

Tidewater Striders Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Date: January 4, 2021

Call to Order

At 6:35 pm, President Thomas Hicks called the Striders Board of Directors meeting to order. The meeting was held via ZOOM video conference call. The following Board members were in attendance:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Armitage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marie Price	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Randy Cook	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kimberly Moore
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Martin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Avi Kelley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tim Robinson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peter Pommerenk
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bunny May	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thomas Hicks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Danny Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> William Tallent

Guests: None

President's Report

- The minutes of the December Board meeting were approved with 8 Ayes (4 votes missing).
- The Confirmation of Executive Officers commenced with unanimous votes (12 Ayes) cast for each officer. The year 2021 will see Thomas Hicks serving as President, Randy Cook as Vice President, Tim Robinson as Treasurer and Peter Pommerenk as Secretary.
- Next was the confirmation of Committee Chair members with the following unanimous results:

Adopt-A-Highway:	Rich Hildreth
Adopt-A-Trail:	Chris Catoe
Advisory:	Sam Wittenberg
Audit:	Undecided (Reaching out to Dan Edwards for possible selection)
Awards:	Marie Price
Banquet:	Randy Cook
Budget:	Tim Robinson
Bylaws & Constitution:	Peter Pommerenk
Elections:	Lori Sherwood
Grand Prix Running:	Chris Novakoski
Grand Prix Multi-Sport:	Bob Boyce
Grand Prix Walking:	Bunny May
Grand Prix Youth:	Steve Sheppard
Hall of Fame:	Randy Cook
History:	Randy Cook
Marketplace:	William Tallent, Avi Kelley
Media:	Jim Martin, Jean Phelan, Thomas Hicks, Danny Smith
Membership:	Bob Brunner
Nominations:	Rich Hildreth, Jean Phelan
Programs:	Kimberly Borges, Avi Kelley
Race Committee:	Thomas Hicks, Dan Edwards, Bunny May, Danny Smith, Avi Kelley
Scholarship:	Dan Edwards, Jim Dare
Teams:	Thomas Hicks

Volunteer:	Marie Price
Walking	Bunny May
Youth	Steve Sheppard, Angelo Celesia

- The Striders 100K/50K Ultramarathon at the Dismal Swamp went very well. Thomas, the race director, said we put this race together in three weeks and had out of state runners from Georgia and North Carolina join us. He thanked board members: Steve, Randy, Kim, Jim, Marie and Avi for coming out and volunteering. There were a lot of positive comments from participants.
- Seashore Nature Trail 50K was quite a dilemma. The City of Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation pulled our permit due to new COVID restrictions and the race was quickly cancelled. Then we worked to get it moved to the Chesapeake Dismal Swamp Trail when the City of Virginia Beach two days later reversed its ruling and approved the permit to run at First Landing State Park. A lot of confusion but with determination the race prevailed. Unfortunately we had issues with the race give-a-ways and awards. Nice turn-out of 145 race participants and volunteers. For next year's race, we will be looking for a new race director...an early candidate suggestion was Mark Manny who has directed the Long Creek 60K in the past.
- The Resolution Run 5K was another great safe race that saw 249 participants come out and welcome in the New Year. Lots of good feedback from runners and walkers and complements on the fleece blanket give-a-way. Tim announced all awards are in the mail along with the give-a-way gifts for virtual runners.
- The Distance Series is sold out and ready to kick off its first race this weekend at the Dismal Swamp Trail. There was a small glitch with RunSignup for all participants who signed up for all three races. The Predicted Time question was not asked. So Jean Phelan sent out emails to all those participants and will gather their times. Thomas will then sort the results into waves in a spreadsheet and share them with the race timer.
- The Spring Marathon and Half Marathon was moved to April and combined with the Dismal Swamp 5-miler and called the Tidewater Striders Spring Running Festival. The Big Bear and Rattle Snake Challenges along with Dismal Swamp Kids One Miler were also added.
- Thomas stated that a lot of runners are asking for an 'elite' run (BQ) hosted by the Striders in early March. It would be an elite invitation for 20-30 runners with predicted marathon times of 2:40 Men and 3:00 Women. The race would have no water stops, no awards, and no give-a-way gifts. The runners' fee would basically pay for the permit and other miscellaneous expenses. Thomas asked the board to think about it. He would put together a write up about the race and email it out to the board for review. This is a tense decision as it will exclude many runners who are looking to qualify and perhaps offend other clubs due to the timing of the race.
- March 1st is our drop-dead date for the ERR race in the City of Norfolk. If we are going to be limited to 250 participants, this race is not worth the effort. Instead we would perhaps put together a Memorial Day 10k or 5-Miler race at the Dismal Swamp Trail.
- Murphy's Meet-Ups will resume in two weeks and follow the same COVID guidelines (25 people max/waivers).
- Thomas is giving out a homework assignment for board members to decide on a new Summer Series location(s) – Some early suggestions have been the Hunt Club Farm or Chesapeake City Park or ERT. Our dilemma is the club pays \$2,500 for each Botanical Gardens summer series race (Totaling \$10,000!). We had a recent donor end her annual contribution of \$5,000 that was solely applied towards these races. We would like to keep the Mel Williams Memorial Scholarship run at the gardens, but need a new location(s) for the other three races to save money.

Vice President's Report

- Randy opened by welcoming Avi Kelley and Danny Smith to the Board.

- The Annual Award's Banquet held at The Norfolk Yacht & Country Club is scheduled for April 10th. If we are going to be restricted to 40-50 attendees, it will most likely be converted to a "Virtual" event.
- The Class of 2021 Hall of Fame inductees were announced in the *Rundown* newsletter. Awards have been procured.
- The History write up for 2020 is near completion, just waiting on some final award announcements.

Treasurer's Report

- No financial reports at time of meeting, the B&A statements could not be downloaded and there were many outstanding December expenses to record.
- Budget: There is considerable uncertainty for planning the budget. Restrictions will still affect 1st quarter revenues. Tim proposed revisiting the budget in February and every two months thereafter depending on the ongoing pandemic.

Committee Reports

The following committee updates were provided:

- Awards: (Marie Price): Marie working on compiling several write-ups people have sent her for the end-of-year award nominations. She is looking for individuals to join the Awards Committee to help vote on the winners. Right now, it is just Thomas Hicks and herself. She mentioned we need to follow the bylaws as to who can participate and vote because it varies based on the award. She is hoping to have this all done by end of month.
- Constitution and Bylaws: (Peter Pommerenk):
- Grand Prix: Stacin Martin has the final results prepared, just adding the volunteer points and clearing up duplicate entries. As mentioned earlier, Chris Novakoski will be taking over as the Grand Prix committee chair and Stacin will provide training and assistance.
- Marketplace: (William Tallent): Beanies are Back! A new order arrived and they will be added to the Website. All orders are up to date including the recent Resolution Run 5k's. From now on, William will be included as a contact in ALL Striders RunSignup races that include the Marketplace option. Thomas mentioned he is working with Randy Cook (and the country of Sweden) on a new race singlet to add to the inventory.
- Media: (Jean Phelan/Jim Martin): Striders Podcast (Andrew Hoffer). Jean posted the January 2021 *Rundown* today. The Social Media team made a big Holiday Season push selling the Strider Plus program, to which Thomas announced we now have 40 "Plus" members signed up. Jim is reviewing and cleaning up the "Club Discounts" page as it is somewhat dated. He is calling each business to see if they will continue to offer their discount. So far Great Bridge Cyclery and Tidewater Chiropractic pulled their offers. Bunny mentioned there is a new store coming in Virginia Beach called "The Good Feet Store" that we could ask. It was suggested that a link to Danny Smith's ForeRunners podcast could be put on the Striders website. And lastly, the Striders website name www.TidewaterStriders.com has been reserved for another 6 years and transferred to our own account.
- Membership: (Bob Brunner): The Tidewater Striders (TS) ended December, 2020 with 1,981 members and 1,283 memberships. One-year ago we had 1,805 TS members and 1,108 TS family memberships. In December, there were 83 TS transactions involving 115 TS members. There are still a handful of memberships who were paid in full, but not all of the family members were inserted into the RunSignup database when joining the TS club. Bob sent out a message that said "*Please contact TS membership if you are still missing the additional family members and I can insert them into the database for you*".
- Volunteer: (Marie Price): Marie is waiting on the final volunteer lists for the 100k/50k and Seashore Nature Trail 50k.
- Youth: (Steve Sheppard/Angelo Celesia): The next season of New Energy is set to open March 14th.
- Walkers: (Bunny May): There are fewer Walker committee members so Bunny is going to send out another mass email to the "Walker Interest List" and ask for help with the committee. Bunny brought up that Walkers are looking for a little more consistency with each race. Thomas concurred and mentioned we would do a better job communicating how we will start the walkers during a waved race.

New Business

- The new proposed Multi-Sport Grand Prix list of races (shown below) has been created and Thomas put forth the motion to approve the list. William Tallent Seconded the motion and the board approved the list with 11 Ayes cast.
- Thomas also mentioned that the board should do a little something extra for Angelo Celesia. He is being inducted into the Hall of Fame, but would like to provide him an extra gift for all the hard work and time he has given the Striders via the Youth program and all the RunSignup expertise he provides at quick notice. The Board fully agreed.

Next meeting: February 1st, 2021, 6:30 PM (via ZOOM Video call)

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at **8:03 PM**.

Minutes prepared by: Jim Martin

Minutes approved: TBD

Proposed 2021 Multisport Grand Prix

10 Apr Smithfield Sprint Triathlon

25 Apr Outer Banks Duathlon

15 May Northwest River Sprint Triathlon

19 Jun Jamestown Olympic Triathlon

TBD Strider Duathlon (Tom Hicks shooting for last weekend June)(note: Rev3 Williamsburg is 26 Jun)

TBD Allen Stone Run-Swim-Run

17 Jul Colonial Beach Sprint Triathlon

18 Jul Colonial Beach Olympic Triathlon

TBD Virginia Duathlon (per Mettle Events, park is not deciding permits yet)

27 Aug Robious Landing Sprint Triathlon

11 Sep Patriot Half Iron Triathlon

12 Sep Patriot Sprint Triathlon

25 Sep Giant Acorn Olympic Triathlon

9 Oct Pleasant Landing Sprint Triathlon

MINUTES APPROVED...

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