

1) **Kalamazoo Foundation grant proposal** status – Ozzie
Other grants to consider? Ford Foundation?

Notes: Kalamazoo Foundation rejected our proposal. In general they only help groups in Kalamazoo county. They help OUB as there was one influential donor that supported that group. Ozzie will look into other places to solicit funding. The Ford Foundation has already been considered that Hal is familiar with. They only approve 1-2% of all applications per their own website info, so it's a long shot, and I'm not sure if my working for Ford would help or hurt an application. There is another that Ozzie is familiar with called "Sunshine" but he said they only provide reimbursements for equipment purchases. (They helped OUB purchase some things.) Crowd funding will be considered, but Hal is not as comfortable with that yet vs traditional grants, but we will consider it as we move forward.

2) **Communication update with blind runners** – Hope

Notes: Hope has been in contact with Cheryl, and with the new girl that signed up (Sara Elizabeth from Wisconsin). She will contact Naza soon, and Geri, also Bob J. and Heather T. to see if they want any support or even any ongoing communication.

3) **Downriver guide search status** – Hope

Downriver Runners Club presentation went well – Hope is a member of that club, and will present to the Island runners soon.

Guides are needed for Tonya mainly, as Hope has plenty of help at the moment. So guide far one guide signed up: Gabrielle of Lincoln Park

Hope gave Gabby's contact info to Tonya for her to contact her. (We also need to consider a training session. Possibly a run together with Hope and her guide would suffice.) One more guide Hope has talked to but has not signed up yet.

4) **Wisconsin guide search status** - Hope & Hal

Need guide for Sarah Elizabeth of Mount Horeb WI. One guide from Milwaukee just signed up – Katie Trapp - Hal feels that this is too far away to make a regular commitment (it's a 2 hour drive) so we need to look for additional support.

Possible support from Sarah Elizabeth's aunt – a race director – Hal will communicate with Sarah and see if we can get her contact info. Also possible support from Madison area running clubs (U of Wisc)

5) **Lansing area guide search for Cheryl Wade** - all

She prefers an older person to walk with her.

Possible help from the Kinesiology Dept via Rick Fie – Hope indicated Cheryl is fine with using this option to try to find support, but Cheryl prefers working with an adult near her age, not a student. Possibly help via the Sierra Club as another source for hiking volunteers.

6) **Ann Arbor area guide search for Sile** - Hal

Found a 2nd guide for her – a 30 year old male med school employee

I asked if Sile wanted a background check run – she felt it was not necessary as he works in pediatrics per her own check of him. We discussed this and we were not entirely in agreement on when a background check should be mandatory. Hope felt that adults would be able to decide for themselves, but Ozzie felt we should have a check done or a disclaimer on file, which we do effectively have. We'll have to give this more thought.

7) **Gallup Gallop** – Hal

race date is Saturday July 11; Butman Ford is on board, so is Running Fit

Things to do: start sending notes

Create shirt graphic

Order bibs, shirts and awards (what award?)

Notes: Hal will be working on the shirt graphics soon, sending out notes, and other details such ordering T-shirts and awards.

8) **Other Running Blind issues** - all

Surge in guides signing up – what to do? Hope is sending them all notes at the moment.

Safety vests – would be good to get some – Hal may order one for Sile.

Facebook vs website – future discussion needed

Finding more blind runners – Hope brought this up. We have 8 on our list, but 3 are not active (Naza, Bob and Heather) Getting up to 10 active people would be a good goal for this year.

9) **Hal's issues:** I am going to be very busy with house additions for the next 6 months and also with my 90 year old mother, and some other issues. Realistically that will mean that Running Blind will be a lower priority than it has been for the past few years, but I am hopeful that with the support of Ozzie and Hope and Tom, we can keep things moving forward.

10) **Future meetings:** we will plan to meet once a month on Friday's, likely at 10 AM, but we will see if that is the best for everyone. Hal DID manage to get his microphone working on Skype, so if Hope can get Hal's contact request confirmed, we should be good. (The conference call service Ozzie had us use today did work pretty well but did use up cell phone minutes so Skype would be nice.)