Term Length:** Helena Vigilante Runners Board Members volunteered to serve the following terms. Note that the initial terms had to be of different lengths, in order to set up staggered terms. Starting next year, all future terms will be a standard three years. When a term is up, that board member can either retire, be replaced, or be re-appointed. There are no term limits in the bylaws. Officers will be chosen each year. Here again, there are no term limits, but Pat indicated his desire to see some turnover from time to time.
- Steve Engebrecht (three years), President
Patrick Judge (two years), Vice President
Lori Heit (two years), Secretary
Michele Bazzanella (two years), Treasurer
Mike Fanning (one year)
Marta Fisher (one year)
Mike Jacobson (three years)
Thomas Jodoin (one year)
Ann Seifert (two years)
Sarah Slanger (three years)
Sean Slanger (one year)
Scott Story (one year)
Jeff Thomas (three years)
Brian Wieck (two years)
Alan Wintersteen (three years)
- c) **Capital Expenditures:** The organization has a current balance of about \$5,200. Issues discussed at the first meeting were raised again (see last meeting’s minutes for details) and the board recognized the need for a 6 digit clock, with readouts on both the front and the back. Brian will continue to investigate this issue. Jeff will sell his large canvas tent to the club for approximately \$250 after he makes repairs to some of the poles. It was noted the tent is exceptionally large and requires 3 people to move it! Martin Miller has some other club equipment it was agreed that it would be good to consolidate all such equipment. Lori offered the outbuilding on her property for storage of any and all race related items. Jeff mentioned the possible need for some large Rubbermaid bins to house the items. Pat suggested that it would be nice to one day own a “race equipment trailer” similar to that owned by Runner’s Edge.
- d) **Final Thoughts:** Sean reminded us we are renewing our membership to Road Runners Clubs of America, which provides liability insurance to the club. He also said that the logical next steps would be to set up a checking account, and to adopt financial policies. According to the Bylaws, two signatures (president and treasurer) are required for expenditures in excess of \$500. Michele will handle the banking aspect and be authorized to write checks. Brian mentioned the need for a Mt. Helena race director. Nobody from the board jumped at this opportunity. Michele wondered if

the Base Camp would be a good place for the race to begin and end (like last year) and if they would like to be more formally involved. Brian said there would be fewer issues with obtaining permits if the race moved to the Mt. Helena parking lot. Thomas indicated there shouldn't be any charge for obtaining permits on the walking mall. Pat will approach Steve with the idea of putting together a proposal to entice a new race director. Brian also brought up the idea of putting on an informal half marathon that would be a tour of the greater downtown Helena area. He has already developed a course which starts in Unionville and remains on the South side of Euclid (in response to the city's concerns about crossing that street). Scott, the new director of the Railway 8K is open to changing the date of his race from August 22nd as it currently conflicts with the York 38 Special. He liked the idea of a Friday evening race, while Lori supported the idea of a Wednesday evening race that coincided with Alive @ 5. Jeff said the Governor's Cup board also discussed moving the date of the races so it wouldn't overlap with Helena graduation activities, but the first weekend in June remains the date.

- e) **Next Meeting:** The group will meet again on Monday February 16th, at 7:00 pm at 107 W. Lawrence.

VI. Adjournment

Pat Judge adjourned the meeting at **8:15**.

These minutes were prepared by Lori Heit, and reviewed by Pat Judge.