

Helena Vigilante Runners

Board Meeting #49

Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2019

-- action items bolded below --

I. Call to Order

Patrick Judge called to order the 49th meeting of the Helena Vigilante Runners at 7:04 pm on August 12, 2019 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
Ann Seifert, Treasurer
Julie Ackerlund, Board Member
Jason Brown, Board Member
Beau Downing, Board Member
Joel Harris, Board Member
Shiloh Hernandez, Board Member
Erik Makus, Board Member
Christy Stergar, Board Member
Em Thiessen, Board Member
Lila Thomas, Board Member
Jesse Zentz, Board Member

Regrets:

Sarah Urban, Secretary
Sean Connolly, Board Member

Guests:

III. Minutes

• Jeff Thomas moved adoption of the May 20, 2019 minutes. Ann Seifert seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. Financial Report

- Checkbook Balance as of 8/12/19: \$18,195.99 -- Pat and Ann are in agreement
- Equipment Inventory updated and in good shape
 - Jesse reported that 2 orange mini-hurdles are broken,
and that Novas gear is at Pat's until his move is complete!
- Fundraisers:
 - Windbag (Monday, June 24) -- raised \$1305.79 (vs. \$500 budgeted)
 - Ten Mile Brewery (Sunday, September 8)**

- Summer Fundraiser: currently at \$5000, 86% of \$6000 goal -- **struggling a bit!**
Pat for this year, maybe open it up to socks, etc., if people want that instead
- Projected Year-End Profit (and Projected Year-End Balance) as of 8/12/19
 - Budget: \$349.37 (\$14,664.81)
 - Current Projection: -\$1797.67
 - Difference: -\$2147.04 (\$12,517.77)
 Pat already dropped the MT Cup website project to help balance the budget
- **Go to membership fees next year (have to pay to be on the listserv)?**
 - Group had a good initial discussion of pros- and cons-
 - Pat thinks it's a bit unfair that 60 members carry the club (215 listserv)
 - Jesse - RWM charges \$27 and has 2000 members
they get a discount at Missoula Marathon, local businesses, etc.
Gov's Cup would probably offer a discount
and we could hit up Universal, Bob Wards, and Rivals (5%?)
(also ask them to put our business cards in their shoe boxes)
 - Jeff - it may be time - most clubs think we're crazy to rely on voluntary donations
 - Ann - maybe so, but it should be no more than \$25
 - Pat - that would still come out ahead for where we are today:
\$25 x ~100 (currently 215 on listserv) = \$2500
vs. \$5000 - \$3500 (and LOTS of time for Pat & Ann!) = \$1500
 - Jason - some drawbacks
we could lose half or more of our members
it would feel more exclusive / less welcoming
how do we police people who show up at the track?
could people join throughout the year?
(Pat said yes, you can have rolling 12-month memberships)
 - Julie - we already hound people anyway, and drop them off the list if they don't register for the club at the beginning of the year (for \$0)
 - Jesse - we would definitely want to state that we will still accept other donations
 - Erik - people who contribute might be more vested in the club, take it more seriously, etc.
but it might still be a good idea to offer some (cheaper) token of appreciation
like water bottles or something (which were about \$10 a piece for us)
 - Jesse - license plate brackets!
 - Pat - a compromise might be to stick with the current arrangement, but just find a simpler product (one size fits all), like custom towel car seat covers or like the caps, water bottles, or beanies that we did

V. Program and Event Reports

- HEAT Meet (Thursday, 5/30/19) – Sean via Pat
 - HEAT Meet went very, very well. 133 total participants – 2nd highest all time
 - Got a line on 2 new potential sponsors for next year
 - Considering replacing softball throw with turbo javelin
- Governor's Cup (Saturday, 6/8/19) – Jesse
 - numbers down a bit, both in Missoula and Helena (cold, late spring)

- Kids Marathon is going great
- Sean deserves credit for the strong Hawthorn program (120 of 180 students!)
- 19 elementary schools participate now, including Deer Lodge!
- 2500 students total, with about 1000 showing up at the mile race
- hoping to extend to other communities, and have them host their own race
- Speaking of Running (Wednesday, 6/26/19, Nico Composto) – Joel
 - good turnout (~40)
 - great topic, scheduling, etc.
 - Jesse has approached Nick Symmonds about speaking around Gov's Cup
- The Augúst (Thursday, 8/15/19) – Pat
 - new timing system ready to go for Thursday
 - volunteers are coming together
 - trying to avoid needing course guards
 - instead we have a simpler course, "lead vehicles" (Jesse & Joel), and plenty of directional signs
- Mount Helena (Saturday, 9/21/19) – Erik
 - 5th year that Erik has organized, and probably the final need to find a new race director for next year
 - needs to organize the facebook boost with Jesse
 - vig list, facebook, and "already knew about it" are the top 3 responses for how people learned about the event
 - Erik proposed offering free lifetime registration to Tim Cail -- no objection
 - Tim has run all 43 Mount Helena Runs, and counting!
 - Jeff is in second place for most runs
 - Erik thinks Patty Davidson leads the women (14?)
- Sun Run (Saturday, 10/5/19, Central School) – Shiloh
 - **Shiloh will get the form and deposit to Competitive Timing**
 - Planning is proceeding well -- should be another good year
 - Hoping for 300+ runners again (shirts to the first 200 registrants)
 - Partnering with SGCC and MREA again this year
 - Jeff Thomas will announce at both the race & the expo
 - (\$500 contract pending - same as 2016)
- MT Cup (Saturday, 11/2/19, Kalispell) – Pat
 - Competitive Timing stated that Whitefish Golf Course fell through
 - looking for an alternate course, probably nearer to Kalispell
 - **Registration will hopefully be live by September 1**
 - **Will go forward with the bus if some minimum number registers (25+?)**
 - **Jesse thought the Juniors could pay their own bus fare this year**
- JOXC / Fall Classic (Saturday, 11/9/19, Helena) – Jesse
 - Bill Roberts Golf Course is confirmed again
 - Universal Athletic will do shirts on-site again
 - last year netted about \$1000 for the club, this year may do even better
 - save money on timing (Liza Dennehy at \$500 vs. Competitive Timing at \$800)
 - but we won't have any music (so be it)
 - volunteers should work out well, with ~10 SafeSport Certified coaches now
 - Julie, Jeff, Lila, Pat, Elaine (and Sarah?) all willing to reprise their roles

- Jesse is looking into beanies or something, to clearly designate volunteers and as a thank-you
- He also hopes to get 200 gatorades again this year (purchased or donated) the granola bar snacks from last year probably aren't necessary
- Novas – Jesse
 - 150 registered for track this year
 - about 100 participated at state
 - 52 participated at regionals, and 7 went to nationals
 - Trey Tintinger captured his 4th consecutive national high jump title
 - Todorovich family members also did very well (All America, etc.)
 - 60 to 80 expected to turn out for XC
- Trail Workouts – Beau and Jason
 - 6-10 people showing up at the workouts, including some total newbies
 - workouts took place every Thursday except one so far (plus this week)
 - attendance-keeping is a little hit and miss, but trying to get names & emails
- Em Thiessen Items
 - **suggested that Vig publish a quarterly electronic newsletter**
 - offered to be the Editor in Chief (with Christy as Assistant Editor)
 - group thought it was a great idea
 - Jesse suggested PDF format, with links
 - could correspond to our board meeting schedule (Feb, May, Aug, Nov)
 - Em also suggested a prominent "**interested in joining?**" **link on our website**
 - Pat said that would be an easy fix

VI. Closing Items

- Other Announcements
 - Erik and Jess welcomed a baby boy (Dane) to their family -- congrats!
 - Joel and Emily are to be married this fall -- congrats!
 - Em has a new job -- halftime art teacher at HHS -- congrats!
 - Tread Lightly closing in two weeks
- Next Meeting Date -- Monday, November 18, 2019
- Adjournment -- 8:23

Minutes prepared by Pat Judge in Sarah Urban's absence.

Addendum

- On Thursday, September 26, Jesse Zentz proposed (via email) purchasing 100 Novas "buffs" as a giveaway to the XC kids, with an estimated cost of \$4 per unit. Any extra could be sold for \$5. The board approved the purchase with additional support from Pat, Joel, Ann, Sarah, Julie, Beau, Em, and Jason, with no board members voting against it.
- On Wednesday, October 9, Pat proposed adoption of an annual membership fee. Board members expressed a preference for discussing the proposal in person, and the upcoming board meeting was re-scheduled for November 11th to allow time for implementation (if the board so chooses) before the member renewal period ends on December 15.

- On Monday, October 14, Pat circulated a proposed revision to HVR's Bylaws, to be considered at the next meeting. He explained the proposal as follows:

The original bylaws of the club were adopted when the club was first formed (1-19-09).

They have served us well, but they have not been amended in more than 10 years.

When the club was first established, Sean Slanger used BlueCross BlueShield bylaws as a model for the initial draft.

While it's technically true that we're both "non-profits", and it's also true that we both advocate health, fitness, and all things "blue", the corporations are pretty darned different.

I downloaded the model RRCA running club bylaws to help with a revised draft:

<https://www.rrca.org/start-a-club/the-planning-meeting>

For me, the biggest motivator for updating the bylaws now is the possibility that we might soon adopt membership dues.

The current bylaws document does not even recognize the existence of members.

Technically, according to those bylaws, Helena Vigilante Runners consists merely of its 15 board members. It seems like that should be changed, regardless if we adopt annual dues. We have long considered the ~225 runsignup & vig listserv subscribers "members".

I propose repealing the 2009 bylaws and replacing them with new ones that officially recognize those members, and which give them the right to elect the board each year.

Over the past couple of days, I've prepared a draft for your consideration (attached, along with the original bylaws). Note that the draft does not specify a dues amount, so the draft could be adopted without changing our current policy of assessing \$0 in annual dues.

- On Friday, October 25, Pat circulated a draft of the "HVR Event Scheduling Rules." There was no opposition or suggested changes. Pat posted the document on the "Board Only" page of the website.

- On Tuesday, November 5, Pat proposed (via email) sending a letter to Universal Athletic requesting a 10% discount for HVR members. The draft letter was approved with additional support from Joel, Em, Sean, Julie, Jesse, Lila, Sarah, Jeff, Beau, Ann, Erik, and Christy, with no board members expressing opposition or edits. The letter was sent, and on November 7, R.J. from Universal Athletic called to confirm UA's enthusiastic acceptance of this request, offering the discount to members of both HVR and the Helena Novas.