



Richmond Road Runners Club - Minutes - February 14, 2024

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

Approval of January 2024 meeting minutes - Allison May, Secretary

1. Motion to approve by Noah Mercer, Alex Farden seconded; minutes approved.

New Business Discussions

1. Youth Running Camp 2024
 - a. The youth running camp is free camp for rising middle schoolers. Each year, RRRC helps sponsor the camp.
 - b. The motion is to approve the running camp budget and RRRC insurance. Motion passes.
2. Banquet
 - a. Suzi would like feedback for the banquet. The goal \$25-30 per person. We usually have 225-285 people in attendance. The concerns with Hardywood are that it is a brewery and the acoustics on the presentation. The alternative is the Jewish Community Center with 225 at tables with overflow. Cost-wise, it is the same as Hardywood. We can use our own caterer and possibly investigate having Final Gravity help. If you have any thoughts, let Suzi know.
 - b. Kirk suggested possibly using the clubhouse for an event. The occupancy for the clubhouse is 45, though.
 - c. There was a suggestion to do an alcohol-free banquet and then a possible afterparty.
3. Renewal of Clubhouse Lease
 - a. After speaking with the property management service, it looks like a three-year agreement with a 4% increase on the current Dabney location is the best option because with the commercial rent prices and the need to have space for the truck and meetings.
 - b. Motion made to approve the lease; motion approved.
4. The marathon trials watch party went really well. Some RRRC door prizes and the remaining champagne glasses were handed out. Food was sponsored, so RRRC did not have to buy for the party.
5. Strategic Planning
 - a. Suzi is looking at getting feedback from the Board and the RRRC membership and then bringing it all back to the Board so that it can make better decisions. We will also look into getting feedback from the greater community at Monument Ave 10k so we can look at what we want to keep, change or remove.
6. There will be another call for Board members since we have several spots open. We are looking at having people in place by March or April.

Financial Reports – Meredith Newcomb, Treasurer

1. Susan and Meredith are working on cleaning up the books and doing an independent audit/reconciliation.
2. Susan and Meredith are also working on getting the accounts switched over so that payments and reimbursements can go out. Thanks for your patience with the transition.

Communications -

Miles & Minutes – Annie Tobey/Anne Magee

1. The magazine is currently in design, so if all goes well, it should be hitting the streets by mid-month.
2. I will order additional copies for RRRC to hand out at the two upcoming big race expos, the Sports Backers half marathon and Monument Avenue 10k, as they will be good marketing opportunities. I'm using Ed Kelleher's original figure of 1,000 (inclusive of distribution) for one expo without going above the 1,000 mark as I don't want to over-order. At the marathon expo in the fall, it seemed like we had lots of surplus magazines. I try not to over order, but I also would like to suggest that these be made available at all races and packet pick-ups.
3. I apologize that this issue was a month later than I projected. With work responsibilities, creating winter MTT routes, and life, I just wasn't able to put time in soon enough for a January publication. I'm still committed to Miles & Minutes, but if anyone wants to take over, I'd understand. Or if someone would (please!) like to pitch in, I'd be grateful.
4. I welcome all submissions, as always! In fact, I'd love to see every race director submit a short review of their race (no need to worry about whether you're a writer or not - I promise to edit as needed) and a few pictures. Chris Mason turned in a great review and images of Frostbite (thanks, Chris!). Remember, these magazines are marketing pieces as well as simply fun and informational.
5. The files were sent to the printer today. I'd love to add, too, if someone would be able to engage with potential advertisers, it would be a win-win - extra income for RRRC and positive marketing for the advertisers. We had one for this issue that fell through the cracks, and I'll admit I don't have time to pursue advertisers as well as content.

Social Media – Chris Mason

1. Chris is using the platform to share a lot of different information, including news about Keira and races. If you have anything to share, let Chris know.

Grants Committee - Kirk Millikan

1. People are looking forward to applying to the grant program. Someone has already applied for the grant this year.

Scholarship Committee - Kirk Millikan

1. Scholarship will be due on May 31st.

Operations – Rachael Bowling, VP of Operations

Review of Races

Frostbite 15k (January 28) (Mara George and Chris Mason)

1. Frostbite went off well even with the flooding in the park. People liked the new course and new scenery. 680 people ran the race.
2. Mara and Chris will be meeting with Lewis Ginter to get feedback on the race.

Preview of upcoming Races

Sweetheart 8k (February 11)

Bear Creek 10 Miler (February 25)

1. All plans are on schedule and the long-range weather forecast looks positive.
2. Sign up numbers are a bit ahead of last year's registration and it will be likely that more people will sign up.

Huguenot 3 Miler (March 3)

1. 50 people are signed up so far. Permits are all updated and ready.
2. Rich will be going over the trail this weekend.
3. PR will be giving gift certificates for winners as well as providing postrace snacks.
4. We still need some course marshals for the race.

Contract Races

1. Spider Dash has enough volunteers for February 24th.

Training Teams

Winter Marathon Training Team (December - March)

1. WMTT is doing well. We've learned a lot and have some solid takeaways to do different/better next year. Our sponsors have been great to work with and we don't ever want to leave the church. We would like to buy our coaches another end of the year gift of a hat or (not) Yeti mug, the officers will be hearing from Anna soon if they haven't already. The budget is up to date for the most part, just have to add on the costs for the coffee/tea/hot chocolate bar.

Advanced 10k Training Team (January - April)

1. The team is 3 weeks into the program with 108 Runners to date dispersed among 6 teams.

Operations Manager/Administrator/RunSignup Coordinator– Allison May, Noah Mercer

1. Noah and Allison met with Matt from Runsignup on the new website and platform. Noah will be working on upgrades to the site.
2. If you have any questions about Runsignup or need emails sent out, let Allison know.

Volunteer Needs - Crystal Koch

1. We ended up getting appx 100 volunteers for Frostbite this year! Three parking attendants were super helpful, next year we need some way to keep track of parking spaces to make it easier on the congestion and folks circling back. Maybe we can find some clickers somewhere. Sweetheart did not get many volunteers, but we got enough to make it work. Next up is Huguenot, which is a fairly simple race without much fanfare. Without Carytown this year, there's no other big race that draws all the crowds so just small races to focus on from here out.
2. Spider Dash does have all the necessary volunteers.

3. We will need course marshals for Bear Creek.

Equipment – Glenn Melton

1. Frostbite was an interesting day that started at 5:40 with the discovery of the very flooded bridge into the park. After consulting with the race directors, we cut the park loop and made course adjustments accordingly.
2. Truck is set up and ready to support our February races.
3. As always, help is needed in all areas of putting on our races so please come out and help when you can.

Grand Prix - George Bishop and Patty Henson-Dacey

1. Not all contract race information is in for 2023 yet, but people are being contacted. If you have any information, let Patty or George know.
2. The list to review for 2023 is coming out this week and then finalists will be established.

Adjourn

1. Rachael Bowling motioned, Rich Nolan seconded; motion passes.