



Richmond Road Runners Club - Meeting Minutes - May 13, 2020

Opening remarks, ground rules and welcome guests – Nikkia Young

Nikkia called the meeting to order at 6 pm. Set reviewed the meeting ground rules and Zoom rules.

Approval of April, 2020 meeting minutes - Victoria Hauser

See attached minutes.

Crystal made a motion to approve the minutes. Katherine seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Financial Report – Treasurer’s report, Ralph Gibbs

See attached reports. I would point out that although we didn't have a lot of income - It was sufficient to pay all of our bills and make \$591.62 in the last month. And while that number seems small, it does show that we are holding our own. The officer's and Finance Committee are watching carefully our resources as well as looking for new ways to bring in revenue.

No additional updates.

Marketing and Sponsorship – VP Marketing, Jennifer Perrin

No additional updates.

Operations – VP Operations, Crystal Koch

- Covid-19 update - Dave Trump

Latest updates to be provided during the meeting.

Dave noted that there is continuous guidance being issued. Restrictions may be loosened in the coming weeks. It will still be very difficult to hold any large gatherings and still maintain social distancing and enforcement.

• Preview of upcoming club and contract races- Crystal Koch

Winter Marathon Training Team update:

In the interest of keeping transparent the plans for the coming season, we have made a few changes. We will no longer have a half marathon training team and will focus solely on the WMTT program being improvement-based, much like our Advanced 10k training team. We believe this will give the group runs a better focus and allow us to help participants better get those PRs. The team will also be more inclusive, allowing participants who can run a 14min/mi or faster to join and get the same benefits. We will still be supplying Pam, gels and an energy drink. Unfortunately our logo will need to change to include the logo of the run club sponsoring this gig and to stop treading the trademark line. Maybe the roadrunner will be hidden somewhere like Shamu is on the Turkey Trot shirts.

The reason for discontinuing the half marathon program at this time is due to the community doing so well at helping runners achieve this goal for free. City Stadium Runners, Dog Pack, and One for the Road do a phenomenal job at following and encouraging runners up to the half marathon distance and even follow a half marathon training plan over the winter months, so we have decided to instead better support these groups. We decided to open the pace groups of the marathon training teams to the 14min/mi because it better supports the club's mission as well as creates a resource all runners are able to access. It is an unfortunate misconception that slower equals inexperienced. Many may have heard of Lou Norton, who has run over 100 marathons and completed the seven continents TWICE. Or Mark Lackey who has also run over 100 marathons and is on his way to completing the seven continents, I think he has one left last I checked. Both runners are somewhere around the six- to seven- hour completion range.

Chris Piper, Gabie Wieschler, and Charles Dickinson have stepped up to be head coaches.

Crystal noted that the half training team had been discontinued. She will reach out to the half team coaches. Gabie Wieschler has decided not to coach. Crystal will be meeting with Chris and Charles next week. The marathon training teams will focus on either the Shamrock marathon or Boston marathon. Dave noted that of the registrations the breakdown was: Shamrock full 123, Shamrock half 74, Boston 50, and Other 201 for a total of 448.

Club Race Calendar update:

Quarantown 10k was a huge hit, folks are loving their magnets.

Anne Brown thanked all who helped with the virtual race. Registration was at 665 runners. Magnets and gift cards have been mailed. Some magnets were returned by the post office. Thank you to Chris Mason for social media help. Anne was also thanked for taking on the first virtual race!

Stay-at-Home 10k is not following in those footsteps; we have challenged participants to challenge themselves but that's all we can do.

Currently has 170 runners. Outpost and Lunge Yoga will supply gift cards for raffle.

Thanks Dad 5k is going virtual, we have an offer to partner with Ronald McDonald Charity House to get a further reach and maybe more ideas on how to engage the community; more details to follow soon.

Shawn to work with Dave on setting up online registration for virtual event. An update has been sent to Midlothian magazine. Ronald McDonald House would like to be beneficiary but we cannot support them at this time.

Cul-de-sac 5k series has a strong chance of also needing to go virtual; more details to come.

Pony Pasture 5k has a strong chance of also needing to go virtual as well as needing a new route due to all the construction happening on Forest Hill.

Summer Track Series is going to be cancelled.

Contract Race Calendar update:

We might have a busy fall or we might have an empty fall, we shall soon see. Hopefully we'll have more official guidance within the next month.

New Runners program has been canceled.

- Volunteers – Sara Baugh

No volunteer needs.

- Equipment – Glenn Melton

Equipment is idle and ready to go.

- College Scholarships - Kirk Millikan

We have received one application so far. At this time last year we had three applications, but had twenty nine by the application deadline. I anticipate fewer applications this year since schools are closed, but I am optimistic that we will still receive a good number of applications. If any Richmond Road Runners Club member is interested in being on the Scholarship Committee to review applications, please email scholarship@rrrc.org.

Kirk added that three applications have now been received. He expects more at the end of May.

Operations Manager/Administrator/RunSignup Coordinator – Dave Trump

RRRC Store

- 13 orders (19 items) and \$233 in merchandise sales during April.

- A little bit of everything sold.
- 5 orders used the free shipping on orders over \$20 discount and 1 order used the \$5 off discount that's included in the membership join/renew email.

RunSignup

Routine website, email and race/training team support activities continue but at a reduced level.

Grand Prix – Ralph Gibbs & Suzi Silverstein

Grand Prix is moving along. The previous update to the Grand Prix 2020 Live was made and an email went out on 4-6-2020. Any requested changes or corrections were made for 30 days. As of 5-7-2020 the window to make changes or corrections for anything on the sheet prior to April 6th has closed and none will be made.

Due to Covid-19 there is not a lot of activity on the GP 2020 Live Sheet. The April Board Meeting and the Inaugural (and, let's hope only) Quarantown 10K Virtual Race has been entered and we had 144 Grand Prix Participants run it. Any changes or corrections will only be made through 6-7-2020, so please let us know before then if any are necessary.

Stay at Home 10k Virtual Race is open through May 31 and will count as a Club Race point although no placement or Club Volunteer Points are available.

Also the May Board Meeting will be held May 13th via Zoom and will count a Meeting Point (not required for GP Finalist, but will give you a point to your overall total.) Not to mention a way to get involved or see the behind the scenes of the operation of the club.

Night at the Diamond - Mike Levins

No new information

Mike noted it is not looking promising.

Newsletter – Mark O'Brien

The article submission deadline for Issue No. 2 (June) is being pushed back until **Friday, May 22**. It's very likely this will have to be another e-distribution only. Even if B&B Printing is back open soon, the priority will be having the digital version ready for distribution by the June 10 meeting as originally planned, and the printed copies can come later.

For the next issue, I'd like to dedicate some pages to thanking those of our members who are first responders, nurses, doctors, and other healthcare professionals on the front lines of this COVID fight. **But I need your help!** If you know a RRRC member who falls into this category, please send me their

name and occupation (and a running picture or headshot if you have it) at milesandminutes@rrrc.org. The more, the better!

Finally, **how has running helped you get through the pandemic??** I'm still looking for content for the next issue. Submit an essay and some pictures on this topic and share your story with your fellow club members. It doesn't have to be long (under 1,000 words), don't pressure yourself to write the next Pulitzer prize winning piece. **You never know who you might inspire!**

Mark noted that there would be no printing of this edition. Please let him know of any frontline workers to be thanked, as well as submit a piece on running during the pandemic.

Social Media – Chris Mason

Throughout the month of April, we used our platform to really push the Quarantine 10K in hopes to make this a successful virtual race. It appears that the use of our media did assist and accomplishing this as we had quite the turnout and people like the unique swag.

We also used our platforms to discuss how to safely run during this pandemic we're all experiencing. The reaction to these posts were positive as I believe it showed our community that we think of them in all capacities.

Regarding membership, we stayed flat on both platforms that we actively use which I believe is understandable as they were not used but for so many topics throughout the month. I anticipated that it'll stay that way in May, although we will do what we can to ensure We are driving folks to our platforms.

Race Team – Rosie Schutte

The Race Team is waiting to see what the RRRC summer schedule is like before going ahead with this year's competition. TCRR has tentatively postponed their race until the end of July and FARC has cancelled all summer races.

Action Items

New Business

1. New race proposal form for recommending future races (information needed includes: location, potential route, cost and profit, potential charity partner, theme, swag, time of year, potential date and time, potential sponsors, how is it a different offering and etc)

Nikkia is working on developing the form and proposals will be reviewed monthly or quarterly. It was noted that financials for each race could be provided for review by the board. Ralph will prepare these in advance of the next meeting.

A general discussion on other upcoming changes was held. The Cul-de-sac races will become virtual and potential swag was discussed as well as a way to make them more competitive (ie - having participants run at 7 pm). Dave indicated this can be set up in Run Sign Up. These will not be competitive for Grand Prix. Rosie noted that it will be difficult or not possible to get contract race volunteer points this year. Jennifer suggested other ways of making races competitive outside of running (ie - referring other runners to sign up). Katherine noted that other organizations have sent out surveys of what runners would like to see. Michael George noted that the Road Runners Club of America has sent out a detailed survey.

2. Shifting focus/revenue

Nikkia noted that most virtual races were inexpensive and did not have large profits. The club is exploring ways to maintain revenue during the pandemic. New store items will be coming. There are potential opportunities with RRCA to host virtual seminars. We will also seek to draw in new members from anyone getting into running and walking. We have been able to get some rebates on our insurance. We have not been able to get any rebate on our clubhouse rent. We are in a strong financial position thanks to past leadership.

3. Donations to help other causes/organizations

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Cul-de-Sac series would benefit Feed More. Donations can be made to Feed More directly through Run Sign Up.

Cheers!

Adjourn

Crystal made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ralph. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Victoria A. Hauser, Secretary