****

# UTICA ROADRUNNERS BUSINESS MEETING

Monday, February 14th, 6pm, Boilermaker Offices

Board Attendance: Jim Mott, Rebecca Aceto, Melissa Barlett, Jen Bachelder, Sharon Scala, Andrew Rubino, Phil Trzinski, Alex Gonzalez

Online: Jenna Stefka, Rick Gloo, Dani Bliss

Excused: Julie Buehner

Visiting: Travis Belanger

Meeting called to order at: 6:04pm

Motion to accept minutes of last meeting: Jen 1st, Andrew 2nd, passed.

**Initial Business:**

* Timing proposal
	+ Looking into the details of possibly using some new technology for timing, specifically starting with D-Runs and possibly then using the tech for other runs
	+ Phil did an excellent job looking into various options and providing us with a possible tech set-up
	+ Conversation was had through email and a shared GoogleDoc to further understand the timing equipment options and to consider various questions
	+ This is largely about timing the D-Runs, and if we don’t want to time the D-Runs, it may not matter
		- Discussion about the importance of timing
		- There are some people who like the idea of timing, and that would help them stay on track
			* Makes the club look good, and gives us some credit
			* Maybe some people who would join for the timing
		- There are some people who would not start with the group, whether there was timing or not
			* Some question as to how many people would be willing to mass start and run with just a clock once we are post pandemic, and is this a value or not so much?
		- If people do want timing, and good timing, there will need to be the involvement of multiple people
			* 3-4 people to collect tags and time the old way
			* Possibly 1 person to time the new way, once some training is done
* Phil moves that we continue to time and record the times for the D runs
	+ Rebecca seconds
		- 4 in favor, 5 against, 1 abstain
		- Motion does not pass
* It is not worth continuing the discussion about the timing equipment if we don’t really want to continue to time the D-runs
* There are some continuing thoughts about what the D-Runs might look like in general, including whether or not to try and have the mass start, to shut down the road, to create community, to have other aspects like the vendors etc.
	+ This is likely to be a larger conversation
	+ Something to revisit in the future
	+ Find ways to connect with the larger membership and collect information from them on this
	+ For now, D-Run folks can do their thing, and we’ll see how it goes

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Activities & Events –Andrew Rubino

* + Races - 2022
		- **NEW YEAR'S RUN** at Accelerate-Jen Bachelder and Jeannine Macera
		- **THE UR SIX PACK-**Jim Mott
			* The bundle is open and will remain open until April 15th
			* We currently have 57 people signed up for the bundle. We will need to continue to push it in the coming weeks and months.
		- **Save Our Switchbacks** - Sharon Scala
			* Saturday, April 16th. Registration is already near 90 people at this point.
			* Sharon has 3 sponsors and donated prizes already, and is still working on it
				+ Texas Roadhouse for 6 top prizes
				+ Nathan for remaining prizes
				+ Mohawk Valley Wellness
			* Will need packet pick-up and race day volunteers
		- **EB 5k Run**-Rebecca Aceto-April 30th
			* Registration is NOW OPEN!
			* Had some odd issues with runsignup for the address, but Phil may have sorted this out by using lat/long
			* Donations are coming in
			* PJ Green is doing flyers, etc.
			* There will be a basket raffle for fundraising
			* 4/29 Packet Pick-Up at Sneaker Store
			* Bathrooms - Alex is looking for port-a-potties, $125 each, we need 3 plus handwashing
		- **Summer Sizzle** - Jim Mott
			* Proctor Park-Sunday, June 19, 2022
			* The Sizzle falls on Juneteenth. Nothing new.
		- **Falling Leaves -** Mike Brych
			* Sunday, September 25th. The only way to sign up will be through the bundle until July after the Boilermaker
			* The 14k only is now an RRCA state championship event!
		- **Skeleton Run -** Rick Gloo
			* Sunday, October 16th at Deerfield Town Park.
			* Nothing new, Rick is in process with permits
		- **Run 2 End World Hunger -** Rocco Fernalld
			* Rocco made the presentation of the check from the 2021 event
			* New checks look great!
	+ Virtual Events
		- **Scavenger Hunt - April 1st-30th**
			* Individual registration is open.
			* Now that we’ve decided on Abraham House, we should start to promote
			* Perhaps give some teasers to some of the things that people might be looking for
		- **FIVE after FIVE** - Jen Bachelder - May 5- 2022.
			* Registration individually is currently open.
			* Jeanine will help again this year
			* We will begin pushing this more once Scavenger Hunt begins.
			* Looking to have an actual Kick-off at Saranac, and maybe another challenge at a bar
			* Find a way to get more “buzz” out of the packet pick-up, in whatever way people want to “buzz”
	+ Activities - Limited
		- Safety Run - Sharon Scala
			* Ashley Mancini will be helping Sharon with this event at MCC. We are looking to create a 5k with a 2 mile walk option.
		- Scholarships - Andrew Rubino
			* Currently, we give out 4 scholarships, and those we know how they are funding
			* We could use the scavenger hunt to fund the newest one
			* Should anything be updated with the expectations for those getting the scholarships?
				+ Some concerns that the scoring tends to pick out only top academic folks, while possibly missing out on some underdogs
				+ We like the idea of having the “grit” scholarship to get more of these types of students
				+ No decision has to be made now, but we should keep this in mind as we move forward to see how this works out
				+ Jen will check to see what we did in fact budget for
		- Boilermaker Training Program - Dorothy Massinger
			* We plan on starting at Accelerate at 7:30 am on Saturday, February 26th.
			* Dorothy Massinger has agreed to be our point person.
			* Andrew is working behind the scenes and collecting lots of other volunteers, speakers, etc. to help out including Mike Hoover, Jenna, Melissa, Gary Burak, etc.
			* Tim Kane will continue to offer his coaching services and a comprehensive plan.
			* It is asked that each Board member dedicate at least two weeks to the program and Melissa will be helping out with a sign-up spreadsheet: [link here](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fstEA36D3Ac-PsYnaxushLat4eO7iIj05YdKBFts-sk/edit?usp=sharing).
			* We will start at Accelerate and move outside as soon as we can.
		- Youth XC Training Program - Nate Getman
			* No update.
		- Grand Prix - Gary LaShure
			* Grand Prix events and calendar-Race list has been finalized and posted.
		- CNY Running Club Cup - Tim Kane
			* Cup events have been finalized and posted.
			* We are hoping to conclude with the UR Oktoberfest Marathon.
			* Syracuse Track Club had shown interest in joining this competition for 2022.
		- Development Runs - Ashley Mancini
			* Not currently planning on timing as noted above
			* D-Run folks have been working on their details, including Ashley, Jenna, Rebecca LaPorte, Cheryl, and the Massingers
				+ Jenna can help check in with this group and what their vision might be
	+ Activities - Ongoing
		- Volunteers- Travis Belanger
			* Travis is tracking via spreadsheet and helping find folks as needed
		- Social - Danielle Bliss and Sharon Scala
			* Snowshoe event on 2/26, could be later in the day, perhaps noon so that folks could start at BTP before going there
			* Dani will finish details and get to Jen
			* Andrew Gracey from BOOM! has brought back his snowshoe series. <https://www.runreg.com/9781>
			* Happy Hour could be back for March 4th
				+ Plan for Woodland
		- 2021 Banquet - Saturday, Match 26th at Club Monarch in New York Mills
			* The Banquet Committee is working on details
				+ Door prizes are needed
				+ Jen can put something like a letter together for donations
				+ Jim can also help out with this, and Jenna will ask around for donations
			* Awards Committee is taking award nominations through 2/17, and then will discuss award winners
		- Thursday Night Fitness Accelerate - Wendy Bowers
			* Small group, but still going!
* **UR SUPPORTED EVENTS**

 **Tunnel to Towers Utica 5k** - Phil Trzcinski/Alex Gonzalez

* + - * August 21, 2022
			* Nothing new
	+ **Committees**
		- Diversity Committee - Alex Gonzalez/Melissa Barlett
			* **Run Against Racism** - Updates? We need a date confirmed with a course by our March meeting.
			* MVCC Run Against Racism lecture event was on February 7th
				+ It went well overall.
				+ We live-streamed it
				+ Jim’s students were excited about Run Against Racism, and want to have a team and more!
		- Blood Drive - Friday, February 25th at Accelerate 11am-3:30pm
			* Some volunteers will be needed
		- Virtual Speaker Series/Nutrition and Wellness- Rick Gloo
			* Nothing new

### Administration & Finance – Sharon Scala

* + Financial - Jen Bachelder
		- Budget meeting was held on Thursday, January 13th at Babe’s at 6 pm
		- Good, profitable January with renewals, 2021 (late) sponsorship, race sign-ups
		- When should we send the 2022 invoice to Utica First?
			* Soon! Jen will talk to Rocco
	+ Merchandise - Sharon Scala
		- New vests and jackets are currently up in an online store from USA racing through the end of February
	+ Equipment and Rental - Phil Trzcinski
		- New trailer - still no update
		- Phil is working on the graphics to be ready to go
			* Phil will send graphics stuff by email so that we can be ready to go
	+ Membership - Rebecca Aceto
		- Current members 413 (370 in 2021), memberships 260 (235 in 2021)
	+ Webpage/Race Calendar - Melissa Barlett/Andrew Rubino
		- Still up to date, and Melissa is planning on more updates to the race calendar
	+ Facebook & PR - Jen Bachelder/Andrew Rubino
		- Social Media Features on new members like we did in 2021 - Rebecca could feed Jen some folks for this?
		- Help with the interaction of posts by liking, sharing, or commenting on any UR posts to help keep them moving!
	+ Clubs & Organizations Liaisons - Rick Gloo, Tim Kane (USATF and RRCA)
		- RRCA has availability for the Coaching class virtually for $335
	+ Sponsorship - Julie Buehner
		- Utica First will continue their $5,000 level in 2022.
		- We have in-kind sponsorship deals currently with The Fitness Mill & Accelerate Sports and we are currently working on a partnership with SPI and Erik Weinberg.
			* Fitness Mill is still having some leadership issues, and we are not entirely sure if our deal will be honored. Jim will check in.
		- Sybil Johnson will be contacting Julie to help develop some former sponsors we lost over the past few years.

## OLD BUSINESS

* Race Directors’ Meeting - Saranac Brewery - Sybil Johnson
	+ Meeting went well, minimally attended ~25 people total (6 UR Board)
	+ It cost a lot to be at Saranac, and perhaps we should be looking into different options for the future, or other ways to pay
		- Ask other clubs to kick in more
		- Look into a different location, or a simpler event for next year

**NEW BUSINESS**

* The Club Handbook has been updated as officers met to make revisions and updates.
* The Club Bylaws were reviewed by officers. The Board of Directors needs to review changes, amendments, and revisions for approval at our March meeting.

Note: Any Code of Conduct forms note signed by Board Members will need to be signed. Please sign and give to Melissa. Melissa will email you if they aren’t signed.

There is a lack of EMS personnel for some of the things going on, and they may not be available for D-Runs, especially if we want coverage for our major events. We will have an AED for the trailer and an updated first aid kit, and the city can help make CPR/AED training available free of cost.

Dani asked about Board Insurance, the RRCA insurance has an amount of coverage in this area. Jim Mott has been looking into legal opinions related to some things, and will report back.

7:43pm adjourned.

**Next Meeting**

Monday, Monday, March 14th, 2022 at Boilermaker Offices at 6 pm.