

# ***Helena Vigilante Runners***

## ***Board Meeting #29***

### ***Meeting Minutes***

***August 18, 2014***

#### **I. Call to order**

Patrick Judge called to order the 29<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Helena Vigilante Runners at 7:02 pm on August 18, 2014 at 107 W. Lawrence, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor conference room.

#### **II. Roll call:**

The following 8 persons were present, making a quorum:

Pat Judge, President  
Jeff Thomas, Vice President  
Chris Beskid, Board Member  
Sean Connolly, Board Member  
Erik Makus, Board Member  
Rebecca Shaw, Board Member  
Lila Thomas, Board Member  
Todd Younkin, Board Member  
Jesse Zentz, Board Member

Regrets:

Carolyn Blasch, Secretary  
Ann Seifert, Treasurer  
Samsara Chapman, Board Member  
Mike Fanning, Board Member  
Janet Robinson, Board Member  
Scott Story, Board Member

#### **III. Speaking of Running Report**

(Pat neglected to share the following information from Mike Fanning, but would like to do so here)

In an email message, Mike Fanning reported that "things are going ok for a special Speaking of Running collaboration with NAMIMontana in connection with the annual NAMI walk. I say ok because I'm not fully in charge, but NAMI assures me they will have the Commons at Carroll (or some such facility) reserved. We are set for September 23, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. Carroll and NAMI will handle the AV issues. I just need some progress on Nikki Kimball's bio that I'd like to offer as a pre-event piece in the IR. I would really like this to be a well-attended event for the entire community -- not just the running community."

#### **IV. Minutes**

Jeff Thomas moved approval of the 3/3/14 and 5/19/14 minutes. Rebecca Shaw seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **V. Financial Report**

Pat reported a checkbook balance of \$8,337.22, as of 8/12/14. As of that same date, the annual fundraising campaign had brought in \$1460, which is 49% of the \$3000 goal. Additional money has come in since that time.

#### **VI. Website & Social Media Report**

Jesse Zentz needs to get facebook and website privileges from Scott, so he can help out. The website is decent, but the facebook site needs much more activity. We ought to give it a solid effort for a time, and then re-evaluate whether its worth keeping for the organization. As it now stands, it probably does more harm than good. Jesse's ideas included blog posts from members, race reports, etc. Also, it needs to link to the website.

#### **VII. Race & Event Reports**

**HEAT Meet** -- Sean Connolly reported that there were 132 participants this year (143 pre-registered, 30 no shows, 19 day-of-event registrants), down slightly from about 150 last year. The event was much improved, with more accurate timing and much better weather :) But the major drawback was that the FinishLynx system experienced many delays creating for a very long day. We also struggled a bit with turnout of high school volunteers, although Carroll College and many adults picked up the slack. Next year's event will be Sunday, June 7th.

Sean also distributed a financial summary of the event, showing \$1697.50 in expenses (of which \$562.50 were paid in 2013 leaving \$1135 in expenses this calendar year). Pat noted that the event grossed \$2100 in income, yielding a "profit" of \$965 for 2014. This is in addition to the \$134.89 profit for calendar year 2013, leaving an "account" balance of \$1099.89. T-shirts for the 2015 event will be purchased later this year out of those funds.

**Governor's Cup** -- Jesse Zentz reported that the 2014 Governor's Cup was highly successful:

- over 400 volunteers -- a record!
- participants from 33 states -- also believed to be a record
- over 2800 total participants, which is an improvement over last year despite a scheduling conflict with the Heart & Sole Run in Billings (this won't happen again for at least 6 years)
- competitive fields
- over 100 participants in the Marathon
- lots of positive feedback
- hitting the 350 participant limit in the Half-Marathon -- next year, bump to 500

For next year, BCBS is also considering starting the half marathon at the same time as the marathon. This will allow most half-marathoners to finish before the 10k runners, and will lead to a larger crowd at the finish line to help cheer the marathon

finishers. They are also considering moving the kid's 1-mile race to Centennial Park, and holding it on Friday evening concurrent with the Shindig. This will allow them to move the awards ceremony one hour earlier.

They are also contemplating the purchase of interlocking metal fencing, to completely block off the walking mall corridor for runners only. This would likely be a two-year project, to bring the fencing all the way down to 6th Ave. They are also looking at improved scaffolding to make a more majestic finish line, an extra mat to give runner data to the announcer in advance, and semi-permanent marking for the long courses. The course markings had a number of set-backs this year (street sweepers, graders, hail), but these should be remedied by next year (better communication; smaller, brighter, stiffer, and stickier street markers, etc.).

he biggest downers of this year's event was the train delay on the half-marathon course, and the loss of the fastest male marathon time in Montana (by 8 seconds!). Next year's Governor's Cup will be Saturday, June 13, 2015.

**Augúst Road Race** -- Pat Judge reported that the 2014 Augúst Road Race is in pretty good shape:

- HHS will be there in force
- BCHS will be there in force
- JCHS has been invited, and A.J. Eckman is expected at least
- CHS will have a few runners there, but they have their conflict with parents night
- unfortunately, Carroll College will NOT be running
- volunteers are arranged
- local residents have been notified
- train stoppage was arranged by Jeff, and will be confirmed again
- porta-johns are arranged
- event has been advertised on runmt, 406running, helenaevents.com, etc.
- waiting to hear back from Green Meadow Community Church
- Race Directors Guide will be posted on the Board page of the HVR website
- about 80 or 90 runners are expected

**Mount Helena** -- Jeff Thomas reported that the 2014 Mount Helena Run will be on September 13th. The permitting process is underway, and he's begun the initial work on t-shirts, awards, etc. We're hoping to get about 80 runners in this event as well. The only conflict we know about is the Rut in Big Sky.

**High School Cross Country** -- Jeff Thomas reported that there will be 4 meets in Helena this Fall:

- 7 of 7 meet
- Preview meet (with collegiate races too)
- Cross-town
- State

All of them will be loop-style except State (due to feedback from a poll of Montana high schools conducted by MHSA, according to Scott MacDonald). HVR may provide volunteer assistance at some (or all) of these races.

**Montana Cup** -- Helena will attempt to defend its Mens Masters title this year in Missoula. No word yet about the course preview. Helena will be hosting in 2015 -- we need to start looking at potential locations (like Seiben Ranch or Fox Ridge).

**Phase II Party** -- Mike Fanning had mentioned possibility of hosting a party to close out the summer season, but this has not been confirmed. Pat hosted a Board Appreciation party at his mom's house on August 10th, with good attendance (25, including the Kochs and some other friends).

#### **VIII. Track Resurfacing**

The track resurfacing (not replacement) has been completed, and looks great. The lines HVR requested (and pledged \$250 toward) are all in place: 1 mile waterfall start with quarter mile marks, 5000/3000 waterfall, and 1500 waterfall.

#### **IX. Other Discussion Items**

Why the decline in attendance at traditional running events?

- overloaded calendar
- people looking to compete in more impressive sounding events (ultras, Spartan races, etc.).
- need to counter this trend with better publicity & outreach beyond the usual suspects (lots of gym-type people compete in the obstacle races, etc. -- why not Mount Helena or the trail series?)
- Jesse thinks the more we can do to promote running and racing **in general** in the Helena area, the more our events will benefit as well

#### **X. Adjournment**

Next Meeting Date: November 17, 2014

Adjourn at 8:09 pm

Minutes Prepared by Pat Judge, in Carolyn's absence.

#### **XI. Addendum**

On 8/22/14, Pat proposed the following allocation of August Road Race proceeds: \$220 HHS, \$220 CHS, \$200 BCHS  
There were no objections, and the checks were sent.

On 9/24/14, a majority of the board voted in favor of the following slate of "Volunteer of the Year" award winners:

2013 - Greg DeWitt

2014 - Mike Fanning

2015 - Samsara Chapman

The vote included support from an enthusiastic quorum (majority) of the board, with no one objecting to the motion.