

Richmond Road Runners Club
April 10th Membership Meeting Minutes

Participants: Sarah Akin, Allen Baugh, Sara Lasker Baugh, Michael Bender, Dawn Eberhard, Kim Engleman, Marcy George, Michael George, Frank Gerloff, Mike Ghoulson, Ralph Gibbs, Mark Guzzi, Bill Kelly, Steve Kelley, Crystal Koch, Mark Lohman, Jeffery Luke, Glenn Melton, Mike Levins, Jim Marr, Michele Marr, Chris Mason, Kirk Millikan, Mike Muldowney, Eric Nachman, Matt Nordin, Mark O'Brien, Jim Oddono, Megan Novak, Jessica Reber, Rosie Schutte, Dave Trump, Shihan Wijeyeratne, Nikkia Young

Financial report - Nikkia Young, Treasurer, gave no further information than was included in her pre-meeting report.

VP Operations - Jim Oddono added to his report with the information that Mettle would be timing Carytown 10k, and that drivers and other staff would be needed for upcoming races.

Upcoming races: This information was given in a pre-meeting report.

- *Stratford Hills 10k* - Mike Levins, race director, and Nikkia Young Asst. race director. Mike reported that So far, there are over 150 registered, and suspects this is the result of the Carytown / Stratford Hills registration bundle. The Richmond Police requests for a parade permit and extra-duty police officers have been submitted
- *Cul de Sac Series* - Mike Ghoulson sent the following report: The location is secured being Shady Grove Elementary School. Local police have been notified and have the dates on their calendar. We have received the paperwork for the permits and that is being worked on. I am communicating with The Silver Diner and Jersey Mike's regarding providing food for the first two races. Of course, the club usually provides Papa John's Pizza for the last race. I am trying to recruit more runners for this event and have already spoken to one high school Cross Country/Track Coach about promoting the races with their runners. I will also try to recruit through the local YMCA'S. With the help of Rosie, we have found a few sources for a beach towel to be given to runners that complete all 3 races. I am considering not giving out trophies this year and would welcome your input.
- *Summer Track Series* - Glenn Melton included information that can be found as a separate document *attached.

Volunteers - This is being handled temporarily by Sara Lasker Baugh for Megan Novak. There was no additional information given to her pre-meeting report which follows.

Please help spread the word and/or sign-up to volunteer if you have the availability. Also, any suggestions on groups to reach out to for assistance in identifying volunteers is helpful.

- 4/11 & 4/12 - RRRC Booth at Monument 10k Expo - minimum reached for all time slots (could use 1 more volunteer for 4/11 5-7pm and 4/12 7-9:15pm)

- 4/13 - RRRC Spirit Stop at Monument 10k - need more volunteers (at about 20%)
- 4/28 - Carytown 10k - We are good with packet pickup volunteers, but need more course marshals, water stop, and food volunteers (at about 50%)
- 5/4 - ASK 5k (Contract Race) - need more volunteers (at about 63%)
- 5/11 - Holton Hustle 5k (Contract Race) - minimum reached
- 5/18 - Autism Society 5k (Contract Race) - minimum reached
- 5/26 - Stratford Hills 10k - need more volunteers for all positions (at about 26%).

Equipment - Glenn Melton is the Equipment Manager adding nothing further to his pre-meeting report.

We should get the new football insert in the next few weeks. We need ideas for the truck wrap design to help give the artist some direction. We will be using the new logos. If anyone has ideas please let Glenn know.

Operations Manager - Dave Trump sent the following information prior to the meeting:

- Worked with Kirk Millikan to post updated college scholarship and mail info packets to 100 school counselors and athletic/activity directors.
- RRRC Store: 2 orders with \$52.48 in merchandise sales in February.
- RRRC Store: items will be for sale at the RRRC Booth at Expo.
- Routine website, email and race/training team support activities.

Training Teams

Advanced 10K - Bill Kelly sent a final report.

This year's program saw a decline in registered runners from 164 to 137, we reduced the teams by 1 to accommodate this reduction in runners. The one of the largest team was the sub 40 group again reflecting this program focus of supporting faster running. The Saturday runs from WPC and Tuesday track sessions at Sport Backers track were well attended. The club offered the Dash for Cash runner an opportunity to train with the team but he opted to train on his own, last year's winner Amy Garber (No relation to Don) was again a member of Advance 10K.

We will be reaching back into the program to secure 2 new head coaches for next year and have 2 potential candidates. Jeff Moore who has been a coach for several years and the head coach for the past 2 years has experienced increased business travel and he feel the program need new heads coaches that can bring new ideas to keep the program fresh and exciting. The opportunity to have the RRRC racing team train to come out and train with the various ADV 10K team at Tuesday track was a huge bonus.

Winter Marathon Training - Frank Gerloff sent a final report, and also commented on Dave Trump qualifying for the Boston Marathon at his winter marathon.

Training officially concluded this past Saturday with team Boston running their last 8 miles. As previously articulated, 2019 was a record number of paid participants, and Saturday training run participation was a record as well.

I'd like to express my sincere appreciation to all the coaches, Pam Hunter, and Dave Trump for their excellent support. Lucky Road was very gracious and supportive of

WMT for 20 Saturdays, and I'm so very thankful for Jeff Van Horne's continued professionalism and dedication to RRRC.

Grand Prix - Ralph Gibbs and Suzi Silverstein are responsible for Grand Prix. Ralph commented that any changes to the spreadsheet happen immediately and can be seen live or within minutes as the browser is refreshed. Some changes to the procedures for Grand Prix: The sheet will be published sorted by age and gender. This will allow people to know where they stand versus their immediate competition and should foster spirited competitions and help increase volunteering as well as race attendance. Moving forward we will be utilizing an iPad for volunteer check-ins thus eliminating the need to guess and second guess about names as well as whether or not volunteers are registered for GP as there will be a required checkbox to indicate that they are signed up for GP.

Newsletter - Mark O'Brien, the newsletter editor, added nothing additional to his report. Mark made a request for story submissions for Miles & Minutes. Email him at milesandminutes@rrrc.org, and remember you can receive Grand Prix points for stories you write! The article submission deadline for the spring issue is the end of this month (April 28). Also, if you know of a member who achieved a running milestone in February, March, or April, please email me with the details so we can celebrate the accomplishment in the upcoming issue!

Social Media. - Chris Mason reported that March was a strong month on the social media front as we had user growth on both Instagram and Facebook. We used both platforms to promote upcoming races, request volunteers, promote special events such as the Meb conference, as well as to celebrate successes of our local runners and our newly formed RRRC club race team (way to go, y'all!). We'll continue to use our platforms for these types things, however please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any requests or suggestions.

Race Team - Rosie Schutte added that the team's first trophies were on display in the front room. We had our first race, the White Bank Classic 5 Miler, a Tri-Cities Road Runners Club race. We captured 5 of the 6 divisions, with Shihan Wijeyerante placing first over all. TCRR put on a wonderful event and made our club feel welcome. Our next race in the 3 race series will be our RRRC Carytown 10k. We will be hosting TCRR and Fredricksburg Area Running Club, (FARC) at the race and will have time to socialize after. I have begun to send out invitations to other running clubs in Virginia for next year's race slate.

Safe Sport Policy Statement - Ralph Gibbs summarized his statement on the new RRCA Safe Sport Policy that was distributed to the board prior to the meeting. He recommended the club enact the new policy and include an updated waiver based on recommendations from the national organization and in depth discussions with the RRCA President, Jean Knapp and the national representative of our insurance policy. Ralph went on to say that these are best practices and should be adopted to protect the club, the board, and members.

Questions were asked by board members about a proposed waiver and outcomes if a person was not truthful. Allen Baugh asked is there was any “wobble room” in the Safe Sport Policy and Code of Conduct statement. Ralph answered that there was not and that was stated in a discussion with the national office.

Bill Kelly added to the discussion by saying that if the club does its due diligence in making its best efforts to follow the policy and guidelines, then we are protected by the national office.

Matt Nordin asked about other criminal offenses, Ralph responded that it was covered in the Code of Conduct and waiver.

Allen Baugh raised the point that races are public events and therefore you cannot prohibit a person as an observer.

Ralph Gibbs replied that he understood the point. He further responded that our club has 2,500 members and the officers and board members have a responsibility to enact policies that keep everyone safe to the best of our abilities.

Dawn Eberhard made a motion to accept the Safe Sport Policy, it was seconded and a show of hands from the board members was called for in a vote. The motion passed 14 - 1.

Mark Guzzi asked about our insurance, asking if we had a copy of the policy and have we reviewed it. Ralph Gibbs answered that it has been reviewed at the national level and he had discussions with our national representative at the convention the previous weekend.

Chris Mason wanted to know what the board can be held accountable or be sued for.

Sarah Akin asked if we should get an additional policy to protect the officers.

Frank Gerloff noted that for a specific person to come forward that the policy pertains to, takes courage. He went on to point out that the roads of Richmond do not belong to Richmond Road Runners Club.

Allen Baugh resigned his seat on the board and left the meeting.

Eric Nachmnan questioned if a person that would be banned from being a club member and also cannot participate in our races, could he then be an observer.

Ralph Gibbs replied that we had just discussed that scenario.

Chris Mason commented that situations are not always black and white, it's a legal matter.

Ralph Gibbs further added that it is not up to us to judge the level of risk of a specific individual.

Nikkia Young, the RRRRC Treasurer, further commented that we are not to act like a jury. Our responsibility is to protect the club.

A motion was made to accept the revised Code of Conduct, it was seconded and passed unanimously.

Michael Ghoulson asked if vendors and contractors would need to follow the same policies.

Club house move - Bill Kelly said the final details are being worked out. Renovations would have to happen and permits attained. Frank Gerloff said that full Autocad drawings are not needed and Bill Kelly said that yes, they are needed.

Cheer Spot - Shihan Wijeyerante reported we currently have four volunteers plus Crystal who is heading the effort on race day and Glenn.

Race Director Certification - Ralph Gibbs met with the person that will be giving the class. A date in June is possible. It will be a 1 day course.

Expo - Jim Oddono says that it starts tomorrow and goes through Friday night. There will be no cash sales.

Banquet - Diane Glaze has nothing to report at this time. Ralph Gibbs added that he is working on getting Michael Wardian as our speaker.

National Convention Recap - Ralph Gibbs said the participants went to as many of the seminars as possible. He learned that we need a job description for our board members. Eric Nachman went to seminars that focused on running rroups.

Capitol Trail Race Partnership - Ralph Gibbs suggested that the partnership would be like ours with Sports Backers and Patrick Henry Half Marathon. It would start from Stone Brewery and include multiple distances. The suggested date was September 29th. Crystal Koch commented that was the date that the Poop Loop 4 Miler had been moved to.

Jim Marr asked if the date changes of the Poop Loop would impact the requirements for Iron Runner. Ralph responded that it states in the rules that races can be postponed.

Chris Mason proposed a motion that we pursue a partnership for this race, it was seconded and passed unanimously.

Health Fair - Ralph Gibbs asked if we wanted to participate. Bill Kelly said that last year it was a waste of our time.

Squirrels Night for RRRC - Mike Levins said that last year we bought 200 tickets many of which were not picked up. It could have been due to the rainy weather. A date of June 13th was decided upon. Chris Mason made a motion to have RRRC Night at the Squirrels Game be June 13th, it was seconded and passed unanimously.

Open

Michael George brought up that Sports Backers wants a deferment plan for the Patrick Henry Half Marathon which would include a fee. Chris Mason thought it was a great idea. Marcy George added that many people now are requesting deferments for all types of races. Michael George made a motion to include a deferment, it was seconded and passed unanimously.

Mark Guzzi discussed the upcoming Trail Day. He was looking for additional volunteers.

Dean Miller says a friend of his has run 52 races in 52 weeks and is interested in being our speaker at the banquet

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm.