



Hudson Mohawk Road Runners Club
General Meeting
Point of Woods Community Center
November 11, 2009 @ 7:30 PM

Attendance: Mark Warner, Jon Rocco, Ed Gillen, Nancy Briskie, Will Dixon, Barb Light, Marcia Adams, Tom Adams, Ed Neiles, Wade Stockman, Anny Stockman, Josh Merlis, Jim Tierney, Cathy Sliwinski, Chuck Terry, John Kinnicutt, Doug Bowden, Ray Newkirk, Susan DuFour, Ken Klemp, Tom Ryan, Diane Fisher, Melanie Snay, Dave Newman, Jennifer Senez, Ray Lee, Brian DeBraccio, Mike Kelly, Emily Bryans, Vince Juliano, Kari Gathen, Don Wilkins

Call to Order (M. Warner): 7:30PM

1. Reading and approval of October 14, 2009 minutes (B. Light). Motion to approve minutes as written made by Marcia Adams, seconded by Cathy Sliwinski; motion passed.

2. Reports of Officers

2.1 President (M. Warner):

2.2 Executive Vice President (J. Rocco): Schrader Scholarship information will be sent out in mid December to notify athletic directors in schools of scholarships and will put an ad in the Pacesetter. We will also reach out to Doug Kenny at the Section 2 website advising them of the program. The deadline to receive applications will be April 1st so that the committee can go over the candidates. We have increased the amount of the scholarships to \$2500 from \$1500.

2.3 Executive Vice President – Finance (C. Terry): Presentation of 2010 Annual Budget. Chuck passed out the proposed budget for 2010. Discussion continued on the budget. Voting on the budget will be next month if you have any questions, please contact Chuck Terry.

2.4 Secretary (B. Light): No Report.

2.5 Treasurer (J. Kinnicutt): No report

3. Reports of Committees

3.1. Membership (E. Gillen): Currently have 2127 members. Since October 2007 Ed Gillen has been member chair and has been working on a transition guide for whoever takes over this position. Ed Gillen will be transitioning in 2010 and a volunteer has stepped forward to take over. Diane Fisher who has been involved in memberships for non-profits will be taking over. Ed will be working with Diane over the next few months to make smooth transition. Don Wilkins asked if the person needed to be appointed. It was discussed and it was determined they didn't have to be appointed. Only officers have to be appointed and voted on. Ed suggested that there should be a system set up so that if someone does step down the next person can follow the program. Don suggests that each appointment be made and endorsed by the board. Mark suggested we work out a way that committees make appointment and then be endorsed by President. Ed suggested that this suggestion be discussed by the executive board.

3.2. Volunteers (M. Adams): Marcia has started to tally points for volunteer recognition program. Ed Gillen has reached the top level. Thank you Ed for your help-it is certainly appreciated. There will be some changes in the program. She will have an event awards drawing among volunteers at each race. Each race will have awards based on the size of the race. For GHI we would have 12 awards for each major area of

volunteers. She thinks it will be more exciting for the volunteers and more gratifying as they will be getting something back sooner than waiting for the end of year.

- 3.3. Public Relations (R. Moore): SEFCU Foundation pleased with our attendance at the expo on October 4th. They would like us to participate again next year. Thank you to the Schenectady Farmer and Green Market for the community booth they gave me to distribute Stockade-athon flyers. Stockade-athon expo went well. Gave out brochures and flyers about the club. Thank you to CJ of the Gazette newspapers for putting on the expo. Saturday, November 21st is the Adirondack Sports and Fitness Expo. It will be from 10AM to 6PM at the Saratoga City Center and will have free admission. HMRRC will have a booth there and they expect over 4000 runners and athletes to attend.
- 3.4. Race Committee (N. Briskie): Announcement of New Race Directors-Patrick Lynsky has stepped up to do Winter Series#5; he will also be working with George Regan and Friehofer's Run for Women. Had meeting with Ed Thomas so we are set with SUNY for the Winter Series races. Al Maikels has the Turkey RafAL on November 22nd; successful Stockade-athon-weather was perfect; Vince stated that there was a pull out flyer Friday before the race with an article highlighting specific work race coordinators did. He is asking the Gazette permission to reprint the article in the Pacesetter. It was a great job of articulating what the staff and race officials do to put the race on. Vince rode in the lead police car for the event and will be writing an article about that experience. Had a record number of runners this year; he cut the race off online the last 5 days.
- 3.5. Race Committee Treasurer (P. Zentko): Emailed reports. See attached.
- 3.6. Pace Setter (R. Nagengast/K. Gathen): No report.
- 3.7. Conflicts Committee (C. Terry): No report.
- 2.8 Safety Committee (V. Juliano): No report.
- 2.9 Grants Committee (R. Newkirk): Posting up on the website for January 1st grant deadline. He will get another post up for Youth Grant due January 1st. Ray wrote a summary about the grants and gave to Mark to put in the President column or as an article in Pacesetter.

Long Range Planning Committee (C. Sliwinski): Youth Running Proposal-Cathy Sliwinski passed out a budget for the youth running pilot program. Just Run is a web based program to encourage kids to run. Free to kids – it tracks mileage, has a nutrition component to learn to eat right. This program is just right as it is ready to go; the license to run the Just Run program is \$1000 which will give HMRRC a website under the Just Run program so that any schools in the program can go onto website and use it for the kids. We would like to set up two programs-one in suburban schools and one in the inner city. Trinity Institution is a service provider in Albany and they are very interested in participating. You can view the program at www.JustRun.org. Cathy would like to propose to commit for two semesters then decide what to do after that. We would have an administrator for HMRRC in charge of enrolling schools to get program running and viable; propose compensation for the administrator for the startup. Propose \$24500 in budget for pilot program in 2010; recommend that we leave the regular grants and youth grants as is but if we feel this program is good we may scale back the grant program. Target younger age groups and expand to older age groups. Mark Warner asked if certain back ground checks needed to be done when working with kids; that is why Cathy would like to work with schools so that we would not have to get involved in that aspect. Will Dixon questioned if the license included all schools or if it was per school and it is for all schools. Mark asked if there were more costs involved if it was to be expanded. Ray noted that certain items are fixed costs and some are based on individual accounts. Budget can be adjusted as

needed. Marcia objected to paying an administrator. She felt that this is a volunteer program and feel we need to make a strong effort to find a volunteer to take on this position. Don Wilkens asked how Cathy envisioned the administrator-the administrator would be the liason for HMRRRC and administer the program. Ray noted that the administrator would report to the club and be a trainer and recruiting person to get schools involved in the program and then the schools would get their personnel involved to help the kids. Josh noted that Burnt Hills had a similar program which encouraged kids to get involved from being part of that but it was hard to get faculty and kids motivated to keep coming back each week. That is why Ray wants to keep the youth grant program until we know how this program works out. Will Dixon thought this program should be listed as a separate line item under the grant section. Marcia also thought it would be a separate line item. Marcia did see this program in Portland, Oregon and it was a very good program. She feels that this program could really make a difference in the inner city schools. She feels that is where the emphasis should be. Ray does agree with Marcia about the compensation part of the administrator-he is talking to people to take on this program on a volunteer basis. Mark suggested we add the program to the budget and if we go for paid administrator to come back to the club to discuss further. Doug Bowden agreed we could make a bigger contribution in the inner city and asked if there was any consideration that the city case was a better case versus the suburban case? There was no consideration they were just trying to balance it out. Ray noted that being part of a pilot program we will learn from it and then adjust as needed. It will be added to the budget as presented unless they need a paid administrator.

3. Unfinished Business:

Vote on motion to set-aside up to \$40,000 for procurement of a vehicle (van/truck) (N. Briskie)- Doug moved to take the motion off the table; John Kinnicutt seconded; motion to vote on proposal made by Marcia Adams seconded by Ed Gillen; motion 29 in favor no opposed; motion passed. Moved forward with committee to go through process of purchasing van; Ed Neiles, Doug Bowden, Mike Kelly, Tom Adams as chairman, and Mark Warner.

5. New Business:

Pace Setter opt out from mailing option (E. Gillen)- Propose providing a choice to HMRRRC members to opt out of receiving the mailed, paper version of the Pacesetter, the club's monthly magazine. Over the past year, HMRRRC has placed a pdf version of the monthly Pacesetter magazine online on the website. It appears that it is our club's intention to continue this practice. Many of our members still prefer a paper copy over online so we would provide an option. The cost of publishing and mailing the Pacesetter to each member is prohibitively more that what the club receives back in membership dues. Running clubs around the country are starting eco-friendly "green" initiatives. Reducing paper copies would be one HMRRRC can boast about along with sneaker and t-shirt recycling. HMRRRC uses a mailing code in wild Apricot membership database to determine who receives a Pacesetter. Changing the code in the database would not be labor intensive. Membership form on website, on the fliers, and on back cover of the Pacesetter would have to be changed in the future to allow choice of opting out. Notifying members of option availability could be easily done through Pacesetter article and through email distribution list. Tom Ryan thought when the renewal notices go out we can give them an option to opt out. May save some paper but may not impact overall cost of producing Pacesetter. Josh noted that it is a great idea and no reason why we should not do this. Tom Ryan asked if it

would reduce the advertising rates-probably not as you are still viewing the ads online. John Kinnicutt noted that we should not tell our advertisers that we are opting out. Josh noted that now non members would be able to view the Pacesetter. You may be surprised how many people will view it. Don Wilkens wondered how it may affect membership. Tom Ryan noted it could attract more members. Ed Neiles noted that if we start this opt out option we need to let Robin know so she knows the numbers for the press run. Jim Tierney asked if we could find out how many people are accessing the Pacesetter online. Ed will look into. Right now we need to work on the opting out and if we proceed than we may make it so that people have to log in. We need to take one step first and then move on. Ed suggested we continue on for now as we are doing; if we see that our membership has dropped than we can change it. Kari noted that she is making efforts of getting articles written from people who may not be members so she doesn't want to restrict the visibility of viewing the Pacesetter just because they are not members. She objects to the fact that we may have to have them submit a password.

Pop-up Display to be used for Expos and Club Activities (M. Kelly) Mike met with Skyline to do the display. He has had recommendations for this company. 2 products-1 pop up from floor to ceiling all in one piece and then roll out your displays from that. Second is more portable and looks like old projector screen we would decide width; it has lighting that comes out and shines on the display. With either display we would spend between \$2700-\$2800. Price includes printing and designing of the display. Mike would like suggestions as to what goes on the display. Please let Mike know what you would suggest. Mark Warner asked how easy it would be to update with pictures. The smaller display would be more easily changed than the larger one. Anyone who would like to help Mike review the ideas for the display please let him know. John Kinnicutt suggested we let the design company tell us what to do since they are the professionals.

8. Announcements:

December refreshments – Tom and Marcia Adams

10. Adjourn: 9:20 Nancy Briskie made motion to adjourn; Will Dixon seconded, meeting adjourned at 9:20PM

11. Action items: vote on the budget; Tom Adams will give update on status of van purchase.