

Helena Vigilante Runners

Board Meeting #36

Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2016

I. Call to Order

Patrick Judge called to order the 36th meeting of the Helena Vigilante Runners at 7:02 pm on May 16, 2016 at 107 W. Lawrence, 2nd 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

Joel Harris, Board Member

Kathleen McElwain, Board Member

Rebecca Shaw, Board Member

Christy Stergar, Board Member

Lila Thomas, Board Member

Sarah Urban, Board Member

Jesse Zentz, Board Member

Regrets:

Shiloh Hernandez, Board Member

Erik Makus, Board Member

Also present:

Kathryn Comer-Tuss, "Run 4 Kids"

III. Governor's Cup "Run 4 Kids"

Kathryn Comer-Tuss invited Vigilante runners to participate in the "Run 4 Kids"

Governor's Cup fundraiser. This is the pilot year for the partnership, which benefits 12-17 Helena area at-risk kids. (There are currently 8 residents in the boys home and 6 in the girls home. The group also works on adoption and foster care.)

In exchange for a fundraising pledge (\$250 for 10k & 5k, \$500 for Marathon and Half Marathon), runners will receive a race t-shirt and free entry to the Governor's Cup (thanks to BCBS). For those who have already signed up, there is an option to receive a refund for the race entry or to donate that back to the charity. Kathryn closed by distributing lifesavers, "because that's what you are!"

Jesse explained that this is the new charitable partner for the Governor's Cup race, after BCBS lost the Caring Foundation (due to the merger?).

The board agreed to publicize the opportunity on the Vig list and Facebook. Notice already went out on the HURL list.

Missoula Marathon has a similar relationship. They had 40 runners the first year, up to 120 now. About 30 are signed up in Helena so far.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Kathleen McElwain moved approval of the minutes from the 2/15/2016 meeting with a couple of suggested changes. Jesse Zentz seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

V. Financial Report

Ann Seifert confirmed that HVR has \$10,055.27 in its checking account (with some of it restricted for specific purposes, like the HEAT Meet and the Sun Run).

Sean Connolly was successful in his "Big Ask" \$2000 grant request to BCBS, which included \$1000 for the HEAT Meet, \$500 for the Sun Run and \$500 for Mount Helena. Thank you Sean, and thank you Blue Cross! Also, Ann inquired about receiving money from run sign up (online) for the Mt. Helena run.

VI. Jesse Reports

Jesse reported on the "Junior Vigilante" program. He feels that it's probably best to part ways with Tread Lightly, for a variety of reasons. The two youth training programs do not conflict (with regard to seasons), and should both be able to proceed independently. He described various elements of the program:

- covered by our liability insurance
- our coaches are "Safe Sport" certified
- USATF also requires background checks
- there is no charge for our program, other than \$22 if they want a singlet
- focus is on USATF "Junior Olympics" cross-country and track
(we currently don't coach field events)
- this year is exciting because the multi-state regional event will be in Bozeman, in addition to the state meet in Butte
- voluntary practices are on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- the idea is to "bridge the gap" between normal seasons and USATF events

Jesse reported that we're up to 350 likes on Facebook, with steady growth. Samsara helps with the posting from West Yellowstone.

Jesse reported on the Helena Regional Sports Association (helenasports.org) and its effort to build a multi-sport facility in Helena. A \$50,000 feasibility study by Ballard/King consultants is underway and surveys have gone out to the community. Some potential sites include the area near the new BCBS headquarters, the mall, behind Memorial Park, etc. Interesting statistic provided by the consultants – out of all the surveys that are conducted, only about 20-25% are eventually followed through to construction.

VII. Other Reports

Sarah Urban reported that there will be an **Ales for Charity** event for HVR at Lewis & Clark on Tuesday, December 6th. Hopefully, we will get a date at Blackfoot Brewery in 2017, since they are already full for 2016. (Sarah later also secured us a date at Ten Mile Brewing -- Sunday, October 30th aka the day after the MT Cup -- perfect!)

Pat announced that Julie Ackerlund is the new **Membership Coordinator** for the club. He thanked her for her great work updating the various lists.

Pat also thanked Kathleen McElwain for heading up the **Speaking of Running** program. She talked about the two most recent events:

- Speaking of SAFE Running, co-sponsored with HURL (3/21/16)
- Speaking of Running with Jeff Shirley and Dr. Buzz (5/9/16)

The group agreed its time to look at venues other than Staggering Ox (too distracting), and to look at purchasing some new AV equipment (projector & screen), since we have run into tech issues during recent events. The large meeting room at the library would work. Christy can secure meeting space at Helena College. Attendance has also been a bit low. People think this may be because we've had a lot of talks from PTs already. It was suggested that we consider reaching out to Heather Lieberg to do a talk. **Phase parties** have also seen a drop-off in attendance. Aubrey suggested combining them, and maybe including something interactive or a demo of some kind. Years ago, he did a Saturday "Skills and Drills Form Clinic" on the infield at Vigilante Stadium that was well attended.

Aubrey also thought that the Phase I party could be hosted in the Placer building following the Gov's Cup. Their community space is quite affordable.

As another idea for broadening the reach of the club, Joel suggested looking into partnering with the state's "**Stay Active Challenge.**"

Christy Stergar led a discussion about the **promotional postcard** she's been working on. She passed around mock-ups, and the group was very pleased and impressed. She can get 2000 copies for \$260.

VIII. 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 DONE
- Appoint Speaking of Running Coordinator DONE
- Appoint Ales for Charity Coordinator DONE
- Appoint BCBS "Big Ask" Coordinator DONE
- Appoint Membership Coordinator DONE
- SECGC Application (done electronically now) DONE
- Listserv Purge DONE
- **Post Events on RRCA Website, 406Running, etc.**

- **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.**

IX. Race and Event Reports

- Runner Friendly Community Designation thanks to Raz! (5/12/16)
- HEAT Meet -- things coming together nicely for June 5th
 - pretty much the same team as last year
 - looking for volunteers (11:30 show time for volunteers)
 - new sponsors this year with Helena Brewers and Copperline Pasties
 - HVR finish line crew
 - link HEAT fb to HVR web at some point
 - approach Curt Synness with the possibility of getting a story in the IR
- Gov's Cup
 - Jesse described preparations for this year's event
 - good outreach with booth at Bloomsday this year
 - Helena Tourism will be a partner next year
 - Kids Marathon will be Friday night (6:30) -- lots of participants
(HVR donates use of the clock)
 - Packet Pickup at Holiday Inn from 10:00 am - 8:00 pm
 - HVR will help with 10k, 5k course marking again
- August Road Race
 - 50th race this year (could be the last depending on development in the area)
 - batons ordered for the schools
- Mount Helena -- according to an email from Erik:
 - permits are in-hand
 - online registration is live
 - DJ duties are up in the air

Jeff indicated that JET Announcing may still be able to swing it
- Sun Run is progressing...no major updates
- MT Cup is in Bozeman this year

X. Adjournment

Pat Judge adjourned the meeting 8:36 pm. Next meeting is currently scheduled for August 15, 2016.

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

XI. Addendum

In late May, the group decided to go with tech t-shirts for the fundraiser item this year. On May 31st, the Apples vs. Oranges Vig Scrimmage took place. Cassie Wetzel took the group and board photos, which turned out great.

In early June, there was an email discussion about the appropriateness of a "Injinji Sock Giveaway Event" being advertised on vig. The rules for vig are that emails must be "running related and non-commercial in nature". This one seemed to be on the edge.

Pat said he would finally set up the "vigchat" listserv that the board had decided on long ago, as an experiment to attempt to resolve that kind of issue.

In the meantime, we informed the requester that we would put it out to Vig if he wrote it up, but we never heard back. "vigchat" went live on June 29th, and will be advertised to vig in July. That same day, Christy formally proposed that HVR's official color be a standard navy blue (PMS 281), and there was no objection. In the past, the dark blue HVR has used for some purposes has had some purple mixed in (something like PMS 276).

In late June, and with lots of great input from the board, Pat placed the t-shirt order through Classic Creations.

On July 1st, the annual fundraising letter was sent out to the vig list. Many thanks to Joel Harris for authoring this year's appeal!