

Strider Board Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2009

By Lou Thrash

Board Members in attendance: Whitney La Rocca, Miriam Terc, Lou Thrash, Andrew Keller, Lee Greb, Santos Hernandez, Steve Schroeder, Chip Maxa

Also in attendance: Stacy Stepler, Dave Stadnick, Megan Clark-Dillingham, Barry Chambers

Board Member/Committee Chair Reports

Treasurer (Andrew Keller) – General Ledger copy as of Feb 7, 2009 distributed as well as review of 2008 expenditure and budget and 2009 proposed budget.

Budget Changes for 2009: Distinguished speaker cost, quarterly meeting venues, Holiday Party venue and door prize funds, RRCA convention (only 2 officers attending), THP mile markers

2009 budget reduced by approximately \$1,800
CPA search for specialist in non-profit organizations to file taxes and update charter.

Secretary (Lou Thrash) – Marketing update.
After research and discussion with vendors for seat covers and id tags it was decided to suspend ordering of these items until new logo is developed.

Governance Committee Megan Clark-Dillingham,

Committee has reviewed by-laws to set grounds for first election held at upcoming Feb 10 meeting. Email distribution for proxy vote for those not attending. Many members running for at-large positions – three additional openings available as one non-participating member was unanimously removed and Dave Stadnick voted in to bring total of at-large positions to 4.

Houston Half Marathon, Stacy Stepler

Stacy announced her relocation to Norway and the necessity to step down as Race Director for the HHM. New director will be solicited from inside the Striders with payment and requirement communication through Stride4Fun.

2009 Houston Half Marathon Committee Report

Summary and Recommendation

In 2008, the current Houston Strider Leadership Team voted on not making any disbursements for any position related to the Houston Half Marathon until the committee had sufficient information to make a decision. Communications were sent to the membership base through Stride4Fun requesting volunteers for the Houston Half Marathon and it was clearly stated that for this one year, no volunteer would receive payment for their time. This included the race director position and all associated lead coordinator positions. Lisa Ruthven and Stacy Stepler agreed to become race directors and also agreed to maintain complete documentation that could be passed on to future race directors. They documented over 500 hours (collectively) was spent organizing and executing the race.

On Wednesday, January 14, 2009, the HHM committee met to discuss disbursements for 2009. The committee consists of Miriam Terc, Lee Greb, Stacy Stepler, Barry Chambers, Andrew Keller, Chip Maxa, Megan Clark-Dillingham, and Sandy Wollangk, All were in attendance except for Megan and Sandy.

The committee noted that the HHM is the financial bloodline of the club and cannot be compromised. The team also discussed the pros and cons of compensation, member perception, and our obligation as a non-profit organization. To better understand our responsibility, discussions also took place with RRCA director, and HARRA officers prior to the meeting and results were shared with the committee

Race Director

After careful consideration and much discussion, it was decided to recommend that the race director position become a paid position. We considered the implications for coming in too low and then finding ourselves in this same position once again in subsequent years. The other option was to not pay for the position and have each committee head be completely responsible for their part, from start to finish, with the race director acting as a project manager. Our issue with this was whether or not we could find enough committee heads that are willing to take on this responsibility so by paying the race director, he/she will be responsible for following through with all the tasks.

Lead Coordinator Positions

The committee recommends not paying for any of these positions. Consideration was given to all the other volunteers that contribute to the success of the race who are not compensated and that the paid race director would take on a bigger role. Two options are recommended: 1) small thank you gift cards be given out as a token of appreciation 2) or include these positions in a volunteer incentive program where they can accumulate points for gift cards each year. More information to follow on the volunteer incentive program.

Equipment Manager

The committee has could not reach agreement on whether or not this position should be paid and recommended waiting until a new race director is hire to discuss further.

Graphic Artist

The committee recommends paying the graphic artist as a contractor for his/her services which will help ensure a timely response when needed.

Data Entry Clerk

The committee recommends not paying for this position and sending out a request via Stride4Fun and through Stridelines. If no one

steps up, then Chip has agreed to take on this position.

Communication of Positions

The committee recommends publishing the positions of race director, and data entry clerk in Stridelines and through Stride4Fun. The race director will be responsible for ensuring the data entry clerk position is filled.

2009 Suggestions:

Replace race photographer from Brightroom to Raceshots due to difficulty with contact and lack of photograph quality/satisfaction. Race shots will provide 2 free e-blasts before the race. Replace charity from Assist the Officer to Memorial Park Conservatory and possibility of a secondary charity Recipe for Success or Food Bank. Megan Clark-Dillingham agreed to work with Stacy to research both charities and their sponsors.

New Programs, Whitney LaRocca

Volunteer Initiative & Reward Program was developed to give additional recognition for hours of assistance by club volunteers. A point system was developed that would reward members with points for each event they help in. A committee chairperson will keep track of the points and incentive rewards to be distributed at the end of the year. Rewards range from merchandise to gift cards.

Membership, Dave Stadnick

Club received reimbursement of \$1300 from sign me-up due to over charges.

Renewals notice getting good response

Some issues tabled due to time restraints:

Board to review "lifetime" status for out of state members

Privacy policy to be reviewed

Sharing news vs. open web access for non-members to be reviewed

Status of "over 70 members

Waiver on renewal application to be reviewed

Emergency contact information collected and should be readily available – to be reviewed

Consideration of registration/renewal for “news only” member to be reviewed – this would eliminate RRCA dues for those members
Membership Committee created: Miriam, Dave, Chip and Megan

Park Trails, Lee Greb

Lee and Barry recently attended the West Houston Trail Master Plans Workshop which is an effort of local organizations looking to develop a 50 mile Trail system surrounding the “energy corridor district” which includes the existing trails of George Bush, Terry Hershey and Cullen Parks. A priority criteria committee was developed to analyze which sections of the trail are of highest interest and/or importance.

SMART program & Misc Business, Miriam Terc

Search for new SMART Head Coach to be tabled due to time restraints.

Board approved payment for graphic artist to create new Strider logo. Order for new singlets and promotional items have been put on hold until logo is complete.

New Houston Strider group set up for Facebook. Members are encouraged to visit site for interaction. Message Board set up under trial basis. Members will have login and password to enter and post comments or discussions about upcoming events or schedules.

New photo album available under Shutterfly specifically for Houston Striders.

Miriam developed welcome letter to be emailed to all new members describing all aspects of the club with information regarding meetings, races, programs, and links to helpful sites.