



**FINGER LAKES RUNNERS CLUB  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

July 9, 2014 5:30pm

170 Roberts Hall, Cornell University

**In attendance:** board members Shelly Marino, Steve Shaum, Lorrie Tily, Denice Cassaro, Rusty Russell, Maria Costanzo, Gary McCheyne, Joel Cisne, Gerrit van Loon (late), Sue Aigen (late) and FLRC member Eli Shaum.

Meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm by President Joel Cisne. At that time there were only 8 board members present – not a quorum. Steve passed around a thank you note that Nancy had received from the Seneca 7, thanking FLRC for providing 2 aid stations.

A quorum was reached. Meeting proceeded.

**Previous and upcoming races; current activities:**

**Twilight (Maria):** Everything went well. There were 360 runners. There were a lot of no-shows due to weather.

**Tortoise & Hare (KC emailed an update):** There were a record number of runners, circa 200. Beautiful day.

**Finger Lakes 50s (Steve):** Lorrie was congratulated on her fine 50 mile run. The race went extremely well, and Steve shared with the board one of many congratulatory emails he has received from participants praising the fine organization of the race. He had thanked all the volunteers via email, and gave special thanks to Gerrit, Eli and others at the meeting for all of their help. The awards were overwhelmingly popular: the carved cows, the chairs with the race logo, the cow signs, the pint glasses and the beer. Next year's race will be on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Steve has already reserved the campsite, and he has next year's race shirts in his closet. He also praised the timing company, ARE Event Productions out of Albany.

**Women's Distance Festival (Denice):** They have a full slate of volunteers. Sue has been having problems reaching the listserv list. She uses a yahoo account to do so. Lorrie reported that yahoo accounts are currently a problem. There are 60+ preregistered. The weather should be nice. Sue arrived and brought a map for Lorrie, who will be marking the course this evening. Sue has prepped bibs for the pre-registrants. Shirts are ready. The equipment will go home with Melissa & Jay for Frolic, and Lorrie for Fillmore.

**Fillmore 5k (Lorrie):** 20 are pre-registered thus far, which she considers low. She is advertising in many venues. She said that if the race does not have at least 70 participants this year then we might consider dropping this race from the calendar.

**Forest Frolic (Melissa via email):** 32 pre-registrants. She will get food from Steve – extra food from FL50s. Gerrit will volunteer to marshal at the figure 8, and then sweep the course.

**Forge the Gorgeous (Joel):** 3 pre-registrants. Jessica is publicizing the race in many venues.

**Turkey Trot (Joel):** Since Bruce no longer has a truck to carry the canned food donations, he would like to change to asking runners to donate \$2-\$5 instead of bringing canned food.

**Review and approval of the June minutes:** Gary moved, Gerrit seconded that the minutes be approved. The board approved the minutes.

## **Committee Reports**

**Finances (Joel):** Sophia sent the financial info via email. Joel reviewed the Skunk information. Lorrie asked again whether the ham radio people had been given a donation. From the financial info it looks like they have not. In previous years she gave them \$1K. Joel will check into this.

We currently have \$82,900 in assets. There has been a substantial increase in the scholarship fund and in the mutual fund.

Massage therapist Dale Cooper provided massages at the FL50s, for tips. The question arose: should FLRC compensate him for his time? Invite him to other races? Send an end-of-year check? No decision was reached.

**Membership (Melissa via email):** 202 individual, 184 family, 27 life, 413 total.

**News and Outreach:** KC is not present to report on whether she had received a response from Herb Engman concerning the Ithaca trails sponsorship.

## **Marketing & Programming:**

**How should we promote and sponsor events? (Joel):** Joel is looking into using the Cayuga Nature Center for a board retreat, and we are looking for a group facilitator to help with the discussion. Lorrie and Sue said that the last board retreat, held at Casowasco, was successful. Steve suggested other locations belonging to Cornell.

**FLRC Members' Picnic (Joel):** Perhaps dovetail this with a race? Lorrie felt there wasn't enough lead time. It looks like we will build it into next year's race calendar, and perhaps skip it for this year.

**Annual Meeting:** When? Who will organize it? This year it was held in February, with special guest Charles Guttman, whose presentation on legal aspects of a non-profit was illuminating and helpful.

**Web presence (Maria):** Virtually everything has now been fixed. The site works better and is more secure.

**Equipment (Gary):** Should we buy a bigger generator, as the current one is not powerful enough to run the coffee makers? Lorrie suggests that it might be better to rent one. Gary will look into both options.

**Scholarship (Lorrie):** Lorrie presented the last one on June 19<sup>th</sup> at the Moravia awards ceremony. She looks forward to receiving photos of the ceremonies, and will update the web site and send out a press release.

**Other VP Business:** No VPs are present.

**Policies & Procedures:** We have no guidelines for adding events. Joel prefers that these should be at the discretion of the race directors. Gary felt that this was a good topic for the board retreat, along with reviewing and updating the bylaws. Gerrit asked if it might be better to keep the bylaws as they are. The club continues to evolve. What direction should it take in the future? Steve feels that a specific agenda is needed in order to make the retreat most useful. Charles Guttman may be asked to re-examine our bylaws. He made suggestions about them at the annual meeting; Gary and Maria were asked to recirculate these. Possible retreat discussion topics include bylaws review, finance committee enshrinement (the finance committee is not in the current bylaws), financial policies, race director oversight, mission and programming.

**ADA policy:** This discussion arises from the recent bad press the Syracuse Track Club experienced when they denied participation in the Cazenovia race to wheelchair-bound participants pushed by runners. Denice differentiated between two possible approaches that the club could take: responding when an ADA person asks to participate (as with Amelia and the Skunk 10k), as opposed to actively advertising that events are open to all comers. Gary stipulated that we must first be sure we are protected in terms of law and insurance. Gerrit said that we learned that next year we should provide a pacer for Amelia. It was agreed that before creating a policy we need to have full information on our insurance coverage and liability. Joel will contact our agent at Star Financial for this.

**NY Summer Games:** We were asked to promote this event, which appears to be new and sponsored by a local wrestling organization. The event appears to have a facebook page but not any other presence. It appears to be legit, but the board was not enthusiastic about promoting it.

Gary moved and Gerrit seconded a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm

Post-meeting announcement: Rusty Russell has agreed to accept the president's appointment to fill the VP Trails position for the duration of the term.

Submitted by Shelly Marino, Secretary, FLRC

*Next meeting is Wednesday, August 13, 2014*