Yukon River Marathon Paddling Association

Annual General Meeting

Minutes

Date: October 23, 2024
Time: 5:30 PM
Location: Sport Yukon Boardroom plus zoom

Members Present: Alison Eremenko, Ben Lott, Carmen Gustafson, Crispin Studer, Cynthia Onions, Esther Wheeler, Jason Biensch, Jeff Brady, Linda Casson, Mark Kelly, Mike DeAbreu, Stephen Mooney, Tali Pukier

Regrets: Ric Horobin, Chris Prince, Bill Stanzeleit

1) **Call to order** - called to order at 5:35 PM.
2) **Approval of agenda** – Motion to approve the agenda, Moved: Linda, Seconded: Stephen
3) **Approval of minutes from December 6, 2023 AGM** – Moved to approve the minutes from 2023, Moved: Linda, Seconded: Jason.
4) **President's Report** - Jason highlighted the challenges created by the wildfires and highway closure and the strong, effective response given by the Carmacks and Laberge checkpoint volunteers, check point volunteers and the importance of two-way communications between the Comms room and racers.
5) **Financial Report**
   a) **Review of Draft Financial Report**
      i) The financial year-end report was not presented due to delays in the bookkeeping services. This will be presented to the members as soon as it has been received and reviewed by the Board.
      ii) YRMPA currently has retained earnings of about $72,000, with $41K in the bank, $31K from Lotteries in Accounts Receivables, $8K in reserve and $1k security account for credit card
      iii) Administrative costs such as credit card fees, fuel, insurance, are steadily rising with credit card fees up 113% this year.
      iv) A review of insurance fees and coverage is recommended.
      v) Retained earnings were increased this year, due to efficiencies, reduced amount for media and cheaper alternatives to previous year's expenses.
      vi) Due to uncertainties of replacing Peter's comprehensive, integrated system, and the lack of confirmed contribution funding for coordinator position, it is considered prudent to carry some surplus into 2024-25.
      vii) The draft budget for 2024-25 will be adopted by new board at the first meeting
      viii) A concern was raised about any potential increase to registration fees and the use of contractors. It was clarified that the Race Coordinator is the only year-round contractor while the volunteer coordinator received $5000.

b) **Special Resolution:**

Preamble – YRMPA is required to obtain a compilation review by an accountant every three years. This engagement was done for the 2022-23 FY and the requirement was waived at the 2023-24 AGM.

Motion: that the accountant review for the 2024-25 financial year be waived. Moved Linda, Seconded Jason

6) **Election of Directors**

a) The bylaws stated that there is a maximum of 8 Directors. Directors are elected to two-year terms with half of the terms expiring each year and the majority of Directors must be ordinarily resident in the Yukon.

Board members with 1 year remaining in term.

- **Stephen Mooney, Yukon**
- **Linda Casson, Yukon**
- **Chris Prince, Ontario**
- **Ric Horobin, Yukon**

b) Up to 5 positions were available, 3 Yukoners and 2 non-Yukoners. The slate of Directors is elected at the AGM and the officer roles determined at the first Board meeting after the AGM.

c) The Directors are responsible for supporting the coordinator, providing strategic direction and to continue the process of transitioning from an operational board to a administrative one. Directors may be a volunteer or a racer.

d) Time commitment expectations were explained and include monthly meetings, more frequent meetings six weeks before the race, and weekly meetings one month before the race for the Directors who sit on the Race Committee

e) Clarification was provided by Stephen regarding roles and responsibilities of board members during a race.

i) The board decides whether the race will be run, and once it starts, the race marshal has the final decision-making authority.

ii) A board members may race but must step down from decision-making during the race.

iii) Discussion on whether the Officers of the Board should not race in order to support the race marshal, but consensus was that this is not required.

f) The President called for nominations to fill 3 positions - one of which needs to be from the Yukon.

Motion: Jeff Brady moved to accept Ben, Esther and Jason to the slate of board members. Seconded by Linda. All in favour

g) New Board members are Ben Lott, NZ, Esther Wheeler, UK/NZ and Jason Biensch YT. One board position for a Yukoner remains unfilled.

7) **Adjournment: Moved to adjourn meeting. 6:40 pm**

Member discussion

Topics raised.

Jeff shared his plans to work on a book about the history of the organization, and encouraged others to send him ideas.

Alison asked about the status of registration fees and costs, to which Jason responded that these would be discussed by the new board. There was also a discussion about the potential increase in registration numbers, with Linda suggesting that the focus should be on recovery rather than expansion.

Half Race Entry Fee and Safety

The members discussed reducing the entry fee for the half race to Carmacks to incentivize more local and youth participation. Alison raised concerns about the high number of solo racers allowed, suggesting implementing qualifying criteria to improve safety.

Tali suggests providing guidance on securing sponsorships to offset costs for racers. The meeting concludes with confirming the date for the first board meeting after the AGM.