

**MANITOBA RUNNERS' ASSOCIATION**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Online**  
**Monday, April 11, 2022**  
**Minutes**

Present	Greg Athayde, Don Bevington, Derek Boutang, Reg Brown, Bob Cox, Gordon Flett, Aldo Furlan, George Koch, Bryan Mintenko, Grant Mitchell, Melissa Pryce, Colin Reed, Joel Remis, Andrew Swan, Jeff Vince, Lorraine Walton, Krista Waring
Quorum Met	Yes: 17 members
Chair	Krista Waring
Recorder	Derek Boutang
Staff	Kathy Wiens
Called to Order	19:36

**1. Attendance and Confirm Quorum**

Attendance was confirmed and the meeting called to order at 19:36.

Krista introduced and acknowledged the current Board members.

**2. Adoption of the Agenda**

M: Reg Brown, S: Andrew Swan: To approve the agenda as distributed. Carried.

**3. Approval of Minutes of Monday, April 12, 2021**

M: Lorraine Walton, S: Aldo Furlan: To approve the minutes as distributed. Carried.

**4. Executive Director's Report (Kathy Wiens)**

See Kathy's written report attached to the agenda. Kathy spoke to her report, made additional comments, and answered questions about the following:

- From a financial perspective, MRA was fortunate to have support from numerous sources in 2021, including the senior levels of government, Athletics Manitoba, and our sponsors.
- MRA had a good year for programs in 2021. Two items of particular note:
  - We created an MRA Track Club ("Mastering the Running Fundamentals") that met Wednesday evenings during the summer. It proved so popular that it spawned a winter version, with requests to keep this program going through spring and summer 2022.
  - MRA purchased Dwayne Olson's timing equipment in 2021 and successfully timed the Riding Mountain event. This keeps a second timing option in the Province.
- Greg Athayde asked about communications related to publishing race results, especially that there is increasingly less print coverage for road running. Online publishing is becoming more common. Kathy will reach out to Bob Cox (publisher of the Free Press) to encourage more local print

coverage, both for MRA events and for other races. Aldo Furlan suggested that the community newspapers might also be a good target for local coverage. Krista Waring reminded members that MRA has few events of its own (Ice Cream Runs and Run 4 Your Cause), and noted that this was worth reviewing with Race Directors at the November Race Directors meeting.

## 5. 2021 Financial Report (Reg Brown)

See Reg's written report attached to the agenda. Reg spoke to his report and made additional comments, notably that 2021 was an interesting year on the financial front. Mainly because unexpected support from governments, MRA managed to earn a \$5,500 surplus despite budgeting a \$17,000 deficit. The government support allowed MRA to stay functioning (and growing) during the COVID pandemic where many sports organizations were sidelined.

M: Grant Mitchell; S: Aldo Furlan: To accept the financial statements as presented. Carried.

## 6. President's Report (Krista Waring)

Krista delivered a verbal report and answered questions about the following:

- The MRA has two different roles: 1) a wide-open, all-inclusive body to encourage running for everybody, and 2) the sanctioning body to enforce the rules and maintain standards for competitive runners in the province. Overall, these roles work well together but can be at odds at times.
- MRA is embarking on a strategic planning initiative in 2022. A key goal will be to grow the membership and open ourselves to a more diverse community. Another key goal will be building stronger relationships with sponsors, Athletics Manitoba, the City of Winnipeg, the charities that benefit from our events, and other groups.
- MRA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration is coming up. This event will cap a year of events, including a new Celebration Series. All members are welcome to join us on April 25, 2022.
- Krista asked Derek Boutang to provide an update on the strategic planning initiative. Derek discussed the work the Board has completed to date, highlighting an approach based on three major steps:
  - 1) Working to understand the current internal and external environment facing the MRA
  - 2) Identifying a vision and initiatives to address the current environment
  - 3) Implementing the initiatives to achieve the vision

## 7. Bylaws Amendments

M: Derek Boutang, S: Andrew Swan: To approve the following amendment to the Bylaws:

- 5.1 Executive Committee: At its first meeting following the Annual General Meeting, the Board shall appoint an Executive Committee from its Directors. The Executive Committee shall be comprised of at least ~~four~~ three members of the Board ~~including a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.~~ including one who acts as President. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to oversee the implementation of Board policies, to select and oversee the Executive Director, and to perform such other duties as prescribed from time to time by the Board.

Derek spoke to the motion and explained the rationale: Notably, to give the Board more flexibility in deciding how to organize itself, and also to ensure the Executive Committee did not automatically have a controlling interest in Board decisions.

Grant Mitchell asked if the amendment anticipated the role of the Vice President acting on behalf of the President when the President is unable to do so (e.g., in the event of an untimely death). Krista Waring noted that the Executive could designate another person to act in this role as necessary. She also highlighted need to review the Governance Policy to make sure such a contingency was anticipated.

Greg Athayde asked how the roles on the Executive Committee would be decided upon without the explicit guidance in the Bylaws. Andrew noted that this would be left to the purview of the Board.

Krista noted that for 2021, there were no Board members able to take on the Vice President's role, which is what drove the Board to propose this amendment. She noted that the situation would likely repeat in 2022.

Jeff Vince highlighted a need to ensure that there is a Treasurer's role at the MRA to ensure financial focus and continuity.

Krista called the question: Carried.

## **8. Election of Directors**

Board members with terms ending in 2022, seeking re-election: Reg Brown, Andrew Swan, Krista Waring

Board members with terms continuing in 2022 (ending in 2023): Derek Boutang, Aldo Furlan, Bryan Mintenko

New members seeking election to the Board for a two-year term: Alan Neumann, Melissa Pryce, Lorraine Walton

There were no nominations from the floor.

M: Lorraine Walton, S: Gordon Flett: To acclaim the slate of nominees for 2022/23 presented to the membership (term expiry in parentheses). Carried

Derek Boutang (2023)  
Reg Brown (2024)  
Aldo Furlan (2023)  
Bryan Mintenko (2023)  
Alan Neumann (2024)  
Melissa Pryce (2024)  
Andrew Swan (2024)  
Lorraine Walton (2024)  
Krista Waring (2024)

## 9. Adjournment

M: Grant Mitchell to adjourn. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 20:40.

Our Mission: *Promote and support the sport of running for health, fun, and fitness for life to runners of all ages and abilities.*