

Helena Vigilante Runners

Board Meeting #7

Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2009

I. Call to Order

Steve Engebrecht called to order the seventh meeting of the Helena Vigilante Runners at 7:05 pm on November 16th, 2009 at 107 W. Lawrence.

II. Roll Call

The following board members were present: Steve Engebrecht, Mike Fanning, Mike Jacobson, Michele Bazzanella, Thomas Jodoin, Patrick Judge, Lori Heit, Ann Seifert, Sarah Slanger, Sean Slanger, Jeff Thomas, and Brian Wieck.

III. Approval of Minutes

Mike Jacobson made a motion that the minutes of the August 17, 2009 board meeting be approved. Sean seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. Michele made a motion that the minutes of the September 8, 2009 meeting be approved. Jeff seconded and it was also approved unanimously.

IV. Administrative Issues

a) *Financial Report:* Thanks to the efforts of Michele and Steve, the HVR checking account was officially opened at Valley Bank (Fuller St.) on November 13, 2009. Steve deposited \$1300 into the account. Checks were ordered and Michele should receive them soon. Pat indicated that he would be seeking reimbursement for a number of items (listed below), and specifically requested that the board approve reimbursement to cover the MT Cup bus fare for the junior division runners. Sean seconded this motion, commenting that it was in the spirit of the organization. Mike Fanning agreed, and Jeff Thomas noted that he didn't see any prohibition under MHSA rules preventing the high school runners from receiving this perk. The motion passed unanimously. Pat's full list of reimbursement items is as follows:

- 1) Filing fee for Articles of Incorporation, Secretary of State (1/22/09) -- \$20
- 2) Certified Copy of Articles of Incorporation, Secretary of State (5/19/09) -- \$10
- 3) Listserves and Web Hosting, Electric Embers (7/5/09) -- \$19.67
- 4) Annual Domain Name Renewal & Services, GoDaddy (7/6/09) -- \$19.88
- 5) Listserves and Web Hosting for the coming year, Electric Embers (8/3/09) -- \$130
- 6) Board-approved contribution toward the MT Cup Charter Bus (10/31/09) -- \$200
- 7) Board-approved contribution to cover the MT Cup Charter Bus, junior fare (10/31/09) -- \$80 (Pat later submitted this request to Michele Bazzanella, along with a \$20 request to cover the engraving for the two Cyppee Cups for a total reimbursement of \$499.55, which he received.)

Steve requested approval from the HVR board to pay the final Litt'l John's porta-potty bill of \$83.70. Mike Jacobson made the motion, Sean seconded it, and it passed unanimously.

Steve updated the board regarding the 2009 Mt. Helena Classic. The race netted \$426.25, however that includes a \$700 donation; otherwise it would have been a net loss. The race still needs a new director, but several people have expressed interest (Sean, Todd Younkin, etc.). Steve said that as long as he was involved in some capacity, he thought the \$700 donation would continue (and it was

pointed out that hopefully by next year, the donation will be tax-deductible for the donor). Discussion turned to drumming up local businesses to help sponsor the event. It was noted that The Base Camp offers its location and prizes. Sean asked how many runners it would take to break even, to which Steve responded ~125-130 runners (about 20 more than they're getting). Discussion turned to other ways to increase turnout, including a reduced fee for race-day sign-in (with no t-shirt offered). Mike Jacobson mentioned advertising in Trail Runner magazine, which is already being done. Sean asked how much Perfect Timing charged and Steve replied \$620 and that he's used them for the last 3 years of the race. Mike Jacobson thought it might be a good idea to contact the local Chamber of Commerce to give them the chance to promote some health-oriented events. Michele mentioned it might be a good idea to attend one of the downtownhelena.com monthly meetings. It was mentioned that Carolyn Keller would be a good Chamber contact. If you add up all of the HVR events each year, they collectively make a difference to the local economy. People liked how Capital Sports & Western donated caps and \$10 off coupons for the Spring Meadow Triathlon this year, and thought that it was a good model to emulate.

Jeff mentioned he purchased a wireless (Bluetooth, barcode) scanner to help speed-up event timing. If it works out, it could save the \$600 Perfect Timing charge. Jeff's system would not be chip based and he still needs some components to complete the system.

Steve said the Elkhorn race came out \$742.61 ahead, although there may still be a few bills yet to come in. He said \$300 was donated to Elkhorn Search and Rescue and \$300 to the Capital City Amateur Radio Club.

Steve said that Lewis & Clark Search and Rescue helped during the Mt. Helena Classic, which it uses as a training opportunity. Jeff made a motion to donate \$100 to Lewis & Clark Search and Rescue in appreciation of their assistance. Sean seconded. Pat noted that the 501c3 application asks very specific questions about how the organization handles such grants. The group felt that the grants were appropriate and in keeping with HVR's purposes. The motion passed unanimously.

- b) RRCA Membership:** Steve informed the group that the RRCA membership is up for renewal at the cost of roughly \$426 (no increase from last year, and still based on number of households). He reminded the group the insurance covers HVR's races, workouts and social events, as well as officers and directors insurance. He or Pat will send out an email to the listserves, to get a current count of "members" and "households." Steve also discussed the pros and cons of club insurance vs. event insurance, and noted that for HVR's purposes club insurance seems much more economical. Pat made a motion to renew the club insurance, Sean seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- c) Conflict of Interest (COI) Policy:** Pat moved that the COI Policy that had been circulated to the board be approved. Ann seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Thomas Jodoin has some ideas about how the form could be improved in the future, by more specifically tailoring it to HVR. Pat passed around the "Annual Statements of Directors – 2009" form, to gather signatures attesting that each board member received, read, understood, and agreed with the COI Policy.
- d) Other 501c3 Items:** Pat had circulated a draft of the application to the board. Jeff suggested a change clarifying that the August Road Race can benefit any Helena-area High School (if it meaningfully participates). Pat promised to make the change.

V. Discussion Issues

- a) Upcoming Board and Officer Elections:** Pat will send out an announcement on the listserves requesting nominations. Thomas, Mike Fanning, and Sean said they would defer if someone else wants in. Scott Story and Marta Fisher are also up for re-election.

- b) **Track Issues:** Jeff and Kyle Strode worked with Jim Opitz to see if it would be okay for a wheelchair athlete (a Carroll student) to participate at the Vigilante track workouts. Jim gave the okay (but asked that she use the outside lane, which has the gentlest curvature), and will give Jeff a key to the gate. Jeff and Pat have also discussed potential improvements to the track including:
- 4 reflective barriers that could be swung-out and locked to protect the inside lanes of the track, for a total cost of approximately \$3600 (a cost which would not be borne by the track club) – the scholastic programs and HVR would have keys for their official workouts
 - a rail on the inside of Lane 1, with a warmup lane on the inside – the warmup lane would allow casual joggers to still assume approximately 400 meters per lap, while preserving the inside lanes – the rail would separate the Lane 1 from the warmup lane, and is also a required feature to certify records according to certain governing bodies (and Thomas Jodoin)
- Jeff will attend a facility “walk through” with Opitz and other officials, to provide HVR representation.
- c) **Emergency Medical Kit and Water at Track:** Demaris Taylor spoke to Pat earlier regarding the desirability of having an emergency medical kit brought to the track workout each week. The kit would contain basic medical supplies. Steve said he has 8 kits from the Elkhorn race. Jeff reported that there is a hose spigot by the stands, but that the sprinkler water is not potable. There are also drainage and other problems. It was felt that simply bringing a water jug to the workout each week might be the best approach. These duties could be rotated each week.

VI. Announcements

- a) **Montana Cup:** Pat praised the successful efforts of Helena’s Montana Cup runners, and particularly lauded the Helena boys and girls junior runners who won their respective team divisions in spectacular fashion. The resulting “Cyppee Cup” trophies will be displayed at Crossroads, at the front desk. Pat had “Helena (15)” engraved on each cup, to emphasize the perfect scores achieved by these runners (a feat accomplished only once prior in Montana Cup history, by the Missoula women in 1993).
- b) **Railway 8K:** Brian Wieck announced that the Railway 8k race was being resurrected as a benefit for Carroll College next year, and will take place on the 3rd Wednesday of July in the evening. Russ Noonan (First Community Bank) is involved with planning and sponsorship of this race.
- c) **Helena ½ Marathon:** Brian Wieck also mentioned he wants to put on a ½ marathon as a tune-up for the Missoula marathon (~6-8 weeks later). He’s looking at June 5th, but this date may change when the details for the 2010 Governor’s Cup race become available.
- d) **“Girls on the Run”:** Michele discussed Suzanne Bessette’s “Girls on the Run” youth program. The idea is to help girls build self esteem and teamwork through running. Thus far, Suzanne has not requested an affiliation with HVR.

VII. Next Meeting

- a) The next meeting is scheduled to take place February 15th, 2010.

VIII. Adjournment

- a) Michele moved to adjourn, Jeff seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Steve adjourned the meeting at 8:25 pm.

IX. Addendum

On December 16, the HVR board gathered for a lunch meeting at Toi's Thai. Board members present were: Michele Bazzanella, Mike Fanning, Marta Fisher, Patrick Judge, Ann Seifert, Sarah Slinger, Sean Slinger, Scott Story, Jeff Thomas, and Alan Wintersteen.

Vice President Judge called a special meeting to order, to consider a request by Marta Fisher to help support a Helena Institute trail running camp (Marta is looking at May 21-23 or September 10-12). Judge moved that HVR provide insurance coverage for the event under its RRCA policy, providing that President Engebrecht has no objection to it and that the nature of the event poses no problems for coverage under the RRCA policy. Sean Slinger seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Marta described the draft itinerary for the event as follows:

- Friday afternoon – gather for a meeting, and possibly a discussion of gear by a retail sponsor
- Saturday morning – long run, either in the Elkhorns or on the Mt. Helena Ridge Trail, followed by lunch
- Saturday late afternoon – second run, for those who are interested
- Saturday evening – dinner, with a panel of notable trail runners (Mike Wolfe? Nikki Kimball?)

The cost would be approximately \$150 - \$200. The program is targeted at out-of-town runners, but is open to anyone. The group agreed to have a discussion about additional HVR sponsorship (beyond insurance) at a later date. Marta is planning to donate her time as event director, and is willing to pass all net profits along to HVR if it decides to sponsor. She hopes to get between 5-25 runners to sign-up, and plans on making 5 the minimum "break-even" number from a financial standpoint. Costs include an application fee to Helena Institute of \$125 (this cost would not increase even if she held the camp during BOTH dates, but some board members suggested it might be good to start with one event the first year – concerns were also expressed about the potential for snow and deadfall in the high country during May).

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