



Montgomery County Road Runners Club Board Meeting

Date and Time: September 7, 2023, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Location: MCRRC Clubhouse

Board Members: Brian Murphy—President, Sherene Sepehri—Vice President, Ashish Gupta—Treasurer, Jane Heinrichs—Secretary, Elliott A. Alman—At Large (absent), Jim Dahlem—At Large, Shlomo Fishman—At Large, Deb Levy—At Large, Libby Miller—At Large

Staff: Ashley Zuraf—Executive Director (absent)

Guest

Conroy Zien, Chair, Nominations Committee

Call to order

Brian called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Meeting Minutes

Sherene motioned to approve the July Board meeting minutes (the Board did not hold a meeting in August), and Deb seconded the motion. The Board approved the July Board minutes.

Nominating Committee

The Board welcomed Conroy as the new chair of the Nominations Committee to discuss the yearly Board nomination process. Conroy explained that as ambassadors for Board recruitment, the Nomination Committee looks for ways to recruit, encourage, and engage the next generation of Board members. He then described various recruiting challenges (e.g., a limited pool of applicants) the Committee has faced in recent years. Board members shared their experiences with the recruiting process. They offered suggestions for attracting more members interested in Board membership and ways to streamline the process for future Board candidates. The Board also discussed next year's expected vacancies. They noted appointing

individuals with diverse skill sets to enhance the Club's ability to thrive, adapt, and fulfill its mission is essential. Conroy said he would work with the Board and Ashley to advertise Board membership opportunities this fall.

Executive Director Report/Donations/Membership

Ashley distributed the report before the meeting. Membership as of September 7, 2023, is 3,226, an increase of 11 from the 3,215 reported on July 17, 2023.

The Board discussed the difficulties of securing and obtaining permits for local tracks for the fall and winter programs. Montgomery County track availability is scarce and typically limited to high schools where the Club must compete with high school athletics.

Financial

Ashish circulated the financial management report (for the period ending June 30, 2023) before the meeting, prepared by the club's CPA, Jennifer Smith. He noted that the Club's income was stronger than expected. Although expenses were higher this quarter, they reflect essential and crucial expenditures (such as the Club's van purchase earlier this summer).

Communications Committee

Libby discussed the Communications Committee, noting that the Committee could use additional help and engagement to ensure it can meet its goal of providing consistency regarding all Club social media accounts and a marketing and communications playbook tailored for specific programs and races. The Board discussed the importance of prioritizing the Committee's work and commended Libby for her efforts thus far.

Race Committee

Jim discussed the 2024 race schedule proposed by the Race Committee. Shlomo motioned to approve the race schedule, and Jane seconded the motion. The Board approved the 2024 race schedule. Jim noted that the Race Committee would hold a race director's meeting on October 1 to review policy updates, new information in the race director manual, and upcoming budgets.

Jim thanked the Board for reviewing the Committee's charter (revised and circulated before the meeting) and asked for a motion to approve the charter. Deb seconded the motion. The Board approved the Race Committee charter.

Jim noted that many low-key, non-certified Club races do not use standardized maps. Jim explained that standardized maps allow participants to study the course in advance and ensure consistency from year to year, making it easier for runners to track their progress or compare results. The Board agreed with Jim about the importance of standardized maps and encouraged the Race Committee to work on obtaining standardized maps for each Club race.

To improve the overall race experience, the Board also discussed using surveys to seek member/participant feedback after each race. The Board also discussed race director turnover and the importance of succession planning.

Program Committee

Deb discussed the Program Committee and its focus on helping members with their “running career path.” Does one program naturally lead to another program? Should the Club provide a glide path that helps or encourages members to try different programs or different distances? The Board discussed ways the club could help with a member’s evolution within the club.

To this end, she noted that the Club continues to receive helpful feedback through survey results from participants after they complete a program.

Club Gear--[rabbit](#)

Shlomo gave an update on discussions with rabbit regarding four fully customizable gear options/designs for a special gear run later this year with rabbit. Despite a higher price point than the Club’s current gear inventory, the Board was optimistic that members would be interested in purchasing new Club gear from rabbit, given their reputation for quality running apparel.

Project List

Brian discussed the project list he circulated to the Board before the meeting. The goal of the list is to help the Board track its outstanding projects and initiatives and hold accountable the member(s) or committee responsible for each item on the list. The list will be evergreen and updated as needed.

Roundtable/other business

Roundtable topics included the youth running series, weekly drop-in runs (such as the New Saints Row pub run, and the BabyCat pub run (forthcoming)), and the Club’s October 19 happy hour.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Brian adjourned the meeting at 9:06 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2023.