

August 11, 2014 MARC Minutes

MARC Attendees:

Bill Hause
Mike Mills
Bob Stoudt (Director)
Joe Ward
Dave Decoteau (Event Manager)

Public Attendees:

Dave Walker
Jen Kline
Dan Knorr (Danville Borough)
Ralph Schumacher

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm by Mike Mills.

President's/Treasurer's Report – Mike Mills:

Official accountant's reports from Ozark & Shultz have not yet been received. They will be distributed separately for review and approval. No other report.

Secretary's Report – (presented by Mike Mills):

No objections; motion to approve by Joe Ward, seconded by Bill Hause; no action taken because of lack of quorum. ***The matter will be emailed to all Board members for a vote via email.***

Partner Reports:

Washingtonville – No report; no representatives present. Stoudt commented on Van Wagner's 7/29 concert at DeLong Memorial Hall.

Danville – Per Dan Knorr: 1) Danville is seeking input for Community Development Block Grants. The first public meeting will be held tomorrow, 8/12. The Borough may emphasize repairs at Memorial Park, funding permitting. 2) The Borough may also do a master site plan of the former Doc's Shoes parcel and Canal Park, including the alley through the site. The Borough has applied to Merck for grant funding for the study. 3) The Borough will host a dedication ceremony for the new ore car at the west end of the Borough on 8/22 at 11:00am. 4) Work continues on a possible naval memorial in Riverfront Park. A rough concept has been approved by the Borough's Parks & Rec Committee. Utility location and levee issues are being researched. Stoudt has been assisting. 5) The Borough is working to improve the parks page on its website, with input from MARC. 6) Finally, Dan also noted the Borough's intention to apply for grant funding to support a recycling equipment grant. MARC has been asked to consider submitting a letter of support for this grant. Stoudt expressed his support of the request.

Riverside – No report; no representatives present. Stoudt commented on the 8/5 Stars Rising concert. The show concluded MARC's 2014 Summer Concert Series.

Montour County – No report; no elected representatives present.

Danville Area School District – No report; no representatives present.

Public Comment:

Dave Walker presented a summary of the Montour 24 Endurance Runs. The event received overwhelmingly positive reviews and comments. MARC has made an estimated \$530 profit on the event, subject to final accounting revisions. Stoudt commended Dave Walker's substantial volunteer effort and that of his family and friends. Stoudt recommended hosting the event again next year with Dave Walker's guidance. Per Dave Walker's recommendations, Stoudt recommends conducting the race again in 2015 on the same weekend of the year, with the addition of a 12-hour night run. The event will likely be capped at 200+/-, subject to additional consideration.

Jen Kline seconded Dave Walker's comments. The event was very well received and stands to grow substantially in 2015. Racers from this year's event have been posting extremely positive feedback regarding the race.

Ralph Schumacher commented on the annual rugby tournament. The event is expected to be held again in 2015 on the same weekend of the year.

Director's Report – Bob Stoudt:

Bob presented an overview of the Director's report distributed with the month's agenda packet. Discussion centered primarily on the budget concerns and the urgent need to secure a reliable funding source for MARC. Stoudt noted that MARC has been notified that it will not receive grant funding from Merck's Neighbor of Choice program, but may be considered for partial funding from a separate Merck program. MARC must provide additional detail for consideration.

No concerns were presented regarding the Director's expense report. Motion to accept by Mike Mills, seconded by Joe Ward; no action taken for lack of a quorum. ***The matter will be emailed to all Board members for a vote via email.***

Old Business:

MARC Budget Update - MARC's budget outlook is again becoming dire. Barring an unexpected infusion of funds, MARC will exhaust its unrestricted funds in September. Stoudt will be unable to work on any projects without dedicated funding. Stoudt expressed his concern that MARC's funding strategy is not sustainable and not capable of supporting a full-time Director or a second part-time employee who could be trained to become MARC's next Director. MARC's members must re-evaluate MARC's mission and objectives to better align with the minimal funding that realistically can be anticipated.

Part-time Hire – Per the MARC budget discussion, MARC cannot afford to hire a new part-time employee. This is a serious concern for MARC's continued operation. Stoudt expressed his concern that a replacement must be trained to take over MARC in the event of his departure.

New Business:

Montour 24 Endurance Runs summary and 2015 planning – Per the public comment from Dave Walker and ensuing discussion, MARC will plan to again conduct the event in 2015.

Danville Borough Recycling Program letter of support – Per Dan Knorr's presentation on behalf of Danville Borough and per additional comment by Stoudt, a motion for MARC to write a letter of support for Danville Borough's grant application was made by Joe Ward, second by Mike Mills. W. Hause abstained. No formal

action could be taken for lack of a quorum. ***The matter will be emailed to all Board members for a vote via email.***

Columbia Montour Visitors Bureau / Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce Partnership – Per comment by Stoudt and per the documentation provide by the Columbia Montour Visitors Bureau (emailed by Stoudt to Board members on 8/7) a discussion of the merits of the proposed partnership was held. Stoudt stressed his conflict of interest as President of the Columbia Montour Visitors Bureau Board of Directors and offered to excuse himself as needed for additional discussion. With no additional discussion, Bill Hause made a motion to vote to approve the proposed partnership, seconded by Joe Ward. No formal action could be taken for lack of a quorum. ***The matter will be emailed to all Board members for a vote via email.***

River Towns Cycling Classic volunteers needed – Stoudt expressed an urgent need for additional volunteers to assist with the September 6th and 7th River Towns Cycling Classic events. Volunteers have done an exceptional job enhancing the trails at the Hopewell Park/Danville Borough Farm site, but much remains to be done. Stoudt deferred further discussion to Dave Decoteau’s Event Manager report (moved to end of meeting agenda).

Other Items:

Dave Walker expressed a willingness to serve on MARC’s board as a Montour County representative. Stoudt will present the idea to the Montour County Commissioners for their consideration.

Event’s Manager Report – Dave Decoteau:

Dave presented an overview of the River Towns Race Series Facebook page’s recent growth and activity.

Dave presented a detailed review of recent work at the Hopewell Park/Danville Borough Farm site in anticipation of the River Towns Cycling Classic race to be held at the site. Though much work has been done, much work remains. Additional volunteers are needed for trail preparation and day-of-race tasks.

Registrations are coming in very slowly. Though other local/regional races have also experienced very slow pre-registrations and have done okay with day-of-race registrations, it is highly likely that MARC will lose money on the River Towns Cycling Classic event.

Adjournment:

Adjourned at 8:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Stoudt