

Helena Vigilante Runners

Board Meeting #21

Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2012

I. Call to order

Patrick Judge called to order the 21st meeting of the Helena Vigilante Runners at 7:02 pm on November 19, 2012 at 107 W. Lawrence, 2nd Floor conference room.

II. Roll call

The following persons were present:

Patrick Judge, President

Jeff Thomas, Vice President

Chris Colberg, Treasurer

Chris Beskid, Board Member

Mike Fanning, Board Member

Erik Makus, Board Member

Scott Story, Board Member

Todd Younkin, Board Member

Regrets:

Carolyn Blasch, Secretary

Samsara Chapman, Board Member

Tammy LaVigne, Board Member

Ann Seifert, Board Member

III. Minutes

Todd Younkin moved for approval of the minutes of the August 20, 2012 meeting. Jeff Thomas seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Pat noted that Demaris Taylor had resigned from the board (leaving 12 members currently), and that the Montana Cup financials had tracked the projections that were circulated on October 26.

IV. Financial Report

Treasurer Colberg reported a checking account balance of \$5286. The club still needs to pay \$152.86 to Littl' John's, and approximately \$670 to RRCA for 2013 insurance. But overall, things are sound financially, thanks to record support from individuals (both in terms of dollar amount and numbers of people contributing) and the highly successful Blackfoot Community Monday event.

The next step is to prepare a draft 2013 budget, to be approved at a soon-to-be-scheduled meeting. At that same meeting, we will sign a thank-you card to the Blackfoot Brewery and a congratulatory card to the Racing Saints XC program for their successes at the Conference and National meets.

V. Website Report

Scott Story will be meeting with Pat and Jeff at the soon-to-be-scheduled budget meeting, to train them on maintaining the website. This should help ensure that the website gets updated on at least a weekly basis. Scott also offered to create a mock-up Facebook page for the club that the board could review.

It is thought that this might help to better communicate the club workouts and events. Apparently there are LOTS of Montana Cup photos on Facebook from this year's event.

VI. Report by the Education and Outreach Committee

Mike Fanning reported on the Open Streets event held on September 23rd. Special thanks to Mike, Ann, Scott, and Todd for organizing the kids race. And thanks are also due to Anna Doran, for attending and offering the participants coupons for ice cream.

VII. Report by the Race Committee

Jeff Thomas reported that the Mount Helena Classic was successful, with 79 participants and a net loss of just \$148.33. Local participation wasn't great, but there were a lot of runners from Missoula and Bozeman (including 24 XC Ski Team members). Other than the smoke, conditions were good – good temperature and no wind. In his first year as Race Director, Jeff had good response from sponsors, volunteers, and at least a few runners in Vigilante singlets. The group also commended Jeff for arranging a top-notch timing system, and for creating a “real race” feeling. Unfortunately, Jeff is very busy at that time of year, and unsure whether he can continue as Race Director (although he will assist, and he did keep good notes about sponsors, timeline, suggested changes, etc.). He proposed changing the name back to “Mount Helena Run”, and the board agreed. He said the record attendance was 173, and believes we could get back to 120 at least, if conditions were favorable. Finally, Jeff proposed purchasing hand-held stop signs and volunteer vests, so we wouldn't have to borrow them from the city, and also proposed donating \$100 to Lewis & Clark Search & Rescue as a gesture of appreciation for their assistance at the event. The latter motion was seconded by Chris Colberg, and passed unanimously. The proposed equipment purchase will be included in the draft budget.

Pat reported that Helena had some success in the Montana Cup, despite numerous hardships this year. He was proud that the women's team earned a second-place finish, but bemoaned the fact that we had just 9 female participants and 18 men (substantially below the 2010 attendance figures, when we had much more success). He was also disappointed that we didn't field a complete women's masters team, and believed that with some additional organizing we could have given the Missoula team some good competition in that division. He believes 2013 will be a much better year, and that we should rally for a strong showing in Butte.

VIII. Brainstorming Session

A long discussion ensued on the topic of how to improve the HVR running club. Pat invited board feedback on both the club in general and the draft membership questionnaire in particular. Some possible suggestions included:

- arrange for more consistent Cedar group leadership
- do a better job keeping up with technology (e.g. Facebook)
- spruce up the website graphically – hire a web designer to give us a new look
- add links on our website, to articles about the benefits of interval training, etc.
- offer achievement benchmarks (similar to Centurion recognition) for workouts or volunteering
- have a joint workout with the Boot Camp class
- be clear on what our goal is – do we really want 200 people at the Tuesday workout?
- add a Thursday evening interval workout (but ONLY if we have the people to organize it)
it was noted that individuals already arrange alternate workouts on the listserve
- add or promote non-interval group runs
- be cautious about adding new activities – focus on doing existing activities well
- reach out to groups like the Running Freaks

- go to a paid membership system, with membership cards! a bylaws change is needed
- organize a summer get-together – get a photo with ALL of our members, not just scrimmage

IX. Announcements

Mike Fanning announced that he was planning Speaking of Running Sessions for after the New Year. Potential speakers include Dave Jeseritz and Jane O’Driscoll (gait analysis, contrasting a “perfect form” runner with regular runners). He would also like to incorporate a food drive. Pat still thinks the “Speaking of Your Running Club” listening session is a good idea.

Pat announced that elections will be held in February. Carolyn Blasch, Chris Beskid, Mike Fanning, Scott Story and Todd Younkin are at the end of their 3-year term, but are eligible to run again (there are no term limits). Pat also noted that officers are elected every year. Chris Colberg announced that he will not be seeking an additional term as Treasurer.

Pat announced that there was one more important item to attend to. He reported that there had been a recent board vote – “a motion that was responded to with greater enthusiasm, promptness, and unanimity than any I can remember, with just one board member abstaining due to his not being aware of the motion.” That vote was to recognize Jeff Thomas, aka “The Voice of the Vigilantes”, as the 2012 HVR Volunteer of the Year, in acknowledgement of his many contributions above and beyond the call of duty. Jeff received the profound thanks of everyone present, and a much-deserved standing ovation by the board.

X. Adjournment

The regularly scheduled date for the next board meeting is February 18, 2012. But Pat will send out a Doodle poll to arrange a time for a special budget meeting, to be held sometime before the end of the year.

At 8:39 pm, Pat adjourned the meeting.

Minutes prepared by Pat Judge, in Carolyn Blasch’s absence.