Prairie Striders™ Running Club
BROOKINGS, SD EST. 1969
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Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026

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

Present: Dave Graves, president; Randy Hanson, vice president; Jay Larsen, treasurer; Matt Buenger, Trevor Penning. Present via Teams: Shari Landmark.

1. Approved **Dec. 2 minutes** for posting on website.

2. On a unanimous voice vote, approved adding Briggs Library **"Adopt-a-Collection"** on behalf of the Prairie Striders Library as a part of the annual budget. The motion was for $250. That can be changed annually depending what the club chooses to budget. The fund will help pay for student help to digitize Bob Bartling's index card files.

3. On a unanimous voice vote, approved **purchase of stands for Prairie Striders photo backdrop**. The motion approves spending up to $200, including shipping. Dave Graves is to oversee internet shopping.

4. Dave Graves reported he was contacted by the Aberdeen club to have a group with them. It was suggested **running in Watertown with Aberdeen and Watertown clubs** Saturday, March 7 or 21. Any Strider interesting in being part of this activity, regardless of date, should contact Dave Graves.

5. Status of **leadership for Run4Fun Brookings & Predictor Mile** — Kati Merkley wasn't present, but she notified Graves via email that Katie McNeary-Jones will be leading the events this summer.

6. Discussed advertising in Brookings Park & Rec Guide

On a unanimous voice vote, approved spending $250 for a half-page ad. One quarter will list 2026 Prairie Striders races. The other quarter will promote Run4Fun Brookings. Camera ready ad is due Feb. 20. Dave Graves will oversee ad preparation.

7. Review 2025 financial report — Jay Larsen reported this year's income included $4,674 in the form of a qualified charitable donation from club charter member John Iverson. Other donations were up almost $3,000 from 2024 at $5,562 while dues were down $525 at $1,450.

Funds given by life members are considered donations rather than dues, Larsen said. The club added six life members ($125/) in 2025.

Expenses were higher than normal, primarily due to a $1,600 one-time donation to assist travel expenses for six Brookings High School athletes, SD state meet track event champions, to compete at the New Balance Nationals June 19-21 in Philadelphia as well as coaches Jason Sebern & Addison DeHaven.

Also increased expenses were $2,490 ($1,895 from 2024 donations and $595 from 2025 donations) for the Prairie Striders/Phil LaVallee Scholarship endowment and $1,615 donated by members for the Friends of Bob Bartling Scholarship endowment.

8. **Act on 2026 budget —** Following an explanation by Jay Larsen, treasurer, the draft budget was approved on unanimous voice vote with a minimum of $850 increase and not including any other approved special expenses. As drafted, it included $5,590 in expenses and $4,625 in revenue. However, the expenses didn't include the library gift or the backdrop support purchase. In addition, a bill of $600 is expected from the Brookings Marathon for 2025 and 2026 rent of the storage shed on Railway Street.

There also is an expense line for a race subsidy for the Beef and Eggs 5K. There was $809 in 2024 for the purchase of bibs and $114 in 2025 for Race Results charge for processing the timing of 2025 finishers.

At this time, no funds will be transferred to balance the budget. However, it will be necessary to do that depending on the 2026 income stream and potential expenses for supporting assistance for club expenses and scholarships, Larsen said.

Race director reports

• **Indoor 5K** — Jan. 24 — Dave Graves/Jay Larsen — 34 runners, 3 walkers, 43 total registered. Three top-10 times all time. With minimal expenses and $1,285 in receipts, there should be about $1,000 that can be donated to the SDSU track program and the Prairie Striders/Phil LaVallee Memorial Scholarship, Larsen said.

• **Arbor Day 5K** — April 24 — Dan Radtke. Not present. No report.

Miscellaneous

1. **Newsletter update** — Dave Graves — Looking at a printed issue in late February.
2. **Update on club's 5**01 (3) c status — Steve Britzman—Not present, however, he did say at the Indoor 5K that he hasn't heard from the IRS on the club's appeal. The IRS has given conflicting information on whether the nonprofit status is active. Britzman plans to file a 2025 tax return. The hope is this will prod the agency to determine that the club's tax-free status is active. Jay Larsen has provided club's 2025 financial information to Steve.

3. Acknowledge **qualified charitable donation** to PS — Jay Larsen
4. Acknowledge $428, closing their financial accounts, from the Oakwood Lakes Trail Run to the club to put in savings for future use if a race director reinstates the trail run.

Next meeting – March 3 at Mills Construction, 1311 S. Main Ave.