

# *Helena Vigilante Runners*

## *Board Meeting #35*

### *Meeting Minutes*

*February 15, 2016*

#### **I. Call to Order**

Patrick Judge called to order the 35<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Helena Vigilante Runners at 7:00 pm on February 15, 2016 at 107 W. Lawrence, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.

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

The following 13 board members were present, making a quorum:

Pat Judge, President

Jeff Thomas, Vice President

Aubrey Curtis, Secretary

Ann Seifert, Treasurer

Julie Ackerlund, Board Member

Sean Connolly, Board Member

Shiloh Hernandez, Board Member

Erik Makus, Board Member

Kathleen McElwain, Board Member

Lila Thomas, Board Member

Sarah Urban, Board Member

Todd Younkin, Board Member

Jesse Zentz, Board Member

Regrets:

Chris Beskid, Board Member

Rebecca Shaw, Board Member

Also present:

Robert "Raz" Rasmussen

Christy Otte Stergar, Candidate for the Board

Joel Harris, Candidate for the Board

#### **III. RRCA Runner Friendly Community**

Raz Rasmussen described the RRCA Runner Friendly Community program, and indicated his desire to see Helena submit an application for this designation.

Toward that end, the board agreed to submit a letter of support. Raz and Pat will work together on the letter. Raz is also seeking letters of support from HURL, the City of Helena, Lewis & Clark County, Tread Lightly, Helena Tourism Alliance, Bike-Walk Helena, etc. Recently, a Michigan town smaller than Helena was designated. When

asked what benefits come from being designated a Runner Friendly Community, Raz wasn't sure if there was any besides being listed as such.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

Todd Younkin moved approval of the minutes from the 11/16/2015 meeting with a couple of typo corrections from Erik Makus. Sarah Urban seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously. The minutes will be posted on the website, with access granted to board members.

**V. Board Election Procedures**

Erik Makus moved for discussion, which was seconded and voted to open for discussion. The point of having current members recuse themselves for voting for their own positions (if up for election) was discussed. No changes were made. Erik Makus moved approval of the draft election procedures (included at the bottom of these minutes). Jesse Zentz seconded the motion, and the procedures were approved unanimously.

**VI. Board Election**

Pat announced that there were six candidates for five board positions. He also conveyed a message from board member & candidate Chris Beskid, who was unable to be present due to an out-of-state work obligation. According to Pat, Chris had said the following:

- he was excited to see a high level of interest in the board, leading to a contested election
- he thinks turnover is a healthy thing
- he is happy to continue to stay involved in, and provide assistance to the club in the capacity of regular member (if that's the outcome of the election)

Pat mentioned that Chris had stopped short of suspending his campaign. This "unconventional campaign speech" was certainly a gracious gesture by board member Beskid. Erik Makus also echoed Chris Beskid's comments. Having such capable candidates is a positive for the board.

Normally, the Secretary would conduct the elections. In light of Secretary Curtis' candidacy for a board position, Pat asked Sean Connolly to conduct the election. Sean distributed ballots to the 10 sitting board members who were not currently seeking election. The candidates left the room, a short discussion ensued followed by a brief voting period. Sean collected and counted the secret ballots. He announced the following results:

Julie Ackerlund, Aubrey Curtis, Erik Makus, Christy Otte Stergar, and Joel Harris were elected to the three-year term.

Having discharged his final duty as a board member, Todd Younkin excused himself from the meeting. The board expressed its deep gratitude to Todd (and also to Todd's spouse, former board member Steph Younkin) for their tremendous service to the organization. The Younkins had jointly received the organization's first "Volunteer of the Year" Award. Todd said he could be counted on to continue to help out with HVR events like Mt. Helena & August Road Race.

Outgoing board member Chris Beskid deserves the board's deepest regards for his years of service and many contributions to the club.

All 2016 board members (except for Rebecca, who was not present) signed the 2016 Conflict of Interest Policy statement, in keeping with IRS best practices.

**VII. Officer Election**

Erik Makus moved the following slate of officers to retain their positions for 2016:

Pat Judge, President

Jeff Thomas, Vice President

Aubrey Curtis, Secretary

Ann Seifert, Treasurer

Julie Ackerlund seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

**VIII. Special Announcements**

Erik Makus was awarded the 2015 Volunteer of the Year for the Vigilante Running Club. Erik had contributed tremendously this past year, with MT Helena Run, HEAT Meet, and the MT Cup. Erik is also getting married this week! Congratulations to him and his new bride.

**IX. Financial Report**

Ann Seifert confirmed that HVR has \$9,301.43 in its checking account (plus \$1200 recently received from BCBS Montana, to be spent on the Junior Vigilante program). Ann described the proposed budget. A new yearly expense of \$500 per year for advertising at the track – Vig sign. The group decided to add an expenditure of \$300 for brochures, postcards, or business cards (probably postcards). Christy is a graphic artist and can help with the design. Jesse moved approval of the amended budget. Lila seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

The budget has a small deficit of \$265.21, but the organization has roughly \$10,000 in reserve and can absorb that amount.

**X. Jesse Reports**

Jesse reported on the HVR-Tread Lightly joint "Junior Vigilante" program. There are roughly 30 kids involved in Sarah Slanger's 6 week training program this winter (it started on February 2nd, it's open to 5th - 8th graders, it's mostly girls right now but boys are very welcome). HVR/Tread Lightly applied for (and received) a \$1200 grant from BCBS MT to support the current training and racing cycle. Jesse suggested that some of the money, that was supposed to go towards the Bozeman meet (cancelled), go towards Vig jerseys for the kids.

The group encouraged Jesse to clarify the liability policies, and to check on the status of the other coaches. All coaches should be strongly encouraged to acquire all proper credentials, certifications, background checks, etc. Dave Skelton from Bozeman has vast knowledge in this area, and will be invited to meet with interested parties (including board members) on one of his upcoming trips to Helena.

Jesse's USATF Junior Olympic track program will include travel to the State Meet in Butte and the Regional Meet in Bozeman. His Fall USATF program essentially just extends the middle school cross-country season by a month.

Other committees that Jesse is involved in have been pretty quiet recently.

He has been posting a variety of items on Facebook (313 likes!), and will work on improving the website this year.

## **XI. 2016 Governance Tasks**

Pat reported that good progress has been made on the following annual tasks:

- Race & Event Calendar DONE
- Reserve Bus for Montana Cup DONE
- Reserve Board Meeting Space & Circulate Dates DONE
- Annual Filing with MT Secretary of State DONE
- Form 990-N (federal tax filing) DONE
- RRCA 2016 Membership & Insurance DONE
- Track Schedule DONE
- Facilities Permit PENDING
  - Pat will call the school district to see if the permit will be ready soon.
- Post events on RRCA website
  - Pat will work on this in early March.
- Listserv Purge?
  - The group agreed to one last notice before track begins.
  - Kathleen McElwain suggested that a notice should be clear that renewal is required for vig subscription.
  - The notice should also list those who are good / those who need to renew. Pat Judge agreed to send this out before the workouts begin this year.
- Apply for Community Monday & Ales for Charity Fundraisers
  - Sarah Urban agreed to be the new point person to submit the applications.
- SECGC Application
  - Aubrey Curtis agreed to be the new point person to submit the application.
- Speaking of Running Coordinator
  - Kathleen McElwain agreed to be the new coordinator.
  - The group has lots of ideas for Speaking of Running:
    - Heather Lieberg had prepared a TEDx talk
    - Jeff Shirley / Kyle Cicero at Ascension Physical Therapy
    - Speaking of Safe Running (joint event with HURL)
    - Don Harris on stretching & strengthening
- BCBS Montana "Big Ask"
  - Sean Connolly agreed to submit the global HVR application:
    - \$1000 HEAT Meet
    - \$500 Sun Run
    - \$500 Mount Helena Run

- We will submit the proposal at the beginning of each calendar year. Jesse Zentz will follow up at BCBS to confirm when they would want the request
- Summer Planning Retreat (develop a 5 year plan, etc.)
  - Sean Connolly mentioned that he has a cabin in Polaris :)
  - Potentially a date scheduled in August? More to come.

## **XII. Race & Event Reports**

- Wibaux Turkey Trot (11/27/15)
  - Pat Judge completed his 56 county race challenge
- Thank you to Jeff & Lila for Phase 3 Party (12/13/15)
- Sun Run fundraiser at the Blackfoot (12/14/15)
  - Raised \$436
- Open Space Letter (1/11/16)
- Speaking of Running with Jeff Galloway (1/19/16)
  - Full auditorium -- excellent event! We needed HVR postcards!
- Montana Masters Mile (2/12/16)
  - Jesse won the race, with PDS running strong in 4th.
  - Helena also fielded 3 JV runners in the women's open race, who did well. (but Sarah Urban & Christy Otte Stergar still have the 2 top times :)
  - Jesse thinks we should try hard to increase participation for next year
- Pat mentioned that there will be two Vig scrimmages this year.

## **XIII. Upcoming Races & Events**

- Phase 1 Party – Pat Judge mentioned the possibility of having the party at the Governor’s mansion.
- HEAT Meet
- Gov's Cup – Run for Kids benefit for Helena Youth Homes
  - 51 registered in the marathon, 71 in the half-marathon
  - early bird discounts going away soon (Feb 29)
- August Road Race
  - no train stoppage, need to post volunteers with cell phones
  - entry fee will go back to \$5
- Mount Helena – Erik Makus suggested moving date since Jeff & Lila Thomas will be busy on September 10, but the date will remain the same due to other race conflicts (i.e. Sun Run)
- Sun Run
  - September 17 this year (joining up with MREA Clean Energy Fair)
  - the funds may be targeted to Carroll College, YMCA, or Myrna Loy
- MT Cup – Dewey Peacock in Bozeman is already hard at work; should be good
- Pat needs to update the HVR Race Calendar to include Queen City Triathlon, Light up the Night (same day as DFMI, unfortunately), Early Bird (Tread Lightly), etc.

**XIV. Adjournment**

Joel Harris asked for a quick round of introductions, as he hadn't met everyone yet. It was pointed out that the percentage of board members with direct or indirect ties to Billings is getting disturbingly high :)

Pat Judge adjourned the meeting 8:47 pm. Next meeting will be May 16, 2016.

Minutes prepared by Pat Judge, with input from Aubrey Curtis.

**XV. Addendum**