

Running Blind 2013 Board Meeting

Date: 11:30 AM, Friday, November 22nd, 2013

Location: Sweetwater Café, Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor

Attendance: Rick Fie, Tom Gardner, Katie Kerch, Amy Shepherd, Hal Wolfe (chair)

Minutes by H. Wolfe:

New Board Members: Katie Kerch and Rick Fie were welcomed as Running Blind board members. Yuval left as he now lives primarily in Costa Rica.

1) IRS Status

We finally got 501c3 status from the IRS. The hold up was an additional section in the articles for “Dissolution” – ie what to do with assets when disbanding the organization. The sad part is that Michigan makes this section optional and says that without it a standard policy will be used effectively requiring assets to be donated to other non-profits, so I skipped it, but the Feds said it had to be there, even though it’s simply boiler plate jargon. Anyhow, that seems to have cost an extra year and a half getting IRS approval which is really sad. This is why largely we hadn’t met since early 2012.

2) Guide running support and current pairings

I have arranged support for 6 people so far – they are: Naza (many guides), Austin (occasional support at CC meets), Sile (twice so far), Tonya R. (Lincoln Park), Bob J. (Ohio) and Cheryl W. (Lansing). This has been a challenge and more will likely come.

3) Upcoming Jingle Bell Fun Run (date is Sunday Dec 15th - start time 10 AM)

This will take place at the Michigan Theater, just like previous years. All are welcome to come and take part. It’s a small but nice event and is a fundraiser for Running Blind and I also support the Salvation Army.

4) 2014 Gallup Gallop – RB Fundraiser

I have signed on as the Race Director for the AATC’s Gallup Gallop event. Last year my friend Victor Dobrin was the RD and the event drew over 400 people and raised most of 10 grand, so it will now be a fundraiser for us. I’ve helped with the event many times and it is a fairly easy event to manage (no road closures required) so it should go pretty smoothly. We will need volunteers so all are welcome to come and help out. I also hope to get as many RP pairs there as possible. I have considered getting some blind aspect to the race. Not sure if this would best be incorporated into this event, or eventually another stand alone event such as the Running Blind 5K.

5) Possible Summer Camp in 2014

I’d still like to consider hosting a camp in this area. Concordia is not available per discussion with Rick, but some other venue might work out. Amy suggested that I consider partnering with Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind. That is a group she is very familiar with and they do camps most all summer at Camp T (now at Indian Trails),

and also an adventure camp at the end of their season. She felt that this camp might make a good fit with Running Blind – possibly include some track and field aspects but leverage their staff and equipment and vans. I will consider this and talk to their director who Amy knows well. It was also suggested to have a shorter weekend camp – possibly during the school year vs during the summer. As Amy pointed out – we are all competing for the same kids to attend, and that is a challenge.

6) Volunteer support of Running Blind initiatives

I'm realizing the limitations of the organization, and that I need more help as we continue to grow. Finding guides for runners in areas not near here is proving to be a challenge. Also, getting support for something such as “case workers” would be helpful – people that would check on the various pairs and see how things are going. How this will all evolve remains to be seen.

7) Other discussion:

Amy knows a shirt maker in Flint that might be able to do our shirts for a good price. We talked about Tom's request to get a copy of Jaws. Amy mentioned that Mac's have a built in voice over system. Tom has a Mac, so he will try that. It was also discussed that having a Facebook page would probably make sense. I can't stand Facebook, but I will consider it.