

## **UTICA ROADRUNNERS BUSINESS MEETING**

**Monday, June 7, 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, Rick Gloor

Others: Ashley Mancini, Phil Trzcinski

Meeting called to order at 5:02

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

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Activities & Events –Andrew Rubino

- **Banquet**
  - Got good feedback from people
  - Perhaps we could have an annual picnic like this in the future
  - Future? We'll decided next year.
- **Races**
  - **FOUR RACE CHALLENGE**
    - Registration is now closed with 98 people registered
    - Registrants will be added to separate races soon
    - Those who ordered a hoodie will receive it at Summer Sizzle or their next race.
    - Shirts and medals will be available soon to all participants
  - **Summer Sizzle - Jim Mott**
    - Sunday, June 20, in Proctor Park
    - Course has been measured and is certified.
    - Registration is closed with 175 participants.
    - We will have a mass start with no waves. Safety precautions will be put in place.
    - Packet pick-up will be at Sneaker Store on Thursday June 17<sup>th</sup>
    - Tent will be needed from Juneteenth on Saturday to be ready to go on Sunday
    - Help needed
    - 12-15 people on race day
  - **Save Our Switchbacks - Sharon Scala**
    - Sunday, August 15, 2021- Registration opened May 1<sup>st</sup>.
    - Mountain Ice will sponsor the kids race for \$500
    - Cooling towels for give-away
    - Packet pick-up Saturday at Sneaker Store
  - **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, however, the likelihood of a mass start for both races looks good at this point.
    - May be able to have a gathering afterwards, depending on how Tunnels to Towers after-run party goes
  - **Skeleton Run – Rick Gloo**
    - Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup>
    - Deerfield Town Park, permit application has been submitted.
    - We will be in competition that day with the Witch Way, the 5k in Sauquoit and other races that weekend.
    - We need timing for this event and offers have been coming in, including Mike from Willow Running
    - Promotion will begin soon after Summer Sizzle
  - **Tunnels to Towers 9/11 Never Forget Run/Walk 5k - Phil Trzcinski/Alex Gonzalez**
    - Date set of August 22<sup>nd</sup>
    - All permits approved and registration is now open.
    - 80 people signed up over the weekend, \$1800 so far in just donations
    - There could be a Utica Roadrunners team, but someone will need to make that, and then people could be added
    - Phil and Alex have done an amazing job with this!
    - Route is nailed and the State office building courtyard area will be available for entertainment and closing ceremonies, with some local celebs! Phil is finishing up details on locations and parking in the next week or so.
    - Received Sponsorship from Empire Upstate Fitness and Sneaker Store is planning to put in, Alex will send the Sponsorship letter with the board, get these in ASAP so there is time for printing
    - Packet Pick-up with be Sneaker Store day before the event
    - Volunteers for the day of the event will be needed
  - **FIVE after FIVE - Jim Mott, Jen Bachelder, Jeannine Macera**
    - Ran May 6-20th
    - Event was a huge success. People loved all the challenges.
    - First swag pick-up was at Saranac on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will offer another chance to get stuff at Summer Sizzle pick-ups.
- **Activities**
  - **Thursday Night Fitness Mill Runs - Wendy Bowers**
    - No new update, still waiting for the new location to open
  - **Boilermaker Training Program - Tim and Joan Kane**
    - Currently we have over 50 people registered through the RunSignup page and it is going great. Mostly women, who are *crushing* it!
    - Nate Getman who generally runs the youth X-country might be good for a 7:45am topic
  - **Hill Striders “Boilermaker” Run**

- We could take part in a completely unofficial “Virtual Boilermaker” on July 11th - Looking for folks to help with some water stations and perhaps also participate.
  - We think this is a good idea, and Tim Kane will continue to communicate with the organizer and get back to us with details.
- **Development Runs- Ashley Mancini**
  - Ashley has done a great job and we are off to a great start three weeks in!
  - We currently have two waves at 6:15 and 6:30, although people tend to just go off in groups at their own timing, so it is a little chaotic instead of having the same D-Run feel.
  - We are hoping to have mass starts, road closure, and Chalet open in mid to late June.
  - Push URself 2.0? Andrew is still working on how he might do this.
  - Volunteers are needed to help take down and put away stuff at the end.
  - No problem with having Sponsors etc. come and set-up tents/tables, but we want to plan ahead so that there are not a ton of people on any given night, so let Ashley know who wants to come when.
- **Blood Drive**
  - Andrew and Jeanine will be talking with Accelerate Sports about holding a drive at their location
  - The SpliTimes continues to promote donations
- **Grand Prix – Gary LaShure**
  - Fort to Fort and Towpath Trail 10Ks are both done
  - Summer Sizzle is up next
  - Followed by:
    - Erie Canal Half
    - Save Our Switchbacks
    - Falling Leaves 14K
    - Boilermaker 15K
    - Skeleton Tun
    - Copper City Classic “Mini-Boilermaker”
  - Maybe?
    - Mad Mile
    - Woodsmen 10K
- **Scholarships – Andrew Rubino**
  - Applications are now being evaluated, meeting immediately following the current meeting
  - Looking to present to the winners at D-Run sometime soon, and Andrew will be in contact with the donors and the news once the date is determined
- **Social – Danielle Bliss**
  - June 15<sup>th</sup> at the What the Truck, Utica event
    - <https://www.facebook.com/WhattheTruckUtica>
    - We’ll run at 5pm, and from 6pm on could enjoy the food trucks and company
- **CNY Running Club Cup – Tim Kane**

- Now two races in with the Towpath, UR is in second place behind Roman Runners
  - Next event is Summer Sizzle
- **Diversity Committee - Alex Gonzalez/Melissa Barlett**
  - RRCA Zoom Meeting is coming up, and Alex/Michelle are presenting about last year's Run Against Racism
  - Juneteenth event at Chancellor's Park, Saturday 6/19
    - Alex will be there 8-9am to claim a place in the morning, then the event runs 12-8. We still need some more volunteers, especially 4-8pm
  - Run Against Racism 2, same route, but provide some smaller routes from 1.4-6.5 miles through different sections as options
- **Nutrition Committee - Rick Gloo**
  - Jeannine Macera continues writing monthly pieces for SpliTimes.
  - Speaker Series - thinking about holding off until Fall since people don't want to be on Zoom in the summer.
  - We could also consider doing live talks as well if we have people who are local, or can have people gather and have a speaker on a screen.
    - Rick knows someone from Buffalo with an inspiring personal story

### **Administration & Finance – Sharon Scala**

- **Financial – Jen Bachelder**
  - Looks like we spent less on the Banquet this year than last year, although Jen isn't sure if things were placed in the same categories
  - 5 after 5 was a large expense this past month
- **Merchandise – Sharon Scala**
  - Orange shirts are in! Also new tank tops and hoodies that should be in the store by tomorrow.
- **Equipment and Rental – Dennis Johnson**
  - We need someone to take this task over from Dennis.
  - We need a full inventory of equipment and its condition after a year of things sitting and not being used. Do we have an original inventory? Ask Dennis, Sybil, or Mike Kessler.
  - We did update the registration on the trailer, it should be in soon
  - There are items that need to be repaired and purchased
  - Jim will be purchasing a new generator and a new lock for the trailers
  - Can we put out the call for a UR volunteer to help take this task over? Could be in exchange for something or to earn Red Jacket points
- **Membership – Rebecca Aceto**
  - 433 current members (compared to 506 last year), 24 new members since last meeting
- **Webpage**
  - Many updates have been made. Thank you to Melissa for all her great work!

- If you see something that needs to be updated for right now, feel free to send an email to Melissa
- Melissa still recommends that the plan would be to hire someone to do this starting in the Fall
- Perhaps there could be a way to make it an internship? Either through Boces or MVCC?
- Put out the information to the membership, and see if people would do the work for a free membership, volunteer hours toward a red jacket, or free race entries
- \*Since we are looking for people to volunteer for multiple positions, Jim Mott will put together something about both the webmaster and equipment to send to the membership by email, etc.
- **Facebook & PR, Webpages - Jen Bachelder, Andrew Rubino**
  - Our social media presence is awesome! Thanks to all.
  - Jen notes that her time spent on this is not currently tracked, but it would be good to have a sense of how much time someone spends dealing with the media, if she could try and keep an eye on it
- **Sponsorship - Rocco Fernalld**
  - We are starting to get some new sponsors. Great work by those who have secured our sponsors! Keep at it.
- **Race Calendar**
  - There is a Google calendar posted on the website, but it still needs to be updated with events. Andrew was going to update, but is a little behind and could use some help getting the items up.

## **New and Old Business**

- Mott Marathon – June 14th
  - Folks are welcome to come, just contact Jim!
- Red Jacket communication
  - It was brought to Jim's attention that there was some confusion this year. Some people who thought they were getting a jacket did not, in part due to volunteer points and misunderstandings about being able to get them
  - When people submit for the jacket, they definitely get told if they ARE getting one, but may not be told if there are NOT getting one
  - Make sure there is a good system in the future for making sure folks know the timeline and who to communicate with to ask questions.
  - We could post a list of the people who will get the red jackets earlier in the year, and that will give us time for people to see the list and ask if they are not on it. This way there is no confusion at the Banquet.
  - There may be people who hadn't worked on their volunteer points until late, and then there were not too many opportunities left. We should make it clear that the volunteer points are a key part of this and that people need to be thinking about this earlier in the process.

- Do we track volunteer points? We have not always tracked the points in the past, but Alex tracked points last year, and Travis is supposed to be tracking the points this year. People who are looking for their jackets should stay in contact with the Volunteer Coordinator, and we should put out that information more regularly and publicly so that people know what the expectations are.
  - Can we make this a special upcoming announcement by email or in SpliTimes?
  - We want to keep this separate from asking for people to do some of our behind the scenes work, like webmaster and equipment handler, even though we might ask these people to volunteer for points as well
- This item will be tabled for the next meeting, but if you have thoughts, send them to Jim.  
From Dan and Sharon Stedman:

Although we are not sure, it appears our membership is aging. Some of those members, who are aging, are turning to walking for exercise and they are finding it difficult to run the 1,000 miles necessary to qualify for their chevron.

Our suggestion is to create a new different color, “walk-only” or “run/walk” 1,000 mile chevron.

By offering this award, it could create a whole new cohort of members and potential race day volunteers.

**Next Meeting – Monday, July 12, 2021 at the Boilermaker Offices, 6pm.**

**Meeting Ended at 6:12pm**