



Richmond Road Runners Club - Meeting Minutes - June 14, 2023

Opening remarks, ground rules and welcome guests – Rainey Niklawski, President

Rainey called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Approval of May, 2023 meeting minutes - Victoria Hauser, Secretary

Marcy made a motion to approve the minutes. Anne seconded. The motion carried.

New Business Discussions

1. Grants

After reviewing the submitted grant applications for the spring 2023 grant cycle, the Grants Committee recommends that the board approve funding to the following organizations for the amount indicated:

Djimon Hounsou Foundation - \$1000

Girls on the Run of Greater Richmond - \$2000

Monacan High School Unified Track (Champions Together) - \$600

Quinton Elementary School PTO - \$1400

Kirk noted that there were five applications for this grant cycle. The grant to the Djimon Hounsou Foundation will support registrations for the 1619 race. The GOTR grant will support 5ks. The Monacan High School grant will support equipment. The Quinton Elementary School grant will support a 5k race. Kirk recommended the awards as presented. Marcy seconded. The motion carried.

2. Night at the Flying Squirrels (Thursday, August 10)

Registration for the Summer Outing to the Diamond opened on June 1st. Over half the tickets have been claimed. I'll provide a number update prior to next week's meeting.

Mike Levins noted he will distribute tickets at the board meeting on Wednesday, August 9 and prior to the game on Thursday, August 10. There are 119 members registered so far and 150 tickets.

3. Winter Marathon & Half Marathon Training Teams

- Partnership with Sportsbacks and River City Half

Crystal presented the opportunity for the training team to become the official team of the inaugural River City Half Marathon to be held on March 9, 2024. Sportsbackers will help with the communications and promotion of the training team as part of their race promotions. They will also help with registration which can be done as part of the race registration or as a stand along registration. The race and training teams will be more heavily promoted starting in October and after the November marathon/half/8k. RRRC will provide coaches and training routes starting from First Baptist Church. The revenue will be divided with 80% going to RRRC and 20% going to Sportsbackers. There is also a 5k option the day of the half marathon, but there will not be a training team for that race.

Michael George made a motion to enter into the partnership. Marcy seconded. The motion carried.

4. Executive Director hiring proposal

Rainey presented the idea of hiring an Executive Director. She noted that this could provide stability to the club as it has been difficult to find officers and to manage the workload as a volunteer capacity. It would also allow for more consistent operations. She noted that she is working on a job description with help from other RRCA clubs. The formal description will be presented at the August board meeting. It is expected that the Executive Director would attend races, know the timing procedures, race director procedures, facilitate sponsorships, and develop strategic initiatives for the club's races and operations.

The club currently has over \$400,000 in savings and Rainey proposed a salary of \$60,000 year. Sarah asked how the salary would be maintained in coming years and Rainey noted that the position would be expected to raise funds to maintain their salary. Dave Trump noted that the board should maintain involvement with the staff person so that they would understand all aspects of their role should they decide to leave the position. He also noted that he would be willing to serve on the hiring committee. Kirk asked if the club would still have an Executive Committee and Rainey noted yes. He also asked if they would be available to support race directors and Rainey noted yes. Noah asked if any other clubs had sample job descriptions or models of having a director. Rainey noted that most clubs with over 750 members have an executive director (RRRC has over 2,000 members). Rainey is working with Montgomery County, Maryland and Chicago as examples and for guidance. Anne noted that Rainey's nonprofit is invaluable in guiding this process!

Rainey indicated that the job description and hiring committee members will be voted on at the August meeting.

Financial Reports – Leigh Anne Stacklin, Treasurer

See attached reports.

Communications - Anne Magee, VP of Communications

Anne will be issuing a press release for the Thanks Dad 5k.

The deadline for the next issue of Miles & Minutes is July 14.

Annie Tobey is publishing a book this fall and asked for permission to have a promotional table at Turkey Trot or other fall events. The book includes information on RRRC. It was agreed this would be supported.

Miles & Minutes – Annie Tobey/Anne Magee

The second 2023 issue of Miles & Minutes is posted on the website and is in print, and Anne and I have dropped it by all our current distribution spots. Noah was able to get the list of distribution locations on the website as well.

As always, I very much welcome articles, race reports (Richmond or anywhere else), photos, advertisers, cartoons, recipes, etc., as well as new distribution locations.

Due to my work, I'm planning on publishing three issues instead of four this year, projecting the next issue for early to mid September (submissions due early to mid August).

I've already received one club member race-report submission, which can hopefully encourage others to submit. This one was on Kirk Millikan's London Marathon ... and this was not just any 26.2 mile race!

Let me know if anyone has any questions.

Social Media – Chris Mason

Scholarships - Kirk Millikan

We received 19 applications for the 2023 RRRC College Scholarship, and the scholarship committee will be reviewing applications this month. Scholarship winners will be notified at the end of June and will be recognized at the Pony Pasture 5K on July 29th.

Kirk noted he would be sending the applications to the committee for review. Their review deadline will be June 25.

Operations – Shawn Lafland, VP of Operations

See attached slides.

Shawn asked about opening race registration for races through the end of the year as many email inquiries were coming in. He will coordinate with each race director to do that or update their websites.

A meeting for all Race Directors will be held in August.

Review of Races

Stratford Hills 10k - Virtual - May 27, 2023 (Nikkia Young)

We rounded out the virtual 10k with 80 participants and will be handing out swag to participants at the meeting.

Swag pick up was occurring. Nikkia noted they would plan on a new venue next year.

Preview of upcoming Races

Summer Track Series - (Tuesdays, June 6, 13, 20 & July 11, 25) (Matthew Novak)

Matt noted that the first night had 350 runners and the second night 250. There are three nights to go and everything is going well.

Thanks Dad 5k - June 18, 2023 (Allison May & Eric Nachman)

Allison noted that registration is up a bit from last year. There was a surge in registrations right before the t-shirt deadline. Everything is ready to go.

Cul de Sac 5ks (July 3, 10, 17) - (Mike Gholson)

As of June 8, we have 330 runners registered. All permits are in hand and sunglasses are at the clubhouse. Still need volunteers for all 3 races.

Mike noted that they were close to the goal of 400 participants. Email marketing to the Wyndham committees was planned.

Pony Pasture 5k (July 29) (Sarah Golightly)

Sarah noted that there were 71 registrants. She is having some back and forth with the police and has not had a response from the t-shirt vendor. Allison will help with emails.

Ashland Half & 5k - (August 26) (Michael George)

Michael George and Molly Johnson, Sportsbackers, shared that there would be a 5k as part of the race events. It will start at 7:00 am after the half marathon has started. The tourism grant received will help with marketing to Northern Virginia and DC, specifically to include options to take Amtrak to Ashland during the race weekend. Next year the date is likely to change to mid-September and other marketing promotions may occur to tie in with other area events (NASCAR, Randolph Macon football, State Fair, etc).

Contract Races

Shawn noted there is a lull in contract races other than the Patriots 5k on August 15.

Rainey noted that the Capital Trail 10 miler and 5k is likely shifting to a contract race. Details are being worked out with the organization. It will be a Grand Prix race this year since it was voted in.

Training Teams

Youth Running Camp (July 17 - 21) (Bill Kelly & Rosie Schutte)

This is the 4TH year for the RRRC Youth Running camp, scheduled for the week of July 17 through 21 weather permitting.

Please see below a brief overview as of 6/08/23;

- > 120 Registered campers
- > 17 Student coaches from 5 local high schools
- > 4 Adult Coaches to provide overall supervision
- > 7 Speakers
- > 3 Sponsors (PR Running/ Virginia Family Dentistry/ Chick Fil A.
- > The 3 Head Student coaches have developed a schedule and assigned the other student coaches to specific duties.

Thanks to RRRC support (Insurance coverage) and the success of the Twilight 5K that raised over \$5,000 for the camp, plus donations and sponsorships it is a sustaining promoting and supporting Youth Running in the greater metro Richmond area.

Operations Manager/Administrator/RunSignup Coordinator– Allison May, Shawn Lafland

Volunteer Needs - Katherine Zampolin

We desperately need volunteers for the Thanks Dad 5K on 6/18. The Summer Track Series could use some more as well. The Cul-de-Sac races are starting to pick up some volunteers, and should be in good shape with promotional efforts.

Katherine noted that volunteers are all set for Thanks Dad.

Equipment – Glenn Melton

Glenn noted that Diamond Springs has been purchased by another company. He will follow up with what that means for our contract with them.

Grand Prix - Natalie Boyle and Marcy George

Marcy noted that the second quarter is ending soon. Please remember to complete the volunteer form if you want to receive credit. The link to the form will be included in weekly emails

(https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScOszstK0fVtEgl7fK8s2tAmrbRoRYf23xTobjSy0bv_JVw/viewform)

Adjourn

No board meeting in July - see you on August 9!

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria A. Hauser, Secretary