



FINGER LAKES RUNNERS CLUB

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

December 9, 2015 5:30 pm

170 Roberts Hall, Cornell University

Robert's Rules Tip of the Month: Whether a motion requires a second: The requirement of a second is for the chair's guidance as to whether he/she should state the question on the motion, thus placing it before the assembly. The requirement does not apply when the motion is made by the direction of a board or committee.

In attendance:

Board members: Chris Irving, Katie Stettler, Adam Engst, Gerrit Van Loon, Scott Wehrwein, Alan Lockett, Boris Dzikovsky, Mike Allinger, Joel Cisne, Steve Shaum, Maria Costanzo, Bruce Roebal, Lorrie Tily, Mickie Sanders-Jauquet, Sue Aigen
Club members and guests: Dan Longaker, David Kania

(5:30) Welcome of Board

(5:32) Review of Meeting Materials; Revisions to the Agenda

- No revisions

(5:35) Approval of the November Meeting Minutes

- Approval is moved and seconded
- Vote: all in favor of approving the minutes

Unfinished Business (5:40)

Club Fee Amendment to family membership—Adam Engst (Decision)(10 minutes)

Motion to amend the 2016 Membership fees policy for new and renewing FLRC memberships as of 1/1/2016, as follows:

1. Individual rates will be \$20 for 1 year, \$50 for 3 years (save 17%), and \$80 for 5 years (save 20%).
2. Family rates will be \$35 for 1 year, \$90 for 3 years (save 14%), and \$140 for 5 years (save 20%).
3. Although we could define a family as related adults and children living together under one roof, we suggest that the term is sufficiently understood that there's no reason to get all nit-picky about it in our context.

Moved, seconded, unanimously approved.

Race Fee updated policy change—Adam Engst (Decision) (20 minutes)

Motion to approve the following proposal:

Pricing structure and Policies for Community Races

For FLRC's community races, we propose the following policies. The races this would apply to include Twilight 5K, Women's Distance Festival, Fillmore 5K, Thom B, Tortoise & Hare, Forest Frolic, Forge the Gorgeous, and Danby Down & Dirty.

1. The minimum cost shall be \$10 for pre-registration and \$20 for day-of-race registration. Race directors may always charge more.
2. Adult FLRC members get a standard \$5 discount for pre-registration only. There are no membership discounts for day-of-race registration.
3. All children 18 and under race may pre-register for all community races for free. Day-of-race registration for children 18 and under shall be a flat \$10, regardless of the adult fees.
4. There shall be no more in-between prices based on date. This explicitly does not apply to marquee races, where early signups are necessary for planning purposes.
5. Race directors are encouraged to close Webscorer pre-registration no more than 1–2 days before the race.
6. We will not give refunds to people who pre-register but fail to attend the race, although race directors may make exceptions, particularly in advance of the race.

Races that are exempt from these policies include our marquee races, Skunk Cabbage Classic, Finger Lakes 50s, and possibly Ithaca 5 & 10 and Monster Marathon. Also exempt are our free races, Turkey Trot and the Winter Chill 5K Series. Race directors of these races may set their own policies for cost, member discounts, age discounts, in-between prices, pre-registration closing dates, and refunds.

Motion to discuss the proposal, seconded.

Discussion:

- If race directors may set their own prices above the minimum, what's to keep them from charging odd prices like \$17? Nothing, but it's probably not too much of an issue.
- Proposal to amend minimum pre-reg price to \$15: moved, seconded.
- Discussion of Loomis, which has had no pre-registration. Suggestion to set up pre-registration but not require advance payment, since the race may be canceled if no snow.
- Suggestion to implement registration for race series, e.g. all trail races, Winter Chill, a road race series. Adam will think about how to organize this.
- Discussion of point #6 of the proposal. It could be problematic to have contradictory written policies. Suggestion to amend it to: "We will not give refunds."

Vote: unanimously in favor of the new policy, with the amendments that the pre-registration minimum cost should be \$15, and that our official refund policy is "We will not give refunds."

Conflict of Interest policy—Board Governance (Decision) (10 minutes)

Motion to discuss the new Conflict of Interest policy recommended by the Board Governance Committee
Motion seconded.

Discussion:

- what is "personal business"?
- Possible example: an FLRC board member whose family member benefited from an FLRC program (e.g. shoe program) would not be able to participate in discussions about the program or to vote about it.
- Or perhaps it means financial transactions between FLRC and an individual, rather than a financial entity.
- Decision to strike the first sentence of the 2nd paragraph (prohibiting "personal business") because it is too vague.
- The idea is that every board member will be required to fill out and sign this form every year.

Vote to approve with the corrections noted and that above: all 'yes' except for one abstention.

Retreat Update—Mickie Sanders-Jauquet (5 minutes)

- Retreat is set for January 16th from 9am to 3pm, Ecovillage at Ithaca
- We'll set a 2-3 year plan of action.

New Business (6:20)

Recreate a new FLRC Safety Policy—Adam Engst (Discussion) (10 minutes)

- Adam talked to USATF about sanctioning track meets. This raised the issue of safety plans. Adam suggests coming up with a written safety policy covering situations that could be encountered in our races: heat, cold, lightning, medical emergency.
- Point made that our waivers say that runners participate at their own risk.
- Having a safety policy as well as a waiver would protect us legally, as well as (most importantly) ensuring runner safety.
- Adam volunteers to lead a working group to formulate this policy.

Annual donation to the IYB in the amount of \$1500 (Decision) (5 minutes)

- This will go forward, the decision to donate was made previously.
- Has our annual \$500 donation to FLTC been made? Not yet, but we've already decided on giving this donation and it will go forward. Joel will investigate the possibility of our club becoming a "lifetime member" of the FLTC (conferred after a certain minimum level of donation).

2016 Financial Plan—Katie Stettler (Discussion/ Decision) (20 minutes)

Motion to approve the new 2016 Financial Plan recommended by the Finance Committee, seconded.

Points from Katie:

- Some race costs have previously been included in general spending, e.g. equipment, bibs, supplies, even donations to WSAR and FLTC, so the bottom line for each race has not necessarily reflected the real costs
- Support for teams (clothing, travel, individual USATF membership reimbursements) has been taken out of the new budget. If we do this in the future, we need to devise an equitable way to do it.
- Discretionary funds and marketing funds have been taken out of the budget, e.g. sponsorship of aid stations for other races, support of film festivals.
- Our current rate of spending isn't sustainable – our funds would be drained in 8 years.
- Finance committee recommends:
 1. funding 3 significant expenses in coming year: annual meeting, website development, paid bookkeeper
 2. putting all new programs on hold: shoe program; \$2100 of speaker series funding
 3. GOTR funding should be limited to \$2000 (which was the actual expense last year)
 4. no contribution to the scholarship fund this year because there is more than enough there for this year (possibly longer). Suggest coming up with a different formula for putting a portion of profits into scholarship fund.

Discussion:

- Things look grimmer than they might because we have many expenses in the coming year that will not be yearly but rather are investments, e.g. new website design – but need to budget for these ongoing
- Why is scholarship funded so differently? It is part of our mission; original idea was that it could grow to become self-sustaining, but this isn't feasible in the current economic climate.
- Should we eliminate the speaker program entirely? Suggestion that all speakers should be postponed.
- Comment that we will not consistently lose money every year – if that trend continues, we'll obviously do something different
- Having a budget will save a lot of group discussion time
- In the future when we start programs we'll also need to consider whether we can sustain them
- Comment that it would be preferable to have no discretionary expenses that we can't cover from yearly race income. Katie argues that the numbers are not that precise: estimates were made conservatively, and we could still break even this year.
- Chris suggests going with the proposed budget, not cutting the speaker program. We're in a much better position now to go forward.
- Biggest group concern is spending \$1000 for Margaret Webb to speak during a year when we could take a loss. Counter-argument that inviting speakers who will draw in new people is an investment in building our community and membership.
- One solution to a projected loss is to make more money. But we don't want to put too much pressure on our R.D.s.

- Could we postpone a decision on the speaker program until we have a better idea of this year's revenues?
- Joel wants to ensure that we have some programming budget for unexpected things that come up. Katie says it's not fair to plan to deviate from the budget in the future.

Vote by secret ballot: is \$1000 to invite Margaret Webb to speak included in this year's budget? 7 yes, 6 no, 1 abstention.

Verbal vote to approve proposed budget: All in favor except one abstention

Current Events Reports & Business (7:00)

Turkey Trot—Bruce Roebal

414 people, 2nd highest registration ever (record was 457 in 2012), beautiful day, raised \$2800 for Loaves and Fishes. Loaves and Fishes provided 7 volunteers. Tom Hartshorne groomed the course the previous day. Expenses were \$285.

Winter Chill Series—Joel Cisne/Bob Talda

Have reached phase 2 of city permit process. Still deciding what to do about the conflict between the first race and the January track meet.

Vice-Presidents' Reports & Business (7:05)

Trails—Joel Cisne

- Super Frosty Loomis: directors would like to change date from Feb. 6 to Feb. 7 because of a Rochester snowshoe race. Joel is working with them to get DEC permit.
- Calendar change for Tortoise&Hare to June 5th from June 4th (Via Email Discussion)

Roads—Alan Lockett

- Skunk registration is open, no other news.

Track—Adam Engst

- Ordered a Canon Pixma iP110 portable printer with battery, extra ink, and USB cable, as approved by the board earlier. The spending limit was \$500 but it came in at \$300. It will be used for the first time at the January track meet.
- Investigated sanctioning of track meets, but decided not to pursue it
- Update on Track Friday – a big success, ~ 20 people showed up ages 2-71, raised \$500 for FLTC. We could target a different charity (perhaps our scholarship fund) next year.

Committee Reports & Business (7:10)

Finance—Sophia Darling
Financial Statements

Membership—Katie Stettler

Membership forms can be forwarded to me at 227 Renwick Drive, Ithaca, NY 14850. Alternatively, forms can be sent to my husband, David Deitcher, via campus mail at W125 Mudd Hall. As of 12/1/15, FLRC had a total of 471 members, including 218 family members, 226 individual members, and 27 lifetime members. Memberships expiring in December 2015 and January 2016 have been notified that there may be an increase in membership rates in January 2016 and urged to renew in December prior to the increase. No new rate information was given.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:27 PM.

Next Board Meeting: January 16, 2016 (at the retreat)