

Helena Vigilante Runners

Board Meeting #4

Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2009

I. Call to order

Steve Engebrecht called to order the fourth meeting of the **Helena Vigilante Runners** at **7:06 pm** on **May 18th, 2009** at **107 W. Lawrence**.

II. Roll call

The following board members were present: Michele Bazzanella, Steve Engebrecht, Marta Fisher, Mike Jacobson, Thomas Jodoin, Patrick Judge, Lori Heit, Ann Seifert, Sarah Slanger, Jeff Thomas, Brian Wieck and Alan Wintersteen. Russ Noonan was also present.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Pat moved that the minutes of the February 16, 2009 meeting be approved. Jeff seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

IV. Meeting Issues

a) *Financial Statement:* Steve reported a balance of \$5188.55.

b) *Administration:* Further progress has been made. Steve renewed the clubs membership in Road Runner Clubs of America, and secured a Federal Employer Identification Number for the club. This will allow Michele and Steve to open a new checking account. They will compare interest rates and monthly fees at 1st Community Bank, Helena Community Credit Union, and possibly others. Russ mentioned that 1st Community Bank does not charge monthly fees as long as the customer maintains a minimum balance of \$400. Steve mentioned his concern about fees associated with cashing checks from Canada, noting that he receives anywhere from 20-25 Canadian checks for the Elkhorn race. Russ didn't think that was a problem. Russ also thought an account could be set up prior to the organization getting its 501 c(3) status. Michele said we need to figure out the financial policy, at least as it pertains to the signatures that will be required for the use of the checks.

In response to a letter from the Montana Department of Revenue, Steve signed an affidavit with Sean Slanger as notary. Pat will get him a copy of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws to return with the affidavit to DOR [these tasks were completed subsequent to the board meeting]. Pat reported that Mike Fanning will be taking the lead on the IRS 501 c(3) application.

c) *Publicity:* Pat noted that the club had gotten some good coverage, with an article in the Governor's Cup Pre-Race Publication. He has also started a "Vig History" document.

d) *Website & Listserve Issues:* Alan Wintersteen and Pat are working on transferring the domain name. Alan said it would be possible to transfer the "vigilanterunning.org" site from GoDaddy to Electric Embers for a minimal cost. Alan also thought it would be possible to have several email lists under one account name (e.g. "vig", "h4", "hurl", "board"), with little or no extra charge, and that it would be desirable to have a HURL list in particular. Pat agreed to check into that. Pat also mentioned that some state employees were having difficulty receiving some emails. Jeff said these emails often go into a junk account, and that he would work to let employees know how to accept email from NPO groups.

Pat brought up the shocking news of another "vigilante" website out of Great Falls. It appears there is a Vigilante Endurance organization, which also makes use of the term "Vigilante Tri." That organization incorporated a few days after the HVR. Nobody in the group knew the contact, Mr.

Mike Rydell, but Marta suggested visiting with him to make sure nobody was stepping on each others' toes.

- e) **Railway 8K:** At the last HVR meeting, there was discussion about dropping the Railway 8k event. Since that time, Steve and Alan Peura discussed it further, and decided to talk to Russ and other personnel at 1st Community Bank to get an idea of their position as race sponsor. At Michele's invitation, Russ attended tonight's meeting and made several important points from the bank's point of view. Russ noted the bank donates about \$4,000 to sponsor the race. The first year and second year of the race saw 100 entrants. The third year, entrance dropped to 60, probably because flyers were insufficiently circulated prior to the race. Russ pointed out the Friendship Center is the Beneficiary of the Race. His concept of the race would be for the entire community to take part, rather than just a few "elite" runners. This comment was in response to the idea of merging the Railway 8K with the Mt. Helena Classic. Russ noted the distance and difficulty of the Mt. Helena Classic would discourage many individuals from signing up. Steve brought up the old 2.3 mile course that was run in conjunction with the 5 mile course, but noted that that particular race never really took off and was dropped. Discussion turned to HVR helping with the race, but for a variety of reasons, the group declined. The group already has its hands full with Elkhorn, Augúst Road Race, Mt. Helena Classic and the Trail Series. Sarah mentioned the possibility of combining the Railway sponsors / beneficiaries with the Augúst Road Race, but Jeff mentioned that race already benefits high school runners. Steve brought up the Spring Tune-Up race that Crossroads used to sponsor and discussion revolved around scheduling of the race (perhaps a spring run). Both Alan and Steve agreed that if the race was to take place in August, it should be on a Wednesday night as the month is already heavily scheduled with other races, both in Helena and surrounding communities. Brian said that the original concept for the race came from the Scottsdale 8k, and was meant to tap into the Alive @ Five crowd (however, A@5 no longer will schedule events at the Great Northern because they are too big now). Michele will coordinate with Scott Story (the race director) and Alan who is on the board at the Friendship Center, to discuss the fate of the race. If the race is to continue, it is imperative to start getting the word out through flyers handed out at the Governor's Cup (which Jeff said is still possible) and other means of advertising. [subsequent to the board meeting, these key individuals decided to discontinue the Railway 8k]
- f) **Mt. Helena Classic:** Steve revealed that a major sponsor of the race is a friend of his from Missoula, who donates \$800 per year. He also noted the Base Camp does not provide any monetary support, but does allow use of their space. Steve said the race came out only \$300 ahead in '08. There's also the issue of who's going to step up and take the role of race director. Perfect Timing will be hired again, as agreed to by the board at the last meeting. Also, entry forms need to be made up still.
- g) **Sponsoring Running Clinics:** Pat passed along a comment by Mike Fanning. He believes that our organization would be well served by supporting various educational clinics. Not only is it in keeping with our mission statement and a positive service to the community, it also might bolster our application to the IRS to be recognized as a charitable and educational institution. Karen Powell has helped organize such a clinic for May 31st, and has requested that it be "hosted" by HVR. It will take place at Vigilante Stadium. Sarah made a motion that HVR host the "Running Technique Clinic" with Matthew Parks and Aubrey Curtis, but without endorsing any particular program or product. Mike seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- h) **Spring Meadow Triathlon & Equipment Issues:** Mike Jacobson purchased some new snow fencing, but was unsure where to store it. Lori volunteered to store this equipment and the discussion turned to creating a checklist and checkout procedure for the various inventories (Team Great Divide, HVR, etc.). The arrangement that Mike offered was, if we let them store it, we can use it for our events. The group responded very positively to that offer. Jeff is still working on getting new poles for his tent, and hoped to have that resolved by next meeting. Pat urged the group to try to consolidate the equipment at Lori's shed, and to make the inventories prior to the next regularly scheduled board meeting (mid-August).

- i) **“Dogwood” group?:** Pat described a proposal by Shawn Whyte that a fourth group be formed for the Tuesday workouts, to help accommodate the needs of novice, injured, or struggling runners. The group decided to hold off on the proposal at this time, at least until Karen Powell returns to the group (July?) to offer her impressions.
- j) **HVR Youth Program:** Mike responded directly to an email from a fellow runner (Theresa Bousliman) about youth running in Helena. Mike and Debbie discussed this issue during the Fat Ass 50K race and are still hopeful of starting up some sort of summer program for Helena youth. Mike suggested an idea of having kids meet at Spring Meadow once a week for tips on running technique and to train with local celebrities (Thomas, etc). He would like to model it after the Friday afternoon mountain bike clinics for middle school age kids (Herzig, Proctor, Stergar?). Steve brought up the liability factor, and Michele and Thomas stated the benefits of having the kids meet at the track as a safer alternative because it is enclosed and kids wouldn’t get lost as easily as they could at Spring Meadow Lake. The group also felt that it would be better if parents were present. The target age group might be 5th grade to middle-school. An initial committee might be Mike Jacobson, Debbie Gibson, the Copenhavers, and Theresa Bousliman.

V. **Other Business**

Sarah invented a new sign of greeting for the secret society of vig -- some members performed the maneuver with greater ease than others! 😊

VI. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled to take place Monday, August 17, at 7:00 pm. Location to be determined.

VII. **Adjournment**

Sarah moved to adjourn, Pat seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Steve adjourned the meeting at 8:41 pm.

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