

Tidewater Striders Board of Directors

Minutes of the Special Meeting

Date: June 25, 2020

At 7:15 pm, President Thomas Hicks called the Striders Board of Directors special meeting to order. The President called the meeting to discuss options for holding the summer race events. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions the meeting was held via 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 Borges
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Martin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andrew Hoffer	<input 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"/> Tim Westfall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> William Tallent

Guests: Jean Phelan, Dan Edward, Angelo Celesia

Thomas opened the meeting by discussing the upcoming Summer Series, which will start on Tuesday nights on July 7. The events may have 250 participants plus volunteers. Sign-ups are for each weekly event, not the entire series. The events will conform to CDC and RRCA guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Thomas continued with discussing the Mel Williams Memorial 5k Race (MWMR). The race director, scholarship committee, and other stakeholders for the MWMR want to move the race from July 28 to September 13 because of the current COVID-19 restrictions, capping events at 250 people. Thomas noted that a September event may not draw as much participation as it would during July because there are several other events on that weekend and schools and colleges will be in session. However, while it is not known what restrictions will be in place in September, the club will adhere to the organizers' wishes to move the MWMR. Marie Price had proposed to still hold a race in July to raise scholarship funds. The race would require an entry fee. Moving the MWMR will still incur the \$2,500 fee to the Botanical Gardens. To avoid the additional cost for another July 28 race, the Scholarship race could then be held on the third Tuesday of July in lieu of the third Summer Series run ("Poker Run"). The cost for the venue has already been paid for that date. Dan Edwards, the scholarship committee chairman, concurred with the President.

Jean Phelan mentioned that she is still in discussions with the Botanical Gardens about the cost for holding the new Scholarship race on July 28, but she also concurred that it may take place on July 21 instead of the third Summer Series run. Jean also mentioned that she is working with the Botanical Gardens on meeting CDC guidelines. Thomas added that the race starts will be staggered to ensure that people are separated on the course. There will also be a virtual event and raffles.

Angelo Celesia said he spoke to Jim Dare (Race Director) and the race committee, and he stated that everyone is in agreement with what has been proposed regarding the MWMR. Angelo will add the September 13 event on RunSignUp for the MWMR and make the adjustments to the Summer Series events, including for the 100+ persons who have already signed up for the MWMR. Angelo mentioned that he can enable user options in RunSignUp to move from one race (or virtual race) to another without additional fees. Refunds could be handled on an individual basis, where applicable. Dan Edwards advised to provide a default choice for signed-up runners in RunSignUp. Jean added that the \$3 entrance fee for the Botanical Gardens must be paid online. There will be a separate link at the RunSignUp page. Upon payment, the entrant will obtain a QR code that has to be presented when entering the Botanical Gardens.

Thomas added that the new Scholarship 5k would also be a Grand Prix event to help make up for the cancelled Grand Prix events to date. He cautioned that the postponed Elizabeth River Run 10k could still be cancelled as there are few, if any, available dates in the fall, and that costs could exceed revenues if attendance is low. A refund policy will have to be adopted for persons who have already signed up for this race.

Thomas then answered questions on logistics for the Summer Series and the new Scholarship 5k race and asked all board members for additional input. Board members concurred with the approach taken to accommodate postponing the MWMM to September as well as the new Scholarship race. To ensure consistency and equity, the board decided on an entry fee of \$25 for the July Strider Scholarship 5k. Finally, the board decided that instead of waiting on the outcome of negotiations with the Botanical Gardens, to settle on July 21, the third Tuesday, for the Striders Scholarship 5k. Thomas made the motion, which was seconded by Randy Cook. The motion was unanimously approved. The appropriate announcements will be made in the next few days. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Minutes prepared by: Peter Pommerenk

Minutes approved: June 6, 2020