

UTICA ROADRUNNERS BUSINESS MEETING

Monday, May 10, 2021

Attending

Board Members: Rebecca Aceto, Jen Bachelder, Melissa Barlett, Dani Bliss, Rocco Fernald, Alejandro Gonzales, Tim Kane, Jeannine Macera, Jim Mott, Andrew Rubino, Sharon Scala

Others: Travis Belanger, Sybil Johnson

Meeting called to order at 6:04

Last meeting minutes, motion: Sharon, second: Andrew, accepted by all

Current Reports from Activities & Events (VP Andrew Rubino)

- Races
 - FOUR RACE CHALLENGE
 - Registration remains open until Summer Sizzle closes, which may be next week
 - 86 people have registered through the Four Race Challenge.
 - Summer Sizzle (Jim Mott) Sunday, June 20, 2021 Proctor Park
 - 130 registered now, may go up to 180
 - Application for permit has been approved.
 - UPD and UFD are in
 - Masonic Care Community has agreed to let us use their facility.
 - Course is being certified May 24th
 - Volunteers needed, 10-12 for race day, plus 3-4 for packet pickup
 - Sponsored by Utica First.
 - Packet pick-up at Sneaker Store June 19th or could be done Friday night the 18th
 - Save Our Switchbacks (Sharon Scala) Sunday, August 15, 2021
 - Sharon will be working with Rebecca and Josh from The Sneaker Store.
 - Registration opened May 1st.
 - Zoo does not look like an option at this point because there may be construction on the road we normally run down
 - Will need to readjust course and close roads
 - Sharon will check on the route w/help from Rebecca
 - Sharon needs contacts for UPD/UFD
 - Sponsors: Utica First, also Mountain Ice
 - Falling Leaves (Mike Brych) Sunday, September 26, 2021
 - We will be working in partnership with the Boilermaker as a “Race Preview” on staggered starts and new race regulations.
 - Skeleton Run (Rick Gloor) Sunday, October 17th Deerfield Town Park
 - Permit application has been submitted.
 - We will be in competition that day with the Witch Way is the 5k in Sauquoit and other races that weekend.
 - 9/11 Never Forget Run/Walk 5k (Phil Trzcinski/Alex Gonzalez) Date set for August 22nd.
 - Route suggested will go from 9/11 Memorial across from MVCC to Downtown Utica point to point
 - Parkway, Oneida, downtown
 - Planning to try and get transportation back and forth
 - City of Utica has approved.
 - UPD is secure, and will work with UFD, Leone timing is secured
 - Start with a low entry fee this year, but try to get sponsors from \$250-2500 at various levels, Phil will have forms for this

- Tshirts are providing by the foundation
 - There are prizes from the Tunnel to Towers foundation
 - Hoping to announce the details this weekend and get the Facebook page out there and a website will be made for our event by the foundation
 - No post race event right now, but we are planning just in case restrictions are lifted
 - Run 2 End World Hunger (Rocco Fernalld)
 - VIRTUAL RACES
 - Scavenger Hunt (Rebecca Aceto, Alex Gonzalez, Melissa Barlett) - FINISHED
 - 160 participants! It was a huge success.
 - We will be giving donations and Red Jacket to the family of Phyllis at the banquet, likely close to \$4000 available from donations and profits
 - We will have people pick up at Five after Five pickup since we still have many unclaimed shirts
 - FIVE after FIVE May 6-20 (Jim Mott, Jen Bachelder, Jeannine Macera)
 - Nearly 90 participating.
 - Our Fiesta Committee is working hard developing new daily challenges.
 - Swag pick-up will be held at Saranac Brewery June 2nd - need a few volunteers
- Activities
 - 2020 Banquet and Awards
 - Banquet is May 22nd at Whitestown Vets.
 - In good shape and ready to go!
 - Awards
 - Award related to Phyllis for this year only
 - This year's award has been determined by Phyllis's family
 - Idea to have a scholarship in Phyllis's name came up by email
 - We don't name a lot of awards, and so there are some concerns about creating a precedent, considering there may be many others lost who are not always as public or well known, but still important
 - An idea: make it a "Memorial Scholarship" which can include an "In Memoriam" during the giving of this scholarship, but make it more of a "Grit" scholarship than simply merit
 - Specifically, one that goes to someone who isn't necessarily the top person, but shows heart and has need - the "coach's award"
 - A good way to tap into that group of students who feel that they cannot apply to the regular scholarship since they are not elite
 - Add this as a fifth scholarship to the other already existing 4
 - Fund through the Scavenger Hunt yearly
 - Start the scholarship next year, but announce it at the banquet this year
 - Does the current scholarship application have enough in it to pick up these students?
 - We have time to look into that to consider the criteria to start in 2022
 - Thursday Night Fitness Mill Runs (Wendy Bowers)
 - Currently going between peoples houses, but might start back at the new location once it opens.
 - Andrew with check in with Wendy
 - Boilermaker Training Program (Tim and Joan Kane)
 - Has officially started and is going great!
 - Currently we have over 50 people registered through RunSignup page.
 - Looking into some different locations in the future
 - Perhaps Proctor Park as a starting point to run actual portions of the Boilermaker
 - Development Runs (Ashley Mancini)

- Starting on May 19th
 - The City of Utica approval is in and Insurance is set
- We have a new tent for registration.
- Completely new numbers for this year and possibly this year only
- There's no official timing on these D-Runs
- Accelerate has an interest in being part of our D-Runs
 - Accelerate might be interested in helping with a kids program, but we are not sure of the logistics yet
 - Could send folks over right after the kids run, and then have a youth activity for an hour while adults are running, ages 7-9ish, and we would probably need specific adult/child ratios and pre-registration
 - Let people know that this might happen in future weeks and gauge interest for the first week or two
 - May also be official D-runs sponsor
- Sneaker Store is also interested in being there, and the people from BOOM! Bars
 - Not the first week while we are seeing how it goes
 - Maybe spread people out a little bit over the weeks so there aren't too many folks
- Push URself 2.0 starting in June
 - Andrew's idea to have this concurrent with the D-Runs
 - Andrew will run via a GoogleForm to participate plus some prizes
 - Maybe have a shirt or something for this portion of it
- This Wed, Jim will bring up the trailer to the parking lot and do a dry run of the equipment about 5pm
 - Sybil will make sure Jim is allowed to grab the trailer
 - If a few people could be there around 5pm to help out
 - Might need some new extension cords
- Youth XC Training Program (Nate Getman)
 - Nate has decided to wait until 2022. He is not comfortable working with kids with the pandemic still being a factor. He would like to help with BTP if needed. Jim will send Tim Nate's email.
- Blood Drive
 - Accelerate has expressed an interest in helping us.
 - Try to make this some kind of event with swag or something, but it is hard to connect with a run since you don't want to run after donating
 - Andrew would like ideas for a date for this type of event for sometime soon
 - This might be good to have around the New Year's run for the future as well
 - Pint of blood, pint of beer? Drain the vein challenge?
- Grand Prix (Gary LaShure)
 - Races
 - Fort to Fort 10k - DONE
 - Summer Sizzle
 - Copper City Classic "Mini-Boilermaker"
 - Erie Canal Half
 - Save Our Switchbacks
 - Tunnel to Towers/9-11
 - Mad Mile (still up in the air)
 - Falling Leaves 14k
 - Boilermaker 15k
 - Skeleton Run
- Scholarships (Andrew Rubino)
 - Online application is set up.
 - 8 applicants so far and a number are still incomplete

- Andrew is reaching out
 - May 21st is due date
- Volunteers (Travis Belanger)
 - Doing well, would love to pass along the race calendar to folks who are looking for points
- Social (Danielle Bliss)
 - Considering a variety of possible activities
 - Rafting, like West Canada Creek
 - Hiking, Bald Mountain maybe
 - A lakeside picnic
 - Seven Hamlets, there may be a trail we could run, and then there's also mini golf but it isn't open yet
- CNY Running Club Cup (Tim Kane)
 - Two races are now done
 - Summer Sizzle, Falling Leaves, and the 5K Patriot run in Rome (no 10K this year)
 - Another one might be added, maybe SOS or something toward Little Falls in the Fall
 - Looking for diversity in distances and having different clubs host different races
 - Roman Runners are currently winning
- Diversity Committee (Alex Gonzalez/Melissa Barlett)
 - Run Against Racism 2 and Juneteenth are still in planning, more to come
- Nutrition Committee (Rick Gloop)
 - Jeannine Macera continues writing monthly pieces for SpliTimes

Current Reports from Administration & Finance (VP Sharon Scala)

- Finance (Jen Bachelder)
 - We just purchased some signs and a canopy (tent) from USA Racing. They look great!
 - Vote taken via email for expenses
- Merchandise (Sharon Scala)
 - We have orange shirts coming that will have the UR logo
- Equipment and Rental (Dennis Johnson)
 - Jim will find out where we are at and what we might need this Wednesday
 - Still need new locks for the trailers
- Membership (Rebecca Aceto)
 - Numbers have been increasing, 408
 - Only down 96 members from last year now!
- Facebook, PR, Webpages (Jen Bachelder, Andrew Rubino)
 - Could we hire someone, maybe via a sponsorship, to help keep the site up to date
 - Possibly college students in the future
 - Melissa will help do updates during summer while we figure this out
 - Membership Spotlights were a big hit!
 - However, social stuff is going well, and we don't need anything new or exciting right now
 - Save the Board member spotlights for the future when things slow down
 - Melissa will work to get the race calendar up on the website
- Clubs & Organizations Liaisons (Rick Gloop, Tim Kane; USATF & RRCA)
- Sponsorship (Rocco Fernald)
 - Utica First agreed to be our large race sponsor for the major races
 - Each board member should still try and get one sponsor secured if possible
 - Rocco did send out a sponsorship sheet after the March meeting ([See the sheet here](#))
 - Includes sponsorships of particular races for larger spots or a club sponsor for a small spot in more places

New and Old Business

- Heart Run on May 15 is fully virtual.
 - There is a UR team, but it doesn't have many people
 - Hopes to come back with us in 2022.
- Run 4 Bee Virtual 5k
 - Had over 70 participants.
 - Great first year!
- Next Meeting
 - Mott Marathon is Monday, June 14th
 - **Meeting on Monday June 7th 5pm**
 - Boilermaker Offices

7:33pm adjourned