



Prairie StridersTM

Running Club

BROOKINGS, SD EST. 1969

run@prairiestriders.net

www.prairiestriders.net

Box 504, Brookings, SD 57006

Tuesday, April 4, 2023

Noon, Mills Construction, 1311 S. Main Ave., and via Zoom at: TBA

Present: Dave Graves, president; Jay Larsen, treasurer; Tom Bezdichek, John Blatchford, Randy Hanson, Chuck Tiltrum. Present via Zoom: Matt Bien, Andy Carlson, Chris Gruenhagen, Brett Pettigrew.

1. Approved **Feb. 7 minutes** for posting on website.

2. Discussed need & cost for **liability insurance and loss of goods insurance** — Steve Britzman had reported via email that by state statute nonprofit boards of directors are exempt from liability. Whether we would want to insure against loss of goods would be a business decision.

After discussion, the consensus was that the likelihood of total loss of goods was slim and didn't warrant the purchase of insurance.

3. **Consider creation of a new giving level — Ultra Life Member (\$200)**

This was discussed, but didn't gain traction. However, on a unanimous voice vote, the group did agree to raise the price of a life membership to \$125 effective Jan. 1, 2024.

4. **Status of timing clock**

Background: According to April 6, 2021, minutes, the clock, carrying case and tripod were purchased for \$931. The clock hasn't been seen being taken down after Hobo Day 5K.

Given that through searches have not turned up the clock and spring racing season is right around the corner, a replacement needs to be ordered immediately.

Jay Larsen had researched several models and created a comparison spreadsheet. It was agreed that race directors like the simple operation of our previous clock, a Mile Marker 2. It also is the least expensive of those under consideration.

Members unanimously agreed to direct Jay to order a Mile Marker 2 through Rackclock.com. Cost is \$764 for the clock, \$153 for the case and \$126 for the tripod, total \$1,043.

Because the clock had last been used at the Hobo Day 5K, race director Randy Hanson said Fellowship of Christian Athletes, which is the race beneficiary, would pay for the replacement. However, the consensus was not to assign blame and just pay for the replacement out of the club treasury.

6. Consider subsidizing Brookings running camp — Andy Carlson, Chris G.

Background from Chris Gruenhagen: We hold a middle school camp for incoming 6-8 graders during the week of July 17-20 from 8:00-9:30. We usually charge about \$25 for the week which includes a shirt and post run refreshments. Typically we have about 20 runners for that week.

Grades 9-12 we have done a few different things the last 5-6 years with Covid being in the middle of that. This year we are returning to the pre-covid trip to Custer State Park for a couple days July 11-13. This camp costs the runners \$150 which covers all the basic costs outside of individual spending money. We stay in some small cabins and run mainly around Custer on the Mickelson Trail.

This generated consideration discussion about the best way to encourage youth participation in running camps, what is permissible according to the high school activities association and what Brookings School athletics has done in the past.

Bottom line: Members voted unanimously to donate \$1,000 for Coach Chris Gruenhagen to use at his discretion. It was agreed the Prairie Striders logo would go on shirts given to the participants.

Given the lateness of the season and high school association rules, it isn't practical to solicit participation for the high school camp beyond Brookings School District. However, there aren't the same logistic or regulatory issues with the middle school.

So, pending the blessing of activities director Mike Jewett, that camp will be promoted to neighboring school districts as well. Word on that camp can be distributed via the club's newsletter, Facebook page and website.

7. Discuss coordination of Run 4 Fun, Predictor and Youth Trail Run — Andy Carlson, Kati Merkley

Background: Brookings Area Youth Trail Run: Extension of the Run for Fun Series following normal stuff and Predictor. My vision was doing on the mountain bike trail so we would have access to a large parking lot in the softball field area. I have ways of making 0.25, 0.5, and 1.0 approximately length runs.

No action needed. Carlson and Merkley have conferred and agree to the following plan: Run4Fun Wednesday evenings in July with the last Wednesday also including the Predictor races (one mile, 800 and 400 meters). Merkley would oversee these. Andy will direct the youth trail run Aug. 2 at Dakota Nature Park. He still needs to contact the city for use of Dakota Nature Park on that Wednesday evening.

8. Discuss purchase of Prairie Striders photo backdrop — Dave

Background: Allegra bid of \$246 for 7' x 8' for 15 oz vinyl, Outlaw Graphics bid was \$195 for 8'x10' with 13 oz material. Members unanimously voted to go with the Outlaws Graphics bid. Dave Graves contacted Terry to start the process.

Miscellaneous

1. **Newsletter update** — Dave Graves — There was some discussion about having a second print edition in addition to the membership renewal issue. It was agreed to include a survey question in the next electronic edition, which will be late April/early May.
2. **Next Sports Show appearance** — It was suggested that John Blatchford contact the radio station to promote the Arbor Day 5K.
3. **Website sponsorship** — 605 decided not to continue sponsorship.
4. **USATF championships for Oakwood Lakes Trail Run???** — Dave/Andy. No update on this. USATF would provide medals and possibly prize money for USATF members that take part in the race. This would be in addition to regular race awards.

Race director reports

- **Arbor Day 5K** — April 28 — John Blatchford reported the city is very excited to help. Trees have been ordered, USATF insurance purchased and registration will again be in the Outdoor Adventure Center. Registration opens at 5:30 a.m. Race starts at 6:30 a.m.
- **Scotty Roberts 5K** — May 12 — Chuck McCullough directing.
- **Brookings Marathon, Half Marathon and Relays** — May 13 — Matt Bien reported numbers are off past years due to the long, harsh winter and 605 Running Co. moving its half marathon to the week after the Brookings races. Right now there are 100+ in the marathon, 200+ in the half marathon and 20 relay teams. More course volunteers are needed. Email run@brookingsmarathon.com or contact Matt Bien directly to help.

Next meeting – May 2