



Richmond Road Runners Club - Meeting Minutes - August 11, 2021

Opening remarks, ground rules and welcome guests – Nikkia Young, President

Approval of June, 2021 meeting minutes - Victoria Hauser, Secretary

See attached minutes.

Marcy made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Suzi and the motion carried.

Financial Reports – Dawn Walker, Treasurer and Mark Cerny, Assistant Treasurer

Mark noted that the bank balances are around \$425,000, including registration fees for the Ashland Half marathon, which will pass onto the Kids Grant Programs following the race (approximately \$21,00). Recent in-person races have been profitable, as well as funding the college scholarship fund through the Pony Pasture race.

Marketing and Sponsorship – Amy Black, VP of Marketing

Membership as of August 4, 2021

Members: 1,944 This Year | 2,296 Last Year

Memberships: 1,374 This Year | 1,554 Last Year

Victoria noted that these numbers will be shared monthly and compared with the previous month. Membership has been down during the pandemic but is increasing.

Operations – Crystal Koch, VP of Operations

Review of races

Thanks Dad 5k - June 20 - (Allison May and Eric Nachman)

Allison noted that the race went well with around 200 participants and it will remain on the schedule for next year.

Cul de Sac 5ks - July 5, 12, 19 (Mike Gholson)

Mike noted that the races went well and had a lot of teamwork to pull them off in a new location. Next year will be the 20th running of the series.

Pony Pasture - July 24 (Mara George)

Mara noted there were a lot of last minute registrations, likely due to people waiting to see the weather forecast. There are left over shirts if anyone still needs one.

Preview of upcoming races

Ashland Half Marathon - August 28 (Michael George)

Michael noted that 700 people have registered. Shawn will serve as the head course marshall and Glenn will help with setting up the water stops. A truck assistant is still needed, along with water stop volunteers and post-race food. The race will start 30 minutes earlier than in past years and allow the course to be open longer.

Poop Loop - October 3 (Crystal Koch)

Nikkia noted that Crystal is training new race directors to help launch the trail series next year.

Turkey Trot - November 25 - (Michael George)

Following discussion, it was decided that the race will be held in Bryan Park, as the University of Richmond is not an option this year. Michael noted that Final Gravity has expressed interest in being a sponsor. As well, Amy will follow up with Wegman's sponsorship.

Capital Train 10 Miler & 5k - October 30 - Michael George

The race will be the same as 2019. Registration has opened with 27 people signed up. There will be a special Halloween logo, bib, shirt, and costume contest. Stone Brewery is also on board as a sponsor.

Bear Creek 10 Mile Trail Run (Ralph Gibbs & Dave Trump)

We have a permit from the park to run on Sunday, December 5. Attached is the proposed race budget.

Dave noted that there will be a 275 cap in registrations. There will also be a virtual option. Registration will open at the end of September.

Training teams

- New Runners program (Herv Sherd)
- Youth Summer Running Camp 2021

Head Coaches: Bill Kelly and Rosie Schutte

We believe that this youth training program has developed a strong base of support and received accolades from participating campers and parents, which demonstrates the need for substantive growth.

For the 2021 summer camp, we had 123 registered runners, 11 speakers, 10 student coaches, 5 adult coaches, and 1 guest special program presenter. From the post-camp questionnaire, the feedback received indicated grateful appreciation for the program and the strong desire for youth running camps in the future. It would be beneficial for the club to provide additional people to direct a camp at an additional location for 2022 with the guidance of the current directors.

This program truly represents the mission of the club, serving the community and supporting healthy lifestyles. Keeping this program free to all youth of designated age, allows for barrier free participation regardless of economic standing. Additionally, the club received donations of \$545.00 by the parents.

Special thanks to Dave Trump for his expertise with the online registration platform. We'd like to thank the club and especially its board members for the continuing and future support of this youth running program.

Thank you Bill and Rosie for leading successful camps!

Equipment – Glenn Melton

Glenn noted that everything was in good shape and is getting ready for the Ashland half.

Operations Manager/Administrator/RunSignup Coordinator– Dave Trump

RRRC Store

- We restocked the RRRC Store with 200 tanks and tees.
- 36 orders (61 items) and \$1,023.20 in merchandise sales during June and July.
- The new shirts were the most popular item (30 sold), followed by car seat covers (12).
- Mailed out 18 packages with race shirts for virtual registrants of Thanks Dad 5K, Cul-de-sac 5K Series, and Pony Pasture 5K.

- May Beth Hall has expressed interest in managing the RRRC Store. I'll be working with her as she learns the Shopify system.

The RRRC Store will be open for on-site sales after the meeting on August 11.

RunSignup/Administrator

- Routine website, email and race/training team support activities.
- Allison May and Shawn Lafland now receive all emails addressed to administrator@rrrc.org. In addition to race set up in RunSignup, they have taken on the email update, website update, and Google admin duties.
- **Proposal - Obtain an estimate for scanning and digitizing the two boxes of old issues of *Miles & Minutes* that are stored at the Club House, so we can store them on the Google Drive.**

Dave noted that if there is an expo opportunity for the Richmond marathon, we will be prepared to have a booth and set up the store. He also requested recommendations for a company to scan Miles & Minutes, and will come back to the board with a request.

Miles & Minutes – Annie Tobey

Annie noted that the summer issue had been distributed. She will work with the RunSignUp administrators to have a list of distribution spots added to the website. Following discussion, it was agreed to keep a box of copies on the truck for distribution at races. It was also noted that Grand Prix participants can receive points for article contributions.

Social Media – Chris Mason

Social media used as platform for various items throughout the month of July, items that included promoting the Cul-de-sac 5K series, as well as the Pony Pasture 5k.

Our Pony posts drew lot of attention as Keira D'Amato participated and the race, in fact, she had a friendly competition with her husband to see who would finish first (with him on a bike for a mile). That was a fun race as always, this unique event simply added an additional element this year (one that included an elite runner)! The video of the race taken off also garnered lots of views, you can tell that people are still excited to see live racing back again.

Finally, we promoted the Ashland Half through our channels, not only for participants, but for volunteers as well. We will continue to do so up til race day.

Chris noted that he will include the Capital Trail 10 miler in upcoming social media.

Grand Prix - Suzi Silverstein & Ralph Gibbs

Suzi noted that Trisha Wittington is training and has taken over most of the spreadsheet duties.

College Scholarship Wrap up - Kirk Millikan

The eleven-member scholarship committee reviewed 25 applications for the 2021 RRRC College Scholarship in June, and although there were many strong candidates, the three winners set themselves apart through their leadership, dedication to running, and volunteering in the running community. The winners, which were announced at the Pony Pasture 5k on July 24th, were the following:

- Caroline Bowe - Caroline graduated from Midlothian High School in Chesterfield County and will be attending the University of Virginia in the fall. Caroline was a captain of the cross country and track teams her junior and senior years, and she worked hard to keep her team engaged and motivated during a cancelled track season and other restrictions due to the pandemic. She volunteered with the Special Olympics in high school and has also helped out at many road races around Richmond. Caroline will be competing as a Division 1 cross country and track athlete at UVA.
- Katherine Krievs - Katherine also graduated from Midlothian High School in Chesterfield County and will be attending the University of Virginia in the fall. During high school as a member of the cross country and track teams, Katherine volunteered at many races in the Richmond area, and she founded her high school's SpeakUp Club, which is part of the Cameron K. Gallagher Foundation that raises awareness of teen mental health to erase stigma. When at UVA, Katherine plans to join the club running team and work towards her athletic dreams of finishing a marathon, qualifying for the Boston Marathon, and becoming an Iron [wo]Man.
- Andrew Van De Putte - Andrew graduated from Maggie L. Walker Governor's School in Richmond and will be attending the University of Virginia in the fall. Andrew was a captain of the cross country and track teams his senior year, creating a welcoming and loving environment for his teammates. He organized community service activities for his high school cross country team and hopes to join UNC's club running team where he can continue to share the family environment he has found in running throughout high school.

The 2021 scholarship committee consisted of Katherine Zampolin, Nikkia Young, Annie Tobey, Rosie Schutte, Jim Oddono, Kirk Millikan, Mark Lohman, Bill Kelly, Ed Kelleher, Andy Beyer, and Megan Alper. Shout out to all of them for putting in a significant amount of time to read and score all 25 applications. Also, shout out to Dawn Walker (RRRC Treasurer) for sending the scholarship money to the colleges. The scholarship program is truly a team effort in the club!

RRRC Night at the Diamond (Mike Levins)

The RRRC Night at the Diamond on Thursday, June 10th was a success. If you measure "success" as getting it done. The previous night's game was rained out so our night became a doubleheader of two 7 inning games. We ordered 110 tickets and 106 were claimed. Considering the game night weather forecast was quite questionable, we were very fortunate that over 60 folks came to the event.

There were no weather issues for the 1st game. However, the rain arrived in the 5th inning of the 2nd game and that game ended at that point. Alas, the rain washed out the fireworks as well.

But we had our Night at the Diamond and hopefully, we'll do so again next year.

Nominating Committee/ End of Year Elections - Jennifer Perrin

Please let the officers or nomination committee know if you are interested in continuing to serve on the board or moving to an officer position. Available positions include: President, VP of Operations, VP of Marketing, and Treasurer.

New Business

1. Proposal for stipend for Assistant Treasurer position

See attached write-up.

Nikkia reviewed the proposal. It was noted that the position is separate from the Treasurer and is not an executive role. Mark is a CPA.

Chris made a motion to accept the proposal. The motion was seconded by Mara, and was approved.

2. Race Director Training - September 22, 6 pm - In-person & Zoom

It was agreed this would be mandatory for current race directors and optional for those interested in race directing.

3. Announcement: Awards Banquet March 12, 2022 at the Meadowbrook Country Club

Awards Committee Proposal

Currently each award (grand prix, volunteer, speed (5k, 10k, etc) each work independently and not coordinated. Grand Prix has historically organized the banquet program. This proposal is have an Awards Committee made of up of each award coordinator, the banquet chairperson, and 3-5 club members. Award rules will be coordinated and approved by the committee before bringing them to the Board for approval. The committee will plan the Banquet Program. The Board will select a member to be the chair.

Suzi reviewed the proposal and it was agreed this committee would be a good idea. Please let her know if you are interested in serving.

Cheers!

Adjourn

With no further business, and with a motion from Mara, seconded by Marcy, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Victoria A. Hauser
Secretary*