



# ***Prairie Striders***<sup>TM</sup>

## ***Running Club***

**BROOKINGS, SD EST. 1969**

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Box 504, Brookings, SD 57006

**Tuesday, June 6, 2023**

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

Present: Dave Graves, president; Matt Bien, John Blatchford, Steve Britzman, Chris Gruenhagen, Brett Pettigrew. Present via Zoom: None.

1. Approved **April 4 minutes** for posting on website.

### **Miscellaneous**

1. **Newsletter update** — Dave Graves — Next newsletter will be a few weeks before or after Jack 15 (Sept. 23). So far, no one has emailed a preference on print or email version of the newsletter.
2. **Next Sports Show appearance** — It was suggested Derrick Powers make an appearance to promote the Harvey Mills Longest Day 10K.
3. **Running chair update** — Aimee Deliramich with the Center for Disabilities in Sioux Falls will be the first person to use the chair in a nonPrairie Striders event. Her organization is planning a 5&10K plus a one-mile ability inclusive event on Sept. 09.
4. **USATF championships for Oakwood Lakes Trail Run?** — Dave — USATF is attempting to grow membership and increase participation in trail runs. Therefore, on April 24 the Dakotas directors voted to award \$900 to Oakwood Lakes Trail Run and four other non-Striders races in the Dakotas. Race directors can determine whether to use this as prize money to top USATF finishers or swag for all USATF finishers.

### **Race director reports**

• **Arbor Day 5K** — April 28 — John Blatchford — 84 signed up, 82 finishers, expenses, which are funded by the city, were less than past years. The director of the Outdoor Adventure Center, where the registration is held, offered to allow the race to finish inside the archery range, which would allow a place for postrace refreshments and socializing away from the elements. John plans to pursue this offer.

- **Scotty Roberts 5K** — May 12 — Matt Bien — 52 participants for the first running of the race since 2019. New out-and-back course from Pioneer Park to Hillcrest Park and back worked well thanks to adequate volunteer/traffic support, especially downtown.

- **Brookings Marathon, Half Marathon and Relays** — May 13 — Matt Bien — Overall successful 54<sup>th</sup> running of the marathon with 99 in the marathon, 213 in the half and 24 relay teams. Participation down about 25%. Possible reasons include difficult winter to train for marathon, general downward trend in runner numbers nationwide, 605 Running moved its half marathon from three weeks before the Brookings Marathon to one week after, more overall marathons and no fliers sent to fall events or regional running stores.

- **Longest Day 10** — June 17 — Derrick Powers— No report.

- **Run4Fun Brookings** — Starting July 5 — Kati Merkley — no report.

- **Beef and Eggs 5K** — July 8 — Kevin Bjerke — no report.

## 2. **Discuss future race management for Brookings Marathon**

Matt announced that his tenure as race director has ended after 17 years. He will be working hard over the next few months to find a person or persons to take the role.

Matt is willing to serve as an adviser for the new director(s) over the next year.

Though a race management company could play a role, it would be ideal to find a new director within the community who has a passion for running and ideally some prior experience with organizing a running event.

The race has a rich history and is in a sound financial position with strong sponsorship and good community support.

In the next month or two, Matt is planning to convene a meeting with a small group of Marathon Committee/Prairie Striders to map out a potential future for the race.

***Next meeting – Noon Tuesday, Aug. 1. Note: No July meeting.***