Prairie Striders™ Running Club
BROOKINGS, SD EST. 1969
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Tuesday, July 7, 2026

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

Present: Dave Graves, president; Randy Hanson, vice president; Jay Larsen, treasurer; Dave Bartling, Steve Britzman, Chris Gruenhagen, Jacob Mills.
Present via Teams: Brett Pettigrew

1. Approved **May 5 minutes** for posting on website.
2. **Future of Beef and Eggs 5K** — Chris Gruenhagen and Dave Graves recapped the current situation: Race director Kevin Bjerke reported on June 12 that he would not be able to be in Brookings for the race. No planning had started, but he was willing to make some calls from Billings. He suggested contacting Chris Gruenhagen, who had reached out to Kevin earlier on behalf of Jackrabbit Track and Field Association.
   Chris and SDSU coach Rod DeHaven discussed the race June 13. Given their schedules and the closeness of the race (July 11), it was determined that it was best to not hold the race in 2026. Dave supported their decision.
   Chris reported Jackrabbit Track and Field Association held a subsequent phone meeting and it was agreed that they would like the race to continue in future years as a fundraiser for the group. It was noted there are several recent alums living in the Brookings area and a committee approach could be taken in directing the ’27 race.

Race director reports

• **Harvey Mills Longest Day 10K** — June 20 — New race director Jacob Mills reported a successful return to the race. (2025 was canceled to due inclement weather.) He reported there were 62 registered runners, including 20 in the relay division. The 40 finishers in the 10K was the most since 2015 and the most total participants since 2014.
Jacob said he hopes to grow the race to 100 participants. Donations of $500 will be given to the Sioux Valley and Brookings cross country teams, which served as volunteers.
• **Run for Fun Brookings** — July 8, 15, 22, 29 — Katie Jones/Kati Merkley. No report, but Kati Merkley reported earlier via email that everything was set to go. Chris Gruenhagen noted that Katie Jones was still looking for a few more volunteers.

Miscellaneous

1. **Newsletter update** — Dave Graves — Possibly August, but no firm date set.
2. **Update on club's 5**01 (3) c status — Steve Britzman reported he is continuing to pursue a refund of the club's $600 application fee because it was found the club's 501 (3) c status had been inactive, but not revoked. He is confident that the refund will eventually come and, thanks to filing late financial documents, that the club's 501 (3) c status is valid.
3. **Battery replacement for timing clock** — Dave Bartling has replaced the battery. Jay Larsen is to contact the manufacturer to get the correction installation instructions. The manufacturer had shipped the right battery, but the wrong instructions. The clock was successfully used June 20.
4. **Prairie Striders fall challenge – patches —** Dani Bohn dropped them off at the storage shed. Dave Graves will get them to Randy Hanson.
5. **Library update —** Track & Field News & Ultrarunning subscriptions renewed, thank you received for April donation to support the collection. Sandy Linn and Michael Bondo at Briggs Library are going to put together a proposal to move the Prairie Striders Collection to a more visible place downstairs along with some prominent signage to highlight the collection. They will keep us posted if it comes to fruition.
6. Dave Bartling reported Briggs Library will hold an observance on Aug. 26, which would have been **Bob Bartling's 100th birthday**. Hours are 5 to 6 p.m. with a bench dedication outside the library at 5:30 p.m. The library will provide refreshments with the event open to the public.

Next meeting – *noon Tuesday, Sept. 1, at Mills Construction, 1311 S. Main Ave.*
(Note: this is a correction from what was stated at the meeting.