

# *Helena Vigilante Runners*

## *Board Meeting #61*

### *Meeting Minutes*

*November 21, 2022*

*-- action items bolded below --*

#### **I. Call to Order**

Patrick Judge called the 61<sup>st</sup> meeting of the HVR Board of Directors to order at 7:02 pm on November 21, 2022 at “Vigilante World Headquarters” (107 W. Lawrence, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room). The only change to the draft agenda was the addition of Guest Speaker Jo Lee Hawkins.

#### **II. Roll call:**

The following board members were present (8 needed for a quorum):

Pat Judge, President  
Jeff Thomas, Vice President  
Sarah Urban, Secretary  
Ann Seifert, Treasurer  
Jason Brown, Board Member  
Sean Connolly, Board Member  
Erik Makus, Board Member  
Abigail McLane, Board Member  
Ben Quiñones, Board Member  
Christy Stergar, Board Member  
Emily Thiessen, Board Member  
Mitch Young, Board Member

Regrets:

Joel Harris, Board Member  
Mike Kaiser, Board Member  
Jesse Zentz, Board Member

Guests:

Jo Lee Hawkins

#### **III. Special Announcement**

Pat announced that by unanimous vote (except her), Abigail McLane was chosen as the 2023 Helena Vigilante Runners Volunteer of the Year! Abby, and also her husband Ryan, contributed a ton to the club this year, starting with the “Phase 0 Party” and television interview. Pat presented Abby with the ceremonial Wheaties box temporary award, Simone Biles edition. **The more formal plaque will be ready early next year.**

#### **IV. Minutes**

Mitch Young moved that the minutes from 8/15/22 be adopted as written. Ann Seifert seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously (except maybe Jeff).

V. **Financial & Membership Report – Ann, Ben, Pat**

- Current QuickBooks Balance: \$49,960.47  
Ann asked about how Novas refunds are handled in QuickBooks.  
**Pat will follow-up. (done)**
- Renewal Campaign: Ben Quiñones reported that we're up to 77 members  
**The reach goal is 150 by 12/15, with a fallback goal of 100. (154 on 12/31/22!)**

VI. **Guest Presenter – Jo Lee Hawkins of “Just for the Helena of It” Race**

- 1<sup>st</sup> year event (October 16) – Half marathon and 5K. Looking to add a 10k next year.  
More ran the half than the 5k.  
Post-race survey indicated a desire for 10k, which will be easy to add.
- Fundraiser for the Friendship Center, which definitely needed & appreciated the help.  
Well-known, and highly-regarded partner. Her daughter had a connection to it.
- Met with Brian Haines at BCBS to seek grant support.
- Got their 501c3 – Jessica Powell.
- Met their cap of 350 people (permit & swag limitations), coming from 13 states.
- Last T-shirt order was placed August 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Income:  
\$11,000 from 16 sponsors (who were approached personally)  
\$17,000 from race entries?  
they managed to stay under the \$50,000 IRS threshold, but maybe not next year
- Expense: \$13,000 (including \$5000 in shirts, \$700 in permits, Competitive Timing, etc.)
- Balance: all but \$700 forwarded to beneficiary.
- Swag was expensive (shirts & awards), as were the porta-johns and permits.
- Permits from City, PPLT, and State Parks (pavilion rental).
- Parking was an issue.
- About 1000 total hours to plan – 250 hours per person (4-person group).
- 80 volunteers signed up for race day, but 5 no-showed. Most were NOT runners.
- Advertising – radio ads, television interview in March helped a lot, posters, etc.
- Two in-person sign-up events.
- LOTS of social media work (Jessica Powell) & donated web work from another contact.
- MC was a domestic violence survivor.
- Garbage service donated by Tri-County; ambulance service donated by St. Pete's.
- Thank-you cards & save the date to sponsors – October 15<sup>th</sup> 2023.

VII. **Governance Calendar**

- 2023 Elections: Pat, Ann, Jason, Sean, and Abigail are up. Sean is not running. Jason isn't sure yet. Mike French is interested in running. **Sarah, Erik, and/or Em will administer the election.**
- 2023 Budget – **Ann will be in charge of the “Big Ask” going forward. (done!)**  
**Also, send your budget ideas to Ann and Pat!**
- Race cut-offs & dog policies – Ben moved, Jeff seconded, passed unanimously.  
Two-hour advertised cut-off for Mount Helena.  
One-hour advertised cut-off for 5k events (ATR & Sun Run).  
No dogs, in accordance with our insurance policy & to prevent unfair advantage.  
**Post these changes to our website.**

## VIII. Program and Event Reports

- Track Workouts – Pat reported an average of 40.7, which is an improvement!
- Trail Workouts – Erik reported an average of 11.7, which is also an improvement!
- HEAT Meet – Sean is ready to pass the torch, but will assist with the transition.
  - Possible committee members: Em, Sarah, Ben, Mike French?
  - Em expressed interest in serving as point-person for the committee & event.
- Governor's Cup (Saturday, 6/10/23) – see “Jesse Report” below
- JOTF (Friday & Saturday, 6/16-6/17, 2023, Missoula) – see “Jesse Report” below
- Augúst Trail Race (Thursday, 8/17/23) – Pat
  - record attendance of 183
  - may hire Competitive Timing next year – club may underwrite the \$1200
  - **otherwise, need some changes (improved chute, etc.)**
  - stick with low-cost entries
  - Sarah doesn't think it's likely that high school runners will focus on fast times.
    - As a paid event, can't use it as a varsity team qualifier.
    - Post-pandemic, more kids have jobs now.
    - This year's event was very hot, and we didn't encourage hard efforts.
- Mount Helena Run (Saturday, 9/23/23) – Erik, Abigail, Christy, et al
  - Abigail is officially the new Race Director.
  - 60 finishers this year, up from 45 last year. Em would like to see 100.
  - the event had more sponsors and made a decent profit this year!
- Sun Run (Saturday, 10/7/23) – Joel, Em, Pat
  - heavy downpour this year
  - 140 registered vs 240 last year
  - but more sponsors and more net income for the school district
  - looking at ways to save money & enhance fundraising
    - compromise? have an option to decline the shirt (but pay the same fee)?
  - Myrna Loy is a possible future partner
- MT Cup (Saturday, 10/28/23, Helena) – **still brainstorming possible locations:**
  - Tenmile Trails
  - Helena Trap Club
  - Bill Roberts Golf Course
  - Fox Ridge Golf Course
  - Juedeman Ranch
  - McMaster Ranch North
  - Masolo Ranch
  - others?
- JOXC State (Saturday, 11/4/23, back in Helena) – see “Jesse Report” below
- Turkey Trot (Thursday, 11/24/22) – Mitch
  - all the volunteer slots are filled
  - Jeff is announcing, Ann is doing the timing & top-3 results
  - **they may be interested in the Vig arch (done!)**
- Speaking of Running (SoR) – Joel (via email):
  - Friday, September 2, L&C Library Large Meeting Room, 5:30 pm:  
“Running for the Health of It” with Marc David (39-year running streak, and counting), [www.theaddictedrunner.com](http://www.theaddictedrunner.com)

Marc also joined the group for the epic Thursday, September 1 trail run.

**- Ben had the idea of Rebecca talking about donating a kidney. Jason Gildea is a kidney transplant recipient & Vig member. Would he be interested too?**

**- Erika Ackerlund, Aidan Reed?**

- Social Report & Community Night Fundraisers
  - **Phase 3 “End of Year Party”? (done! 12/16/22)**
  - **Jeff may be able to do a Phase 0 party.**
  - **Swag for next year? Hoodie? Pants? Em: “LOVE” with the Vigilante V?**

## **IX. Jesse Report (via email)**

### **Governor’s Cup**

- Registration is open, with the next price increase January 1.
- Trying to pump up the relay numbers, so if people have three friends who want to participate and see the half and full courses, gather them and sign up.
- Giveaways for people who sign up before the end of the year.
- 15% Discount for Vigilante Members.
- 12 Days of Christmas Virtual (and In-Person).
  - Registration is Open.
  - In-Person event is at Noon Saturday, Dec. 17.

### **State Junior Olympic Track and Field**

- Meet is tentatively scheduled for Friday and Saturday, June 16-17 in Missoula
- Novas and Bozeman track club are providing logistical and planning support to Mountain West

### **State Junior Olympic XC**

- Meet is tentatively scheduled for November 4 in Helena
- Return of race after meet was staged in Bozeman this fall

### **Novas Report**

- Track and Field registrations: 151
  - Outstanding year, largely driven by state meet being hosted in Helena for the first time.
  - We will likely take a look at whether it would be wise to put a lower cap on numbers, or a cap on each age group, since these numbers generated some difficulty with coaching availability and bandwidth.
  - Several new coaches brought on board, including board member Abi McLane.
  - Outstanding volunteer response from the Vigilante Runners to stage an incredible state meet that received a bunch of positive reviews.
- Cross Country registrations: 43
  - Numbers were lower than prior years, which is probably somewhat due to state being held in Bozeman.
  - This is a short season, as we must remain clear of the middle school and high school seasons, while also providing something of value to the community.
  - I would like to explore having an additional meet for the elementary age kids, which would mean possibly starting the season a little earlier to overlap with the

end of middle school XC and hosting a race after the second middle school meet at Northwest on the same course. We would need to coordinate with HSD.

- Nike Cross Regionals
  - This is a strange relationship, since the athletes are required to compete with their high school teammates under a different alias and in different uniforms, which is why we have them compete with Novas uniforms. But because we have athletes from Helena High and Capital High, we used the aliases Helena MT XC and Capital City MT XC, so they were easily identifiable in the results.
  - This year we had 37 Helena High runners and 3 from Capital, because this event (registration and organization) largely rests on the high school coaches because of the nature of the event. The three Capital girls joined the Helena High kids at HHS for practices and we all traveled together.
  - Because of the odd nature of the relationship, I am wondering whether it's best to divorce this affiliation or maintain it. The athletes are not overly excited to race in Novas blue, since they "in essence" are competing with their high school, and while teams don't race in their high school uniforms, they often race in their high school colors, so the kids are begging for unique uniforms. This is something we will explore prior to next season.
  - If we decide to continue as is with the kids racing as Novas, I will likely seek some additional financial support from the Novas budget to reduce the strain on coaches, who currently drive the entire way using vans and other vehicles. If the runners are representing Helena Novas, we will seek a charter and explore pricing, etc.
  - As a side note, the 22 girls from Helena High (1,000 enrollment) comprised the second-largest girls team at NXR, trailing only Rocky Mountain (2,400 enrollment), of Meridian, Idaho. The full Helena High group (37 boys and girls) was the ninth largest overall group. The Northwest Region includes seven states – Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska.

#### **X. Closing Items, Other Announcements & "Round Robin" Session**

- Ben – donation in memory of Bozeman's Kelly Fulton?  
**Jeff will investigate whether there is a scholarship fund or other non-profit.**
- **Sarah, Erik, and Em will conduct the 2023 board election. (done!)**
- Strategic planning meeting sometime in the future?
- **Em will follow up with the "Adopt a highway" program.**

**Minutes prepared by Sarah Urban and Patrick Judge.**

#### **Addendum – Post-Meeting Interim Board Activity (especially votes)**

- Em email 11-22-22:
  - send out Save the Date Event Calendar to members (email and/or postcard)
  - try to attack event planning earlier in the year
  - Abby & Christy emailed agreement with these suggestions
- Sarah email 2-1-23:
  - welcome to Cara Uribe & Michael French as our newest board members!
  - and welcome back Abby, Ann, and Pat!