

Helena Vigilante Runners

Board Meeting #40

Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2017

I. Call to Order

Patrick Judge called to order the 40th meeting of the Helena Vigilante Runners at 7:00 pm on May 15, 2017 at 107 W. Lawrence, 2nd floor conference room.

II. Roll call:

The following 12 board members were present, making a quorum:

Pat Judge, President

Jeff Thomas, Vice President

Ann Seifert, Treasurer

Julie Ackerlund, Board Member

Sean Connolly, Board Member

Shiloh Hernandez, Board Member

Erik Makus, Board Member

Rebecca Shaw, Board Member

Christy Stergar, Board Member

Lila Thomas, Board Member

Sarah Urban, Board Member

Jesse Zentz, Board Member

Regrets:

Aubrey Curtis, Secretary

Joel Harris, Board Member

Guests:

Kathryn Comer-Tuss, Helena Youth Homes (and husband Dave)

III. Approval of Minutes

Jeff Thomas moved approval of the minutes from the 2/20/17 meeting. Sarah Urban seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

IV. Special Guest

Kathryn Comer-Tuss described the 2017 "Run 4 Kids" Governor's Cup program. Joining this effort entails a commitment of \$250 for 5k and 10k runners, or \$500 for marathon and half-marathon runners. BlueCross BlueShield is a sponsor, and will waive entry fees for participants. All participants also receive snazzy t-shirts (purple this year).

The money is used to support quality-of-life extras for the teen-aged residents of Montana Youth Homes (trip to Yellowstone, prom, etc.). 14 participated last year, and

Alan Wintersteen has set up a First Giving crowdsourcing site for this year. At least a couple of the Youth Homes kids are racing, and others are working the Wells Fargo water station.

V. Financial Report

- Ann Seifert confirmed that HVR has \$9,520.61 in its checking account (with some of it restricted for specific purposes, like the HEAT Meet and Sun Run). There are no outstanding bills or checks.
- Pat requested the board's consideration for the following proposal:
 - HVR gets 10 “free” npogroups email listservs through Electric Embers.
 - After deleting “h4”, the club now has 9 lists:
 - hurl – Helena Ultra Runners League
 - hvr – Helena Vigilante Runners Board
 - juv – Junior Vigilantes
 - m4 – Masters Mile
 - mhr – Mount Helena Run
 - mtc – Montana Cup
 - sunrun – Sun Run
 - vig – Track Group
 - vigchat – Discussion Group
- Pat would like to rent the remaining list, for purposes of coordinating work on his dad’s memoirs over the next year (“tlj@npogroups.org”).
- HVR currently pays Electric Embers \$205 for a 13 month period, a tenth of which would be \$20.50.

Jeff Thomas asked if the book was a "for profit" venture. Pat responded that the intention was just to get a copy of the book into schools and libraries around the state, in accordance with his dad's wishes. He did not anticipate making money on it.

Others asked if the club might need an additional listserv. In response, several pointed out that some of the lists are rarely used and could be repurposed if necessary (juv has a different platform they use now, mtc is only used when Helena hosts the event, etc.). Rebecca Shaw made a motion to approve this proposal, Julie Ackerlund seconded it, and the motion passed without objection.

• Pat made a second proposal to be allowed up to \$500 for the purpose of acquiring additional equipment for the club, including directional markers for use at Sun Run and Mount Helena. Jeff pointed out the "Runner on Road" signs would be good too. Jesse said BCBS could loan those if the budget wasn't sufficient. Jesse also said that Dave at Diamond Construction (and Silver City Store?) does a very good job with that sort of thing, and offered to show Pat examples. BCBS had the actual printing done by Signs Now. Julie Ackerlund made a motion to approve this budget item, Ann Seifert seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. Jesse Reports

- Jesse described the 2017 Junior Vigilante Outdoor Track training program: 5 sessions before state, 3 more before regionals, and additional sessions leading up to the Big Sky State Games (reduced registration fees are a possibility). There is currently little interest in attending the USATF National Meet in Lawrence, KS. He noted that Sarah & Bryan

have suspended the Tread Lightly youth program, and are forwarding interested parties to the Vigilante group. Sheila Plant at Montana City is doing the same.

The JV program continues to be focused on middle school ages, but may consider 4th graders at some point. The YMCA has some youth track offerings as well.

The Capital High School pole vault coach (Lucas Canney) is starting a club, but that one is more focused on jumping. Jesse would like to keep the JV program focused on running, and is happy to forward jumpers (and throwers) to other programs.

Jesse noted that the recently acquired starting blocks are excellent.

- On the social media front, we could benefit from more regular posts. We could be better about putting workouts out there, and could also bring back profiles of our runners.

- The Scratchgravel Proposal received positive feedback from the various interest groups. BLM is also very happy about it. The vault toilet is unlikely at this point. It sounds like a non-profit will be started to assist the BLM with maintenance. Nicely maintained areas tend to receive better treatment from the public (e.g. less vandalism).

VII. Julie Reports

- Julie and Pat reported that the "vig" group currently has about 260 subscribers, but a dozen or more of them are not currently runsignup members. We will likely do another "call for official membership and purge" before Phase 2.

- Julie gave an update on the Helena Regional Sports Authority ("Hersa") effort. The preferred location has now shifted to the YMCA/Armory Building area (the latter currently owned by Dick Anderson?), as opposed to the Cretex/Transfer Station Area (it would be at least five years before the city could abandon the transfer station). This location would still qualify for the Tax Increment District (20% tax incentive). The idea is to replace the current YMCA with the HRSA facility, going from a 4 lane pool to an 8 lane pool and including 3 basketball courts surrounded by a (suspended?) track. HVR board members again emphasized the importance of a competition-worthy 200 meter track, and presumably Carroll College would feel the same.

The cost of the facility is expected to be \$30 million to \$40 million, with an effort to keep it toward the lower end. Challenges include the excavation of 3-8 feet of trash from the former dump, methane abatement, etc. The YMCA could move their offices into the Armory. HRSA would be run by a City / YMCA / Community board of directors.

*Important note -- since Carroll no longer has a pool, the track team has been paying a sizeable rental fee for the use of Vigilante Stadium for practices and meets.

VIII. Speaking of Running Report

The Heather Lieberg talk on March 30th was well attended and well received.

The second scheduled talk of the season will take place May 18th. Olympian Suzy Favor Hamilton will be speaking at the Free Ceramic Studio that day. There is also a group run with Suzy leaving from Tread Lightly on May 17th at 5:45 pm.

IX. Outreach Report

The postcard turned out great, and has been distributed at a couple of events already (BCBS community partners day and the Prickly Pear Land Trust runner packets). The cards will also be included in the Governor's Cup marathon and half marathon packets. Board members took some cards for distribution around town.

X. Governance Calendar

Pat reported good progress on our annual checklist. Things that still need doing include:

- 2017 fundraising letter -- Rebecca prepared an initial draft
- 2017 promotional item (needs to stay below ~\$15) -- suggestions included:
 - socks
 - arm warmers
 - buffs
 - license plate frames
 - **gloves**
 - **long sleeve shirts**
 - **pint glasses**

XI. Race and Event Reports

- Vig Scrimmage (Tuesday, 5/30/17) -- Pat
postponed due to Bryant school needing the track?
(Bryant subsequently cancelled their request, so we could stick with this date)
- HEAT Meet (Sunday, 6/4/17) -- Sean
Cancelled for 2017, but Sean would like to see the event continue.
He would like to see a HVR Committee to help with the event in 2018 & beyond.
- Gov's Cup (Saturday, 6/10/17) -- Jesse reported that race planning is going well,
998 currently registered (which puts them ahead of last year):
 - 112 marathoners
 - 227 half-marathoners
 - 75 in the marathon relay (limited to 20x4 person teams this year)
 - 11 womens teams
 - 9 coed teams
 - 2 mens teams (need more in the future!)
 - this year's relay shirts are fantastic
 - Jesse could still use some volunteers for the exchanges
 - the relay will be opened up next year to unlimited participants
 - the remainder are in the 5k & 10k

Montana Rail Link wants a 5 year plan to phase out train stoppages
this is unfortunate, and will mean relocating the long distance races

Partnership this year with Big Skylines Sock Company (Carroll grads):
- Sun Run (Saturday, 9/16/17) -- Shiloh
library solar system is up and running!
everything's moving along nicely for the 2017 event
noticed on RRCA and 406running, and registration is live
the Sun Run will again be linked with the MREA Clean Energy Fair
partnering with Carroll College this year -- trying to get a PV system on the Cube
- Mount Helena (Saturday, 9/23/17) -- Erik
permit applications are in
the group agreed to try out the Competitive Timing remote option (\$3/runner)
Erik will instituted a September 1st shirt cut-off
late entrants could receive last year's shirt (we still have a bunch)

descendants of the 1916 winner (Ben Burgess) may make it this year!

this could be leveraged into some publicity

Jesse suggested joining up with the Treasure State Trail Series (like DFMI)

- MT Cup (Sunday, 10/29/17) -- Pat

Ray Hunt will be giving up the MT Cup website after this year

hopefully someone else will step forward to keep it going

(Butte P&M, Run Wild Missoula, or HVR are the obvious choices)

XII. Adjournment

Pat Judge adjourned the meeting 8:32 pm. Next meeting is currently scheduled for August 21, 2017.

Minutes prepared by Pat Judge, in Secretary Curtis's absence.

XIII. Addendum