



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

May 12, 2021 at 5:30 PM  
Virtual meeting held via Zoom

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**Attendance**

- **Present:** Mike Allinger, Heather Cobb, Adam Engst, Tonya Engst, Jullien Flynn, Nancy Kleinrock, Gary McCheyne, Mickie Sanders-Jauquet, Steve Shaum, Charlie Trautmann, Bill Watson
  - **Absent:** Peter Dady, Charlie Fay, Pete Kresock
  - **Club members and guests:** Lorrie Tily
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**Reports & Discussion (5:30–7:03)**

***Welcome of the Board (Adam Engst)—5 minutes***

- Revisions to the agenda
  - No revisions.
- Acceptance of the [April meeting minutes](#)
  - Accepted.
- Acknowledgment of notable volunteer efforts
  - Chris Irving and Lorrie Tily are acknowledged for putting on a well-received Women's Distance Festival.
  - Pete Kresock is acknowledged for getting race pages posted.
  - Mickie is acknowledged for doing a variety of background work for races.
- Volunteer Coordinator and Skunk Cabbage race director positions remain open
  - Update on task force to define the Volunteer Coordinator position
    - Adam invites board members and RDs to meet to discuss desired roles for a volunteer coordinator

***Diversity (Jullien Flynn)—20 minutes***

- Report on April 21, 2021, Diversity Committee meeting; please read [Jullien's summary](#) before the meeting
  - There is a goal to build connections with local organizations serving people of color (GIAC and others).
  - There is a goal to include a member spotlight in the Footnotes newsletter, highlighting a different individual each month, including people of various backgrounds; Ved Gund will be the first to be spotlighted.
  - There is a goal to develop a speaker series featuring people from underrepresented communities who have a connection to our club.
    - Yassine Diboun, Leon Atkins, and Mirna Valerio are the first group to approach for this opportunity, with a goal of having a broad range of viewership.
      - Steve asks about how best to market these talks, particularly if Yassine or Mirna—both well known—agree to speak.
      - Jullien notes that we would definitely seek synergy with other area clubs and also put the word out to appropriate segments of the broader running community and to the speaker's personal networks.
    - The intention is to host two two speakers in 2021.
    - The committee believes that offering a stipend is appropriate.
      - The current (2021) budget does not include funds to bring in speakers.
      - With many people having registered for the FL50s, appreciable funds should be available.
- **Motion:** Jullien moves that FLRC shall amend the 2021 budget to include up to two people in a diversity speaker series with a \$200 per-talk stipend.

- Seconded.
- Discussion: Steve suggests a somewhat higher cap on the speaker fee pool of funds; Bill proposes increasing the budget line item to \$600.
- **Revised Motion:** Jullien moves that FLRC shall amend the 2021 budget to include up to two people in a diversity speaker series with a \$200 per-talk stipend and a \$600 annual cap.
- The motion passes unanimously.

**Group Runs (Mickie Sanders-Jauquet, Heather Cobb)—5 minutes**

- Update on FLRC Challenge-focused group runs
  - Mickie reports that the most recent two runs (of the Danby Down 'n' Dirty and Tortoise courses) went well, with 12 people running the DnD course and 10 people running the T&H course.
  - Heather and Mickie will discuss how to coordinate a group run on the Thom B course this coming Saturday, 8:45 am; Heather will contact Matt Clark and perhaps others to help lead the run and will put notice out tonight about the group run.

**Events (Adam Engst)—5 minutes**

- Discussion of Annual Picnic planning
  - There is every expectation that there should be no problem holding a pavilion-based event mid-to-late summer.
  - Lorrie's caterer—son Jacob Marnell has no weekend availability, but she is inquiring about weekdays.
  - Adam, Mickie, and Gary will consult about how best to draw in several people to collectively organize the picnic, each with a manageable task load.

**Communication (Adam Engst, Tonya Engst)—5 minutes**

- Any requests or suggestions for the May Footnotes?
  - Adam requests that anyone with a suggestion direct it to him.
- Tonya Engst has drafted—and several board members have edited—a [statement for the FLRC website about the club's endorsement of HR 763](#). Tonya invites board members to make all final comments or suggestions by the end of the week, with the intention of posting it to the website this weekend.

**Finance (Mike Allinger)—10 minutes**

- Report on the [club's financial position](#) as of May 2021 (Mike)
  - Mike discusses the month's financial statements.
- For other business, see the [Finance Committee meeting notes](#).

**Road, Trails, Track (Various)—15 minutes**

- Update on FLRC Challenge (Adam)
  - 155 participants in the FLRC Challenge
  - Garnering significant engagement and compliments
    - At week 11, the 5000-collective-miles mark was surpassed.
  - 51 kids in the FLRC Kids Challenge
    - Four kids have exceeded 25 miles already.
  - FLRC 100K Ultra Challenge generating significant interest
    - Running all ten courses in one day is an inviting challenge for many local ultrarunners.
  - Getting lots of mentions in other venues and it's bringing in many new names
    - Adam has arranged for writeups/interviews to appear in various local forums.
  - 10 people have completed all 10 courses, with Gabrielle Woo having completed them all twice now
- [Race report](#): WDF on May 9, 2021, went off well with 74 runners, including two from Germany (Lorrie)
  - All went well:
    - People liked the out-and-back course, both seeing people as they passed and the beauty of the course.
    - People loved the muffins.

- There were no bathroom facilities available (as per Town of Dryden stipulations), but Lorrie says this wasn't a gamechanger for anyone.
  - Lorrie had bottles of water on hand, but few people partook.
  - Perhaps as many as 75–80% self-reported having been fully vaccinated.
- Upcoming race: Thom B. Trail Runs on May 22. Updates and status? (Gary)
  - Portapotties have been ordered; Gary has discussed aid stations/food, and anticipates having volunteers lined up by the weekend.
- Upcoming race: Tortoise & Hare on June 6. Updates and status? (Mickie)
  - Preparations are in process; she anticipates everything moving forward well.
- Upcoming race: Finger Lakes 50s on July 3. Updates and status? (Adam on behalf of Pete D)
  - Preparations are in process.
- Upcoming races: Summer track in June, July, and August (Adam)
  - The Lansing High School track is available for FLRC meets in July and August, but not June.
  - **Motion:** Adam moves that FLRC cancel the June 2021 track meet.
    - Seconded. The motion passes unanimously.
  - Discussion of the idea of making the next two track meets free to all runners due to COVID-related uncertainties and the in-person interaction in taking money, particularly given that Lansing charges only a \$5 facilities rental fee, removing a need for the meets to raise funds.
    - The board is fine with this fees-related modification for 2021.

#### **Governance (Charlie Trautmann)—20 minutes**

- Review of the discussion from last month's board meeting about board size
  - Goal: for the board to be both welcoming and productive:
    - To achieve this, the board should have a threshold so that those on it would not feel overburdened, yet also have a cap to avoid making it cumbersome for members to participate.
  - Diversity—in all its forms—of board members is desirable, in terms of background, age, skills, etc.
- Straw poll on the proposal of 10–17 board members, with 6 officers and 4–11 members-at-large
  - Most agree this is a good range; Steve believes 10 is a bit small for a board and also questions whether board size needs to be in the bylaws.
  - Tonya considers wording along the lines of “The optimal board size is between X and Y” while also including a firm range that is larger.
  - Nancy does not feel as though there is a board size problem that requires fixing (as was the case during the prior bylaws revision when the overly large board (that included all RDs) often struggled to achieve quorum.
  - Straw poll results about specifying a board size range in the bylaws: The bulk of the board is in favor of specifying board size in the revised bylaws.
    - Most members of the board are satisfied with 10 as lower limit.
    - Steve, instead, suggests a lower limit of 12 board members; aside from .
    - Nancy prefers no explicit threshold or cap.
  - A new straw poll settles on 12 as a lower limit and 17 as an upper limit.
- Discussion to solicit ideas about what backgrounds, skills, and experiences we might want to seek for future board members; note that these suggestions will not be written into the bylaws, but instead will serve as guidance for the nominating committee.
  - Adam suggests recruiting a youth running (e.g., high school coach).
  - Steve suggests recruiting someone associated with local organizations the club works with (e.g., Ithaca High School, GIAC, Ithaca Youth Bureau).

#### **Membership (Adam Engst)—5 minutes if time available**

- [Members](#): 452 members (up 28 from last month), down from 632 at this time last year
- Memberships: 281 memberships (up 22 from last month), down from 389 last year
- [Breakdown](#): 205 individual, 246 family members
- 10 usages of our offer of free membership to those hurt by the pandemic

#### **Web/Tech Team (Adam Engst)—2 minutes if time available**

- Discourse community engagement report
  - Currently has 804 users (up 12), 319 posts in the past 30 days (down 11), and 17100 pageviews (up 2500)

**Equipment (Gary McCheyne)**

- No activity on which to report.

Bill moves that the meeting adjourn at 7:03 pm. Seconded. Passes.

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**Upcoming Board Meeting Dates**

- June 9, 2021
  - July 14, 2021
  - Aug 11, 2021
  - Sep 8, 2021
  - Oct 13, 2021
  - Nov 10, 2021
  - Dec 8, 2021
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**RACE REPORTS**