



FINGER LAKES RUNNERS CLUB

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

January 8, 2012, 5:30pm

708 Rhodes Hall, Cornell University

In attendance: Board members Liz Brundige, Casey Carlstrom, Joel Cisne, Jill Cusack, Maria Costanzo, Nancy Kleinrock, Gary McCheyne, Chris Reynolds, Joe Reynolds, Bruce Roebal, Steve Shaum, Bob Talda, Lorrie Tily, Chris Irving, Nick Scalfone, Andy Jordan, Gerrit Van Loon, Sue Aigen, Melissa Hubisz, Shelly Marino; and FLRC member Maple Hubisz.

Meeting called to order at 5:34pm.

President's Welcome: President Joel Cisne shared his reflections on the past year, providing some statistics on mileage (27,712 miles covered by the club, among which were 700 miles on the track, 13,782 on roads and 13,941 on trail). He provided various age records (oldest and youngest), and noted that the club had served the community with a variety of donations, including \$3K in scholarships, \$3K for the waterfront trail, \$1500 to Wilderness Search and Rescue, \$300 for FLTC (who maintain the trails we love to run), \$600 for the 4-town ambulance, \$150 from the 5&10 to fire and police, \$200-\$300 in support of the Virgil Crest aid station and \$1500 to the Ithaca Youth Bureau for their youth running programs. Joel noted that there were some difficult times when contentious issues arose in 2011, and he hoped that 2012 efforts would be productive and fulfilling, with an air of love and mutual respect guiding our discussions.

Additions or deletions to the agenda: The agenda date was corrected to 2012. Shelly Marino moved and Bob Talda seconded that the amended agenda be approved. It was approved unanimously. Nancy asked that all of today's handouts be sent electronically to the board. Joel agreed to do this.

Approval of the December minutes: Liz added that Joe had moved to table discussion of the banquet until the January meeting. This was added to the minutes. Maria moved and Nick seconded that the amended minutes be approved. Motion passed unanimously.

Races and Activities:

January Track Meet (Bruce Roebal): 90 athletes competed. All went well. The web site had said that the relay would be 400mx200mx200mx400m, but the actual relay was 800x200x200x400, which was a little daunting to some of the GIAC participants, who found when they toed the line that they would be running 800 rather than 400. Bruce will contact the GIAC coaches to apologize for the discrepancy. It was noted that one of the GIAC moms was providing Marathon Bars. Next Track Meet will be held Feb 2, with 2mi, 800m, 200m and 1 mile events.

As there were several new members present, the meeting was paused as each board member introduced himself to the group.

Winter Chill 5K Series (Joel Cisne): This will be a community development effort, as all people signing up for the series will also receive FLRC membership for their \$15 race fee. Joel provided the Board with a copy of the City of Ithaca Special Event Permit Application and instructions. The Board reviewed the membership form and waiver, and the Race Application, which will be amended as suggested by Sue Aigen. The Secretary will proofread the final version of the race app once it is completed.

Nancy moved and Gary seconded that we accept the 5K Winter Chill Series as part of the FLRC Calendar of Races. Discussion: Lorrie asked if there were any date conflicts with the winter track series. Yes, one date. Should the date be changed, lest there be a shortage of volunteers and/or participants? In terms of equipment, the only thing that would need to be hauled from the meet to Cass Park would be the clock. Would indoor runners be participating in an outdoor event, and vice versa? It was suggested that since part of the point of

the series is to solicit new members, some of whom may be new runners, perhaps the first three 5K races of the series should be held as specified, and then the next Sunday instead of having the last race of the series, the participants could be encouraged to attend the track meet, with the 5K series concluding the following Sunday. The motion, with amended dates, was passed.

Finances (Joel speaking for Sophia): See handouts. As of the end of 2011 we had \$58,615, gross of \$80K, net \$7k, up 14% from 2010. .

Report from the Finance Committee (Joel, Bob, Sue, Lorrie) and discussion of the proposed FLRC

banquet: Handouts included a copy of the FLRC Financial Policies and Procedures. The committee pointed out that large expenditures must be run past the financial committee. Bob mentioned the dissent among the board concerning the use of club funds to completely subsidize banquet costs. The committee recommends to the board that FLRC does not pay the full cost of the dinner but instead subsidizes \$6/member, or up to \$15/member family, so a member would pay \$20 for himself and \$26 per guest. Bob spoke to the legal responsibilities of a 501C3 organization: full gifts are a questionable area, but subsidizing would be less likely to incur IRS difficulties. We definitely do not want to violate our 501C3 status.

Sue said that in the past they had looked at how other organizations handled banquets, asking an expert.com and two other legal opinions. We want to take a conservative approach in terms of 501C3.

The original conception of the banquet was to make it a real meeting of members. Chris R and Joe envisioned an awards ceremony. Jill questioned whether a dinner granting awards to the folks who win races would be a draw for members who may run but are not race winners. Chris R asked how we can limit the banquet to only 80 people. Bob suggested that it's like a race, where everyone is encouraged to register early as there is a cap on participant numbers. Lorrie said that back in the days when FLRC held banquets at Turback's, the banquet was limited on a first come, first served basis, and the club subsidized about \$5 per member. There were usually 30-40 attendees. Bob asked if any of the banquets were oversubscribed; Lorrie didn't think so.

Membership Report (Melissa): 112 family memberships, 98 individual, 28 life, 2 teams. Total of 240 members, an increase.

Further discussion on the banquet: Joel asked whether the board should revisit the approval of the banquet. Chris Irving cited Roberts's Rules, which say that a revote call can be brought forward by the prevailing (not the opposing) opinion. Bob Talda, part of the prevailing opinion, proposed and Joel seconded that the board reopen discussion on the banquet. Gary then stated that he withdraws his involvement with the banquet. Nick asked that if we've resolve the 501C3 issue, what else remains as a problem? Bob said that the issue had become very personal. Basically, if we decided to have the banquet, we can't fully subsidize it. Should we rent a place large enough to accommodate the entire membership and then risk having only 40 people attend? He asked why FLRC stopped holding banquets in the past. Lorrie said it probably had a lot to do with Turback's closing and Joe Dabes becoming less active in the club.

In response to a question of procedure, Lorrie said that the board had always followed Robert's Rules loosely.

Steve asked that a vote be taken on the motion to revisit the banquet issue. Motion passed.

Joel asked if we should hold a banquet. Joe went back to the club's mission statement. An awards banquet is a worthy cause, but a committee should be formed to work out how the banquet will proceed. Joel asked who would be interested in forming a social event committee. Bob, Nick, Joe and Joel volunteered, and will report to the board at the Feb meeting.

Steve noted that the annual picnic hasn't been particularly well-attended, and perhaps this event should be ramped up. Nancy noted that in the bylaws that part of the president's role is planning social events. Bob asked that further discussion and comments about the banquet issue be sent via email to the committee members.

Newsletter (Liz): The newsletter is basically ready, but on hold pending a few items. It turns out that the person chosen for a member profile is not actually a member, so that had to be tabled.

Joel said that the newsletter position is an appointed one, and perhaps we should consider hiring out all or part of the quarterly publication. Lorrie suggested that first we reach out to the membership to find someone willing to take it on, and perhaps also check with other clubs like High Noon and ITC. Liz and Nancy felt that the newsletter could

be produced by a committee. Nancy would be willing to do the race results and the layout. Others could be solicited to assist.

Marketing: Film nights (Lorrie): Ian Golden is still negotiating for the films, to see if the film people will waive their fee. The cost is \$850/film for the venue. ITC is also interested, so there may be a 3-way split of the cost (Ian's store, FLRC (\$300), and ITC (\$300)). Steve asked about the possibility of using a venue like Kennedy Hall. Ian is trying to promote downtown Ithaca, so an on-campus venue wouldn't be appropriate.

The board had already voted to provide \$500 total for two movies (one biking, one running). Lorrie moved that the board reopen this issue, and amend the approval to \$300 per film. Bob seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Website (Maria): The new site should go live next week. Maria will need more money for additional work from Bob Marteau, who charges \$70/hour. Maria moved that \$500 be made available for current work and future adjustments to the site. Casey seconded. Discussion: Maria said that not all features will be available when the site first goes live; links to the old site will be added along with other features, as time permits. The old material will not be taken down. Motion passed.

Equipment (Joe): We need new bib numbers. Joe will also look into new signage. Right now there's a \$250 limit on equipment that can be purchased without further board approval. Even the race numbers will cost more than that. Sue Aigen suggested that the finance committee should update the limit to something more in tune with today's costs.

Lorrie presented a proposal to purchase 19 2'x7' stakeable mile markers with the FLRC logo, numbered 1 through 13, and 1 through 6, for a cost of \$3351.79. They could be used at Skunk, Twilight, Fillmore and perhaps at trail races. Chris Irving felt that the finance committee should deal with expense issues like this, making their recommendation to the board. Gary pointed out that there are no committees mentioned in the bylaws. Nancy noted out that according to the bylaws the president may appoint committees. Gary asked if perhaps the markers could be shorter, to make them more usable for trail races. The question of double-sided printing was also raised. Lorrie will look into these issues. Chris Irving made a motion to approve up to \$3500 for the purchase, with input from the equipment manager, of 19 mile markers. Chris R seconded. Motion passed.

VP Business: Trails (Joe): Entry for the 50s is online only this year. 99 entries so far. Club members are encouraged to apply now, as the race will probably reach its 250 ceiling soon.

VP Business: Roads (Nick): Nick presented a proposal, Road Trip Competitive Initiative (see handout), asking for club subsidization of elite runner expenses to travel and/or participate in major events as is done by other clubs such as GVH. He noted that FLRC has lost a lot of elite runners to clubs that provide financial support. Discussion ensued, asking about support of elites vs non-elite runners. Would it be a conflict of interest for a board member to apply for a subsidy? Nothing was decided except to revisit this proposal in the future.

In addition, Joel resolved that we aim to organize group runs, and organize carpools to events. Maria said that the new website has the potential to use a forum function though it is not yet enabled. Casey thought this would be easy to set up. It would provide a space for this sort of sharing. Gerrit said that carpooling to events like BPAC would be very useful. He also felt that it would be very good to have FLRC uniforms. Steve and Lorrie are meeting with Ian concerning FLRC uniforms.

Other issues: Lorrie announced that Joe will be guest speaker at Fleet Feet next week, sharing his wealth of experience on trail racing. Nancy reported that there is a Hike the Whole Trail event on the FLT on Tortoise Race Day. The Tortoise race course is not on the FLT. She asked if anyone would be interested in organizing to cover a part of the FLT. Shelly said that if such a group is organized, there might be insurance ramifications if it were advertised as a club event.

Bob made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Gary. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned circa 8pm.

Submitted with all due respect by Shelly Marino, board secretary.