



Montgomery County Road Runners Club Board Meeting

Date and Time: January 11, 2024, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Location: MCRRC Clubhouse

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

Staff: Ashley Zuraf—Executive Director (virtual)

Guests: Denis McDonald; Richie Weiss; Lyman Jordan—members

Call to order

Brian called the meeting to order at 7:03.

Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the November Board meeting minutes before the meeting.

Track Proposal

The Board welcomed Denis, Richie, and Lyman to the meeting. The guests introduced themselves as long-time Club members who enjoy low-key Wednesday night track workouts. Everyone agreed that access to a reliable and well-lit track offers several benefits to the Club, including a centralized location for group training sessions that fosters community and camaraderie among Club members. The Board explained the challenges and expenses of securing year-round permits for centrally-located tracks with lights and the various Club programs that also need access to reliable tracks. The guests noted their preference for the Montgomery College track despite its lack of lights. They also explained how they have successfully used portable lights for dark tracks and suggested the Board consider purchasing

similar lights for the Club. The Board agreed to consider their recommendation and thanked the guests for their commitment to the Club.

Executive Director Reports/Donations/Membership

Ashley distributed the report before the meeting. Membership as of January 11, 2024, is 3,351, an increase of 40 from the 3,311 reported on December 12, 2023. The Board also discussed winter program registrations, New Year's Day 5k participation, and the "soft" registration opening for the Parks Half Marathon. Ashley noted that she is working on an application (due January 31) to make the Club an approved charity for the Combined Federal Campaign.

Financials

Ashish noted the Club is transferring its investments from Fidelity to Schwab.

Communications

Libby provided an update regarding the Communications Committee and its various workstreams. The Board acknowledged her efforts and discussed where the committee should focus. The Board suggested the Club seek additional member volunteers to help the committee with its various projects, including the Club's social media needs.

Marine Corps Marathon (MCM) Suite

Sherene and Ashley discussed the ongoing viability of the MCM suite at the Westin in Crystal City, VA, noting dwindling participation, location issues, and increasing costs over the past several years. Given these challenges, Sherene called for a motion to cancel the Club's contract (which included years 2024 and 2025) with the Westin. Jane seconded the motion, and the board voted to rescind the contract and to consider alternatives (if available), such as finish-line tents or charity partnerships.

RRCA Awards and Club Awards

Jim discussed the process of nominating Club members for national RRCA awards, such as volunteer of the year, excellence in journalism, and the kids' program.

Brian noted the Club will again recognize members at the annual MCRRC spring member meeting and awards banquet.

Committee Check-ins

Deb provided an overview of the Program Committee, noting that the Program manual is finalized and the end-of-program surveys have been revised to provide more targeted feedback.

Schlomo noted that he and another member are considering the logistics of a new summer track program aimed at shorter distances.

Jim provided an update on the Race Committee, noting that the committee's current focus is on Parks' viability, given increased expenses and new local competition (DC Half).

Roundtable/Other Business

Topics included SSL hours, stroller-friendly races, the club's medical committee, Black History Month and related events, and the Club's gear shop.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Brian adjourned the meeting at 9:08 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2024.

Addendum, January 12, 2024

The Board approved the purchase of portable lights.