



Richmond Road Runners Club - Meeting Minutes – June 10, 2020

Opening remarks, ground rules and welcome guests – Nikkia Young

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

Approval of May, 2020 meeting minutes - Victoria Hauser

Please see attached minutes.

Kirk made a motion to approve the minutes. Amy Black seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Larus Park race proposal -

Rosie had proposed a new race in Larus Park. To help with her schedule, the meeting then moved to discussing the proposal.

Rosie noted that the four mile route could be altered to accommodate the nearby neighborhood. It was possible the race could be run in the fall as part of a trail series with the Poop Loop race or could be done in the summer. It was agreed we would not look to do the race until 2021. Nikkia indicated she would download the race proposal and share it with the board members.

Financial Report – Treasurer’s report, Ralph Gibbs

Please see attached balance sheet.

Ralph indicated that there were some losses due to not having in-person races, but overall the club’s financial position is solid.

Marketing and Sponsorship – VP Marketing, Jennifer Perrin

No new updates.

Operations – VP Operations, Crystal Koch

- Review & Preview of upcoming club and contract races

Thanks Dad 5k - let's talk about cancelling this race once and for all and replacing it with another 4 mile trail race in Larus Park.

Cul-de-sac 5k - a fun series of 5ks to be virtual but still have the requirement of everyone running on three consecutive Mondays at 7 PM. The benefits are we'd be able to run "together" and we can easily make it competitive with maybe some prizes (still being decided by Mike). Mike Gholson hasn't decided on the t-shirt design yet, but it being something COVID related isn't off the table so stay tuned.

Additional from Mike Gholson --

How much we should charge?

FeedMore contribution?

Have it on consecutive Monday nights?

Race swag? I have inquired about shirts and have a price

A play on a race name?

Pony Pasture - Will be a virtual race.

Patrick Henry - has a strong chance of going virtual because Ashland is very cautious and careful; they haven't cancelled yet and we won't be surprised when they do. But there might be an opportunity to move it to a different location, it'll largely depend on what's happening with the virus around the July time frame.

Additional from Michael George --

Over 100 registered (I will have up-to-date number at the meeting). Looking for an alternative site for race in case Ashland and/or Hanover will not give permission.

Poop Loop - we think this might actually happen in real time as a real in-person race because of the nature of trail running. It doesn't attract a large group of runners like road running and we can easily start participants in smaller groups. The time will be moving to 7 PM to make sure runners will truly get to run in the dark. Thank you all for the patience as we figure out the logistics of such a different race.

Turkey Trot - UR has already told us no, we cannot have the event on their property. We are currently exploring other options in case events in the fall will be happening.

That is all for now. Budgets are always due 90 days before the race date. We will be in touch, race directors!

Crystal indicated that the Thanks Dad 5k would be canceled this year due to not being able to find an alternate race director. Nikkia has discussed the cancelation with the Neal family that helped organize the race several years ago.

Crystal also noted that the Autism 5k (contract race) will be going virtual and the Jingle Bell race will not need timing.

- Volunteers – Sara Baugh

No volunteer needs.

- Equipment – Glenn Melton
- College Scholarships - Kirk Millikan

We received 25 applications this year compared to 29 in 2019 and 17 in 2018. Although there was a decrease in applications (likely because of closed schools due to coronavirus), 25 applicants still makes for a very competitive pool. Over the month of June, the scholarship committee will evaluate all applications and determine up to three finalists to each receive a \$2,000 scholarship. Per the RRRC Constitution, these finalists will be recommended to the Board of Directors for approval. I will send out an email to the Board towards the end of June with the finalists' names and schools. If I hear no objections to the finalists within three days, they will be considered approved and will receive the scholarship.

Operations Manager/Administrator/RunSignup Coordinator– Dave Trump

RRRC Store

- 7 orders (13 items) and \$143 in merchandise sales during May.
- Sold 6 race shirts, 3 Headsweats visors, and a little bit of everything else.

Administrator

- Issued a total of \$2,444.00 in pro-rated refunds to the 13 individuals who purchased Iron Runner packages.

RunSignup

- Routine website, email and race support activities continue but at a reduced level.

Dave noted that there will be some new items coming to the store. These include mugs, trucker hats, and tanks.

Grand Prix – Ralph Gibbs & Suzi Silverstein

After missing 3 races, the IronRunner Competition Portion of GP was cancelled and refunds were offered to all participants. With Thanks Dad cancelled and all 3 CDS races virtualized, the GP competition will be cancelled unless something happens between now and the last CDS to change things.

Night at the Diamond - Mike Levins

The most recent indicators point to no Minor League Baseball this year.

Miles & Minutes – Mark O'Brien

Unfortunately the June issue of *Miles & Minutes* will be delayed, likely until the end of this month. Thank you to those who submitted articles for this month, including first-time contributors Anne Brown and Frank Lynch. If you want to write a story about our running community for the August issue, please email me at milesandminutes@rrrc.org. Thank you, Richmond Runners!

Social Media – Chris Mason

Our social media platforms were utilized to discuss a few things this month, one of those being the Ahmaud Arbery incident. The Richmond Road Runner Club was represented on various media platforms by Nikkia, Crystal and Chris as they discussed how Richmond was reacting to this tragic incident. These posts garnered a lot of engagement and activity from our club members, and, hopefully engaged members to have discussions around what we can do to help prevent these types of instances from occurring in the future.

We also utilized both platforms (FB and IG) to promote the Stay-At-Home 10K. We will continue to use social to promote our virtual events and any other events that we have coming up.

As always, please feel free to send any recommendations to socialmedia@rrrc.org

Race Team – Rosie Schutte

No new updates.

Action Items

New Business

1. Review of race profit and loss (First Day 5k, Frostbite 15k, Sweetheart 8k, Huguenot 3 miler)

Nikkia noted that we would review each race budget throughout the year. The next set of races will be reviewed at the next meeting.

2. Larus Park race proposal

See attached route. From proposal --

The start and end of the race are 200 yards apart and can easily be combined to be on location, but I would suggest not at the trailhead but rather at the street cul de sac. The start of the race (uphill) is in a now unused cul de sac. The subdivision has laid empty for quite a while, but recently has built one house with 2 more lots having been sold but as yet remain un-built. This is also the street that the entrance to the Sabot School is located (which is right next to the entrance to Larus Park)

Parking could be at the Stony Point Shopping Center where the new Trader Joe's is going (a good prospect for a nearby sponsor), or there is also a large office development that is empty on weekends, both parking locations are a 60 second walk to the start line.

The neighborhood streets, Old Holly, Oakleaf, and the like are secluded, quiet streets with few houses. That part of the route can be modified to get it a bit closer to an exact 4 miles (right now I have a turn-around-point). There is minimal distance going both ways on the trail. One feature of the trail is going under Chippenham Pkwy through a culvert tunnel, which is interesting. The trail I laid out, also has about 5 wooden stairs that are very secure and part of the designated trail. Part of the trail goes along a creek with LARGE boulders and it is just lovely.

See discussion at beginning of meeting.

3. Club Championship program - Manager needed

Nikkia noted that Mark Guzzi has stepped down from this role after many years of leading the program. Thank you Mark! He has provided an outline of the responsibilities and duties. If you are interested in taking on this role, please email the Officers.

4. Winter Marathon Training Team - Head coaches needed

If you are interested, please contact Crystal.

5. Reminder - no July meeting - next meeting will be August 12

A determination on if the meeting can be held in the club house will be made closer to August. Nikkia noted we would practice all CDC guidelines and will continue to have a virtual meeting option.

Cul-de-Sac 5ks - *The meeting then moved back to discussing the race series. Following discussion it was agreed that the virtual races would be encouraged to be run at 7 pm on each Monday night (July 6, 13, 20). Dave will set up the RunSignUp page for participants to post their times after 7 pm. It was also determined that the cost would be \$30 for all 3 races and that shirts would be a separate cost. Five dollars of each registration will go to FeedMore.*

It was agreed that the virtual race name would be Coro-na-Sac 5ks. Thank you to club member Janice Kopec Hagan for the name!

Cheers & Happy Birthday Nikkia!

Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Hauser, Secretary