



FINGER LAKES RUNNERS CLUB
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

June 10, 2020 at 5:30 PM
Virtual meeting held via Zoom

Attendance

- **Present:** Sue Aigen, Mike Allinger, Heather Cobb, Pete Dady, Adam Engst, Tonya Engst, Charlie Fay, Jullien Flynn, Emily Funk, Nancy Kleinrock, Pete Kresock, Steve Shaum, Charlie Trautmann, Gerrit Van Loon, Bill Watson
- **Absent:** Gary McCheyne, Mickie Sanders-Jauquet
- **Club members and guests:** Dave Kania, Bruce Roebal, Michael Stone, Lorrie Tily.

Introduction (5:30–5:40)

- Welcome of the board
- Review of meeting materials
- Revisions to the agenda
- Approval of the May meeting minutes
 - Charlie Fay moves to approve the minutes as submitted. Accepted.
- Acknowledgment of notable volunteer efforts:
 - Alex Kleinerman has been working hard to wrap up virtualSkunk Cabbage and communications regarding the cancellation of the Finger Lakes 50s.
 - Congratulations to Emily Funk for completing her doctorate and preparing to move to Davis.

Reports & Discussion (5:40–7:14)

Diversity (Adam Engst)—5 minutes

- Challenge to the board for the future—what can we do to encourage more diversity in FLRC and the local running community?
- Increased awareness of diversity societally is obviously a really big thing currently.
- Adam was in touch with Yassine today, following Yassine's article in Trail Runner; Yassine recommends each board member think about increasing diversity in our running community in general and in the club more specifically.
- Charlie T. brings up similar issues in the birding community, which got Charlie to think about the discomfort that people of color feel uncomfortable in certain environments, and the running community unfortunately falls into that category.

Finance—20 minutes

- [Report](#) on the club's financial position as of June 2020 (Mike Allinger)
 - It is generally noted that the 2020 budget is irrelevant because we are not putting on races this year nor incurring expenses.

- Sue notes that \$10K of the Blackrock account holdings is in cash, which can be tapped if needed for, for instance, registration reimbursements.
- She also notes that management fees are overt for that account; fees are not out of line with other types of managed accounts, but appear large because of being broken out.
- Chris I. cut the refund checks for FL50s, and Mike A. mailed them out today.
 - The club will honor additional refund requests, but only before the intended race date.
- Finance Committee recommendations on charitable contributions (Charlie Fay)
 - For 2020, the Finance Committee's recommendation to the board is that we put all future charitable giving for the year on hold based on the lack of any revenue. 2021 is currently too uncertain for us to even suggest a budget, but we'll revisit at the end of the year when we're working on the budget for 2021, and of course we can revisit the question at any time once it looks like revenue is starting up again.
 - The sense of the finance committee is to postpone donations, but not to make a commitment at this time *not* to make donations to outside nonprofits.

Philanthropy (Mickie Sanders-Jauquet)—10 minutes

- With regard to the request for FLRC to sponsor the Peter de Mott Peace Trot in the amount of \$100, the Philanthropy Committee recommends rejecting the request. The decision was based on lack of FLRC revenues this year, a discomfort with sponsoring an event whose proceeds benefit a semi-religious charity unrelated to running or fitness, and a worry that we just said yes in the past because a former race director asked. The Philanthropy Committee is working on a procedure for such requests in the future.
 - Charlie F. moves that the board accept the decision of the Philanthropy Committee to reject the Peter de Mott Peace Trot sponsorship request.
 - Seconded. Approved unanimously.
- Finger Lakes Trail Conference membership (Nancy Kleinrock)
 - Discussion of whether FLRC should renew and at what level? And if we're renewing at the Business level, who will coordinate an ad for the FLTC newsletter?
 - Typically, FLRC donates roughly \$1000 to the FLTC.
 - Club members are using the FLT heavily, perhaps more heavily than in normal years, making Pete recommend continuing with our usual level of donation.
 - Pete D. moves that the club renew its Finger Lakes Trail Conference membership at the Business/Organization level of \$1000 for 2020–2021?
 - Seconded. Overwhelmingly approved, with one no vote and one abstention, after additional discussion during which a provisional lower donation amount was also considered.

Governance (Charlie Trautmann)—20 minutes

- Introduction to the discussion of FLRC's 2020 bylaws revision
 - The Governance Committee is reactivating to comply legally, identify right things to do, and to put policies and procedures in place for the long-term effectiveness of the club.
 - The people currently involved are Adam, Charlie F., Charlie T, and Bill Watson.
 - Items to tackle by the committee:
 - Bylaws
 - Conflict of interest policy (noting changing laws in this regard since the current document was drawn up several years ago.
 - Diversity, equity, inclusion statement
 - How the group proposes to do its work:
 - Act as a steering committee that will:
 - Introduce topics
 - Perform research and framing
 - Gather input from the board and others
 - Propose policies and facilitate discussion

- The committee intends never to introduce a policy issue and ask for approval at the same meeting.
 - The intention is to act in a facilitating mode.
 - The first item to work on:
 - Conflict-of-interest policy and sign-off form; expectation is to provide information at the board's next meeting.
 - Second item to work on:
 - Membership: The FLRC is, legally, a membership organization, as pertaining to the fact that club members vote on who sits on its board.
 - It can be a matter of discussion whether the club should retain this current structure.
 - Alternatively, the organization could be structured with a self-perpetuating board, with current board members developing a slate of board members going forward (for an appropriate length of time).
 - Adam believes that the club's members are insufficiently involved in the management of the club and therefore a nonmembership organization might suit FLRC better.
 - Jullien counters that the board could become cliquish and not welcoming new board members.
 - Adam notes that a well-functioning board should seek diversity and inclusion of people reflecting the totality of the local running community.
 - As a long-running staple of the Nominating Committee, Gerrit notes that it has been a challenge to find appropriate, interested parties to invite to join the board.
 - The discussion will continue, with no decisions being made now (as previously stated).
 - Nancy notes that the request for volunteers for this initial effort was specified toward the policies-and-procedures function of the committee, whereas there were quite a few others who have expressed interest in being involved regarding other aspects of the committee's work.
 - There was no intention to be exclusive; Nancy will be involved with the committee going forward, particularly regarding revision of the bylaws; Lorrie Tily will also be invited to participate.

Road, Trails, Track (Adam Engst)—20 minutes

- At a meeting with the race directors of the Fillmore 5K (Lorrie Tily and Chris Irving), the Forest Frolic (Pete Dady and Mike Stone), and Forge the Gorges (Lorrie and Chris), along with Mickie Sanders-Jauquet as VP of Roads (VP of Trails Gary McCheyne was unable to attend at the last minute), we discussed a hierarchy of variables to consider when evaluating whether or not to cancel a race or other event. The proposed hierarchy is:
 - *New York State*: If we're not at least in Phase 4 of the reopening, we can't legally have a race.
 - *Local permits*: We have to be able to get permits from the city, school, park, or forest.
 - *Race director*: If any FLRC race director isn't comfortable holding their race, the board can make a decision about whether to cancel or find a new race director.
 - *Board*: Even if the previous variables made having a race technically possible, the FLRC board would need to vote to make sure the club is comfortable having the event.
 - *Volunteers*: Would enough people be willing to work, entirely voluntarily? We all twist arms to get people to help, but that's problematic when health concerns are in play.
 - *Runners*: A race doesn't necessarily need that many runners to happen, but there is a lower limit below which it's not worth doing regardless.
- The group's decision was to recommend the cancellation of Fillmore, Frolic, Forge, the August track meet, and the Annual Picnic.
- At that point, the question was raised if we should—in the interests of not wasting time having these discussions repeatedly each month—cancel the rest of the FLRC 2020 race calendar,

which would mean Ithaca 5&10, Monster Marathon, Danby Down & Dirty, and Turkey Trot. The consensus was that without either a vaccine (extremely unlikely) or a treatment that removes the risk of a COVID-19 infection being life-changing, everyone felt that canceling the races made the most sense. It was noted that Ian's Cayuga Trails 50 and other commercial races might be going on, but that FLRC does not need the revenue to stay in business, unlike commercial race companies.

- Adam subsequently raised the issue with the remaining race directors. Although Monster and Danby in particular have fewer exposure opportunities, the race directors seemed amenable either to waiting longer or canceling early. They have all been invited to this meeting.
- Jullien notes that it would be valuable to consider strategies to make races safer, also noting that there could well be forthcoming information on the outdoor transmission of the COVID-19 virus.
- Bill, Dave, and Nancy add that it remains reasonable to take a wait-and-see approach regarding fall races, while it also being important to provide clear information regarding when a decision would be made to hold/cancel the various fall races (with the possible exception of converting the Turkey Trot into a virtual race if need be, because of the importance of the club's donation to Loaves and Fishes).
- Charlie F. moves to cancel Fillmore, Frolic, Forge, the August track meet, and the Annual Picnic?
 - Seconded. Approved with one abstention.

Events (Adam Engst)—5 minutes

- Results from [our survey about virtual events](#)
- Who's up for coordinating an event?
- Mike S. suggests creating a fabric 2020 FLRC patch and per-race rockers (an arc-shaped patch) to place around the patch as an incentive for people to get out and run the various race courses, as a way to keep the running community engaged.
 - The question is who would head up such an initiative and serve as virtual-race director.
 - Mike will speak with Pete D. about co-coordinating this, with communications taking place through the Communications Team subforum.

Communication (Adam Engst)—5 minutes

- Communicated race cancellations and Skunk medal pickup
- Didn't do a Footnotes for May

Web/Tech Team (Adam Engst)—No need for discussion

- Discourse community engagement report
 - Currently has 697 users, 274 posts in the past 30 days, and 11,100 pageviews

Membership (Adam Engst)—No need for discussion

- [Members](#): 628 members, up from 598 at this time last year
- Memberships: 387 memberships, same as last year
- [Breakdown](#): 284 individual, 343 family members

Equipment (Gary McCheyne)

- Skip unless a report is submitted or time is requested.

Volunteer (Sue Aigen and Adam Engst)

- Skip unless a report is submitted or time is requested.

Group Runs (Heather Cobb and Adam Engst)

- Skip unless a report is submitted or time is requested.

Sue moves to adjourn at 7:14 pm. Seconded; unanimously approved.

Planned 2020 Board Meeting Dates

- Jul 8, 2020
 - Aug 12, 2020
 - Sept 9, 2020
 - Oct 14, 2020
 - Nov 11, 2020
 - Dec 9, 2020
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