

Helena Vigilante Runners

Board Meeting #14

Meeting Minutes

May 23, 2011

I. Call to order

Patrick Judge called to order the fourteenth meeting of the Helena Vigilante Runners at 7:05 pm on May 23rd, 2011 at 107 W. Lawrence.

II. Roll call

The following persons were present:

Patrick Judge, President
Jeff Thomas, Vice President
Chris Colberg, Treasurer
Chris Beskid, Board Member
Carolyn Keller Blasch, Board Member
Mike Fanning, Board Member
Ann Seifert, Board Member
Sarah Slanger, Board Member
Scott Story, Board Member
Demaris Taylor, Board Member
Brian Wieck, Board Member
Alan Wintersteen, Board Member
Todd Younkin, Board Member
Samsara Chapman, Interested Observer

Regrets:

Mike Jacobson, Secretary

III. Minutes

Todd Younkin moved that the minutes of the February 21st, 2011 meeting be approved. Chris Beskid seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. Financial Report

Treasurer Chris Colberg presented financial statements showing \$1367.92 in the HVR checking account (once Sarah cashes her check :). There is one check for \$15 that has yet to clear, and \$3 to be collected from the Vig Mile & 5k (which was collected the following day). Jeff Thomas has arranged for the "Vigapotty" to go under our account starting May 26. HVR has permission to affix a non-permanent, non-damaging sign to the portapotty indicating its sponsorship. Jeff reported that Litl' John's has a key to the stadium, and he will confirm that they will periodically clean the john throughout the season. In general, the organization appears to be in a healthy (although modest) financial position.

V. Non-Motorized Transportation Advisory Committee Report

Chris Colberg, who also serves on the Helena Non-Motorized Transportation Advisory Committee, gave an update on the Centennial Trail. It sounds like there may be an opportunity to advocate for the preservation of certain portions of the existing decomposed granite trail. The proposed route of the paved trail will continue directly across Benton Ave. from the existing path behind Carroll, instead of

taking the current jog to the North. Chris and other board members also had the impression that the Centennial Trail will include a 2-3 foot wide adjacent soft path. Jeff noted that Carroll College uses some of the area on the west side of Benton for parking. Chris also reported on other bike/ped projects such as a planned improvement to the crossing at the Capitol interchange. HVR member Kyla Wiens has also recently been appointed to the NMTAC.

VI. Website Report

There was discussion about expanding the website to include a forum or chatroom. The Elkhorn event is already up on Facebook and Twitter.

VII. Booth Report

Scott Story and Alan Wintersteen reported on the Ales to Trails event. Scott showed the group the poster he had created for the HVR booth, said he thought it was a worthwhile event for expanding awareness, and indicated that he would be happy to continue working on this type of outreach.

VIII. Vigilante Mile & 5k Recap

Pat gave a quick recap of the Vigilante Mile and 5k race, starting with the changes that were implemented this year (all of which went well):

- the addition of the 5k
- the addition of overall awards
- the displaying of the new club banner
- the course-guard training
- the addition of a refreshments table
- expanded publicity efforts (Jeff & Chris radio interviews, posters, newspaper notices, tv, etc.)

The race raised \$1000, split evenly between the Historical Society and HVR. Pat had hoped for somewhat better turn-out, but chalked that up to scheduling conflicts (resulting in a date change) and the need for even greater publicity. And he noted that there were 18 people in the first Boston Marathon :) Potential ideas for further improvement include:

- move the race back to Saturday -- probably May 5 or June 4 next year
(avoid MS Walk, Early Bird race, and Queen City Triathlon)
- a later date might improve the chances for good weather
- if course guards are posted everywhere like this year, we could move to a later start time
(this might encourage attendance by out-of-town runners and sleepy in-towners)
- recruit more assistance by MHS employees (and sig. others), so our people can run the event
- get MHS to host a BBQ following the race
- coffee! hot cocoa!
- recruit some corporate sponsorship, and offer t-shirts or hats
- institute online registration, and move to race numbers
- new course? Pat worries about potential crowding on the sidewalk portions of the race

IX. 2011 Fundraising Drive

Todd Younkin suggested that we apply for inclusion in the State Employees Charitable Giving Campaign. Chris Colberg moved that we submit such an application, Carolyn Keller Blasch seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. (The application was subsequently submitted.) Pat mentioned that we also need to launch the 2011 fundraising drive, and explore other opportunities for club income (such as the Blackfoot Charitable Monday program). Carolyn recommended that we submit another application to the Lewis & Clark Community Foundation. They give grants up to \$1000, and typically in the \$250-\$500 amount. The group had no objections, and an application was subsequently submitted (for a HVR-sponsored running clinic).

X. Brochures

Samsara Chapman presented her work on a draft brochure, including several options for cover art. The group went with the photo taken at the Early Bird run (with Emiliano Zell, Anna Gutwin, Sarah Slanger, Sean Slanger, Ann Seifert, Jim Ryun, Mark Schoenfeld, Gretchen Crumm, and Bob Rasmussen in it). The group agreed to move forward with printing the brochures in time for the Governor's Cup expo on June 10th. (500 were subsequently printed, 80# two-color gloss text at Allegra for \$295) Pat offered to set up a doodle poll to figure out staffing of the booth.

XI. Other Announcements

Pat identified several areas where we haven't made the progress we had hoped for yet:

- Race Directors Guide
- Equipment Inventory
- Newsletter
- Vigwear

But he also noted that this year has been very productive for HVR (he had recently prepared and distributed a timeline of HVR's activities and accomplishments).

Jeff Thomas announced that Peggy Stringer had been injured in the Queen City Triathlon when a vehicle failed to yield. The group signed a card wishing Peggy a quick recovery.

XII. 2011 Fundraising Drive

Todd Younkin suggested that we apply for inclusion in the State Employees Charitable Giving Campaign. (this was subsequently done) We also need to launch our 2011 fundraising drive, and explore other opportunities for club income (such as the Blackfoot Charitable Monday program).

XIII. Adjournment

At 8:24 pm, Todd Younkin moved that the meeting be adjourned. Sarah Slanger seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

XIV. Addendum

On May 26, Sarah Slanger moved that HVR adopt the non-discrimination policy pasted below. Chris Colberg seconded the motion, and it passed with additional support from Mike Jacobson, Todd Younkin, Jeff Thomas, Chris Beskid, Demaris Taylor, Mike Fanning, Ann Seifert, Steve Engebrecht, Alan Wintersteen, Carolyn Keller Blasch, and Patrick Judge.

**Helena Vigilante Runners
Non-Discrimination
Policy & Procedures
(Adopted 5/26/2011)**

**Article I
Policy**

It is the official policy of Helena Vigilante Runners, Inc. (HVR) to not discriminate in regard to race, color, religion, national origin, disability, age, marital status, sex, or sexual orientation for the purpose of service, employment, membership, or leadership.

**Article II
Procedures**

In its board recruitment and appointment process, HVR endeavors to create a welcoming atmosphere that does not exclude under-represented persons, and that produces a board that adequately reflects the overall community of runners in Helena. Specifically, the Bylaws instruct the board to "attempt to preserve a balance of perspectives of the various sub-groups of the Helena running community."

HVR currently has no employees. The organization will develop more specific non-discrimination procedures before hiring its first employee.

On June 6-7, the board had an email discussion about the possibility of raising the entry fees for the August Road Race, but it was ultimately decided to stick with the current \$5 fee for 2011 at least. (In the future, a \$10 / \$5 fee for adults / students might be reasonable.)

In late June, the board authorized Carolyn Keller Blasch to submit a grant application to the Lewis & Clark Community Foundation to support a spring running workshop. Carolyn submitted the application on June 27.

On June 29, without objection from the board, Patrick Judge sent a letter of support for Prickly Pear Land Trust's proposal to acquire lands in the neighborhood of the Entertainment Trail in the South Hills. PPLT is applying for a grant from the Recreational Trails Program at the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. The letter was principally drafted by Todd Younkin.

On June 29, Patrick Judge also announced that HVR had received \$250 from Blue Cross / Blue Shield (Janet Robinson) for the work Jeff and Pat had done to mark the Governor's Cup courses on June 10th.

On July 23, Patrick Judge sent a HVR fundraising letter to the vig and hurl listserves, after receiving positive feedback (and some suggested changes) on the draft from Mike Jacobson, Todd Younkin, Jeff Thomas, Demaris Taylor, Mike Fanning, Sarah Slanger, Chris Colberg, and Chris Beskid. No board members objected.

These minutes were prepared by Patrick Judge, in Mike Jacobson's absence.

Next Meeting Date – August 15, 2011