



UTICA ROADRUNNERS BUSINESS MEETING  
Monday, August 9, 2021- 6 pm Boilermaker Offices

Attendance: Jim Mott, Melissa Barlett, Sharon Scala, Andrew Rubino, Jen Bacheldor, Dani Bliss, Alex Gonzalez, Rick Gloor, Rocco Fernald, Jeanine Macera (virtual), Rebecca Aceto (virtual), Phil Trzcinski

Called Meeting to order at 6:05

Motion to accept minutes of last meeting: Sharon, Andrew 2nd, approved.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Activities & Events

- Races
  - Four Race Challenge - Jim Mott
    - 98 people registered
    - T-Shirts and medals will be available by Save Our Switchbacks.
    - Future of this?
      - Probably continue this into the future
  - Summer Sizzle - Jim Mott
    - USATF, ADK Grand Prix future, The course is now certified and the cost will not have to be revisited.
      - Also have to pay a small fee for each person who runs under this for an additional ~\$45
      - Worth it? Not sure yet.
  - Save Our Switchbacks - Sharon Scala
    - Sunday, August 15, 2021
    - 164 are registered at this point.
    - Packet pickup is Sat 10-1 and Sun 7-7:45
      - MUST be on time
    - Trailer will need to be moved for an event on August 14<sup>th</sup> - It will be moved back for the race.
    - Sharon has her volunteers all set
    - Kids start promptly at 7:45 and Ashley is helping with that
    - Course is almost the same, but no Zoo and no Eagle
      - Parkway to Valley View, through parking lot to trail, up trail to switchbacks, left side up the switchbacks and around, back to the Boilermaker 4 mile, down to the Rec
      - Water station will be at the base of the switchbacks, so runners can hit it twice
    - Water was donated, other food items were purchased
  - Falling Leaves - Mike Byrch
    - Sunday, September 26, 2021
    - Registration opened on July 11<sup>th</sup>
    - About 300 are currently registered. Some concern over low numbers at this point.
      - There is a lot of competition for races this year.

- Also some concerns about COVID being an issue.
      - We want to make sure that people are aware that we are not requiring vaccination like the Boilermaker.
      - Nothing is planned to be indoors
    - Mike hasn't reached out on Facebook, so we are not sure what to promote or if there are posts that should be shared
      - We could do an ad, but not until after 8/22
- Skeleton Run - Rick Gloor
  - Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup>
  - Deerfield Town Park
    - permit application has been submitted
  - Have we secured timing?
  - Still working on EMT, insurance, and parking
  - Signup will be going up very soon along with Facebook advertising
  - Rick may be k's with new offer for breakfast options potentially with Knifehand folks
- 9/11 Tunnels to Towers Run/Walk 5k- Phil Trzcinski/Alex Gonzalez
  - Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Packet pickup will be Sat 8/21 at the Sneaker Store
  - ~230 registered, and more groups are still expected
    - No timing if you sign up after Wed 8/18
  - Radio/TV ads are currently running
  - Everything is pretty much in place
  - Final stretch will have groups with American Flags lining the street using ROTC and others
  - New signs that were approved last meeting have arrived!
    - Only cost ~\$2700
  - For \$150 we can get a photo backdrop with the UR logos and the Tunnel to Towers logos interspersed which would be useful for future years, another \$200 to get a stand as well if the stand could be multi use for other events
    - Motion made by Alex and seconded by Andrew
    - Motion passed
  - Also want to be able to purchase extra water last minute if needed
    - No problem in our budget!
  - \$37,000 donations cash plus in-kind sponsorship
    - Carbone on Horacio St donated \$10,000 and we will have a check presentation Monday 8/16, 10AM at the dealership
    - Will also present a check at the finish line
  - Has been a bit tough to get volunteers, but Alex thinks he might be set
    - Part of a pattern of difficulty with volunteer coordination
  - Coffee is available online, but not being sold much
    - Alex will send info and we'll get out an email to ask members to buy coffee
  - We will have access to the email list from this event for future events and UR membership
- Run 2 End World Hunger - Rocco Fernalld
  - Nov 25th
  - It may be one day, but it may go back to multi day like last time, hard to tell
  - Want to use Runsignup again
- Safety Run
  - Tuesday before Thanksgiving
  - Thinking about work with Masonic or perhaps the idea of going up to Rome and running through the lights

- Dani Bliss might be interested in helping coordinate this if working with Roman Runners, or Sharon might be willing to help do a version at the Parkway
- Activities
  - Blood drive
    - August 1st
    - Went well!
    - Wait until October so the same people could donate again
      - Maybe relate to the Run to End Hunger and collect food as well
      - Should probably not donate right after (or before) you run, so don't want to attach it directly to a run
      - Could be earlier in the week? At the Rec? Somewhere else?
        - Or after? "Red Friday" (™ Rick Gloo)
      - Jeanine should get a list of dates from them for Fall and we can request that week
  - Thursday Night Runs (Fitness Mill) - Wendy Bowers
    - Fitness Mill deal is still valid. If people have issues, have them take the name of the employee that will not honor the discount and we will address the issue with Alex Carbone directly.
    - Wendy is thinking of changing group runs on Thursdays to Accelerate in the future. More info to come.
    - Also thinking about trying to work with Planet Fitness?
      - Rocco is in contact but having trouble with follow up from the manager in North Utica
      - If possible, we would like to pursue this
  - Boilermaker Training Program - Tim and Joan Kane
    - Now beginning to start runs at Proctor Park as we get closer to October.
  - Development Runs - Ashley Mancini
    - Mass start at 6:30 pm with a Kids Run at 6:15 pm.
    - We have had great cooperation with the UPD, but there isn't always enough EMTs
    - Let's continue to promote people starting as a group and not leaving early unless they are coming back to help volunteer.
    - Can we develop a weekly sheet of volunteers for the remaining weeks
      - There is concern that we have plenty of people to help at start but few are left to help with the breakdown.
  - Youth XC Training Program - Nate Getman
    - Will revisit for 2022.
- Grand Prix – Gary LaShure
  - Completed
    - Summer Sizzle, Erie Canal Half
  - Upcoming
    - Patriot Run 10K in Little Falls
    - SOS
    - Tunnels to Towers
    - Falling Leaves
    - Boilermaker
    - Skeleton Run
  - Maybe?
    - Honor America Days & Copper City Classic
- Scholarships - Andrew Rubino
  - Received a thank you note in the mail from one of our winners!
- Volunteers - Travis Belanger
  - Has been significant difficulty with communication to volunteers and consistent lack of communication from Travis to people about available opportunities

- True for SOS, DRuns, and other things
  - Jeanine is willing to offer assistance
    - Do we think this will be enough, or should Jeanine take the lead on this?
    - Alex tried to help out earlier in the year without much luck
    - We want to give Travis a chance to work with Jeanine, and she and Jim Mott will connect with Travis
      - Rebecca will also help
- Social - Danielle Bliss
  - July mini-golf event
    - Went well, not a ton of people, but enough came and people had fun
    - For next time - the mini golf is cash only
  - New event for August
    - Maybe Fire Pit Friday at Ommegang, there is a band
  - Continuing to think about future places
    - Saranac's new Beer Garden once it opens
    - The Burrstone Inn's Beer Garden on Fridays with karaoke - kids allowed in!
- CNY Running Club Cup - Tim Kane
  - Syracuse Track club is in contact with Tim about a future competition of sorts
- Diversity Committee - Alex Gonzalez/Melissa Barlett
  - Run Against Racism 2
    - Not as big, but partially because everyone was pretty busy and virtual runs are getting old
    - Planning something better for next year
    - Got \$500 in donations
  - Latino Association is having a festival and we will look into having a tent there
  - Would like to have some kind of business card with our logo and website info and QR code to hand out to people
    - PJ Green may do this for free with their logo on it
- Nutrition Committee - Rick Gloo
  - Jeannine Macera continues writing bi-monthly pieces for SpliTimes.
  - Speaker Series
    - Ideas for next speaker (November or December)?
      - We have contacted a plant-based company that was featured in the most recent edition of SpliTimes.
        - The owner is Joe Dunaway and his company is Knifehand.
        - He is looking to work with us at future events.
        - A coupon code was offered in SpliTimes for all members.

## Administration & Finance

- Financials
  - Technically, we have currently spent more this year than we have brought in, but we still have sufficient funds in the accounts and are making investments in some future items while our revenues are a little lower right now, partially due to COVID
- Merchandise - Sharon Scala
  - Singlets are still in Syracuse but should be in soon!
- Equipment and Rental
  - A full inventory of equipment and its condition needs to be done.
    - New battery pack was purchased.
    - This is a project we need to address before the year ends.
  - Dennis Johnson no longer is doing this piece for us
    - Phil Trzcinski is willing to help us out!

- He will start going through the trailer stuff and determine where we are at and what we need
  - Jim will start working with Phil
- Look into Bluetooth locks that open with an app and tracks who uses it (via Rick)
- Membership - Rebecca Aceto
  - Numbers continue to increase to 307 (compared to 315 this time last year)
  - Motion to start any new members who sign up now will get a 2022 membership as well - we typically do this, but usually starting in September. If we start now, we can advertise to try and pick up more folks.
    - Motion made by Rocco, 2nd by Jen
    - Motion passed
- Webpage - Melissa Barlett
  - Melissa is off work the next two weeks so if you want something updated, now is the time - be sure to email at [docbarlett@gmail.com](mailto:docbarlett@gmail.com)
  - Rick Gloo could also be a backup to help out with updates
- Facebook & PR - Jen Bachelder, Andrew Rubino
  - Our social media presence continues to be awesome!
- Clubs & Organizations Liaison - Rick Gloo, Tim Kane (USATF and RRCA)
  - No update.
- Sponsorship - Rocco Fernalld
  - As noted above, looking into connecting with Planet Fitness and trying to get them to sponsor some races for the future
- Race Calendar - Rocco Fernalld
  - Help needed keeping this up to date - Rick Gloo will help add things to this via our gmail account

#### New and Old Business

- Discussion of “walk-only” or “run/walk” chevron brought up by Stedmans will be tabled until September when they are available to join the meeting
- Pumpkin Junction
  - Has been contacted about hosting an event in late October that may be like an Oktoberfest Trail Run.
  - Jim has not yet heard back
- 2022 RRCA Conference/Convention
  - March 17-20 in Orlando, Florida.
  - They have Coaching certification courses that are offered as part of the conference.
  - Here is the link: <https://www.rrca.org/convention/>

#### Next Meeting

Monday, September 13th, 2021  
Boilermaker Offices  
6 pm

Meet adjourned 7:40pm