

Pine Belt Pacers

Business Meeting, March 10, 2013 3:00 p.m.

Present: Jason Byrd, Vicki Copeland, James Daniel, Donna Davis, Audrey Jackson, Charles Jackson, Carol Joplin, David Joplin, Denise Joplin, Kyle Joplin, Mustafa Khannouchi, Mitzi Lawhead, Terry Lawhead, Allison LoCicero, Geoff LoCicero, Kelly Parry, Todd Pohnert, Jeff Priegnitz, Becky Ryder, Hollie Ryder, Pam Wilmore

The meeting, held at the home of Audrey and Charles Jackson, was called to order by President Audrey Jackson. The first order of business was to hold elections for 2013 officers. An earlier election had been held at an emergency meeting, a procedure that did not comply with the club's bylaws.

Nominations for the officers took place, along with the opportunity for members present to make additional nominations.

On motion by Becky Ryder seconded by James Daniel Audrey Jackson was nominated for President.

On motion by Becky Ryder seconded by James Daniel Toby Brown was nominated for Vice-President.

Donna Davis was nominated for Secretary on motion by James Daniel, seconded by Terry Lawhead.

Deborah Barrett was nominated as Treasurer on motion by James Daniel, seconded by Terry Lawhead

Terry Ward was nominated as Public Relations chair on motion by James Daniel seconded by Charles Jackson. Denise Joplin was nominated on motion by Kyle Joplin seconded by David Joplin.

James Daniel made a motion that he and Allison LoCicero serve as co-webmasters. This motion was seconded by Terry Lawhead. At this time, Becky Ryder pointed out that the bylaws did not make provision for two people to share a position in this manner. Since the goal of the meeting was to elect a slate of officers in accordance with the bylaws, this was a concern.

The discussion at this point turned to the current bylaws. Becky, who had examined the bylaws before the meeting, also pointed out that the bylaws made no provision for how they should be revised. Members present were updated with a brief history of the Pacers bylaws. Prepared several years ago by member James Coll, the goal had been to keep the bylaws as simple as possible. Becky pointed out that she had worked on a project to revise the bylaws a few years ago and that she had found it difficult to get members to express much interest in this project. As Becky pointed out, until recently, there had been no issues relating to compliance or non-compliance with the bylaws. With the recent questions about elections, the need to closely follow the bylaws has become important. Audrey suggested that once new officers are elected, a meeting of this slate of officers should be held to examine the bylaws carefully. Denise Joplin pointed out that the RRCA website offers suggestions to clubs and examples of other group's bylaws, a potential source of help for this process.

At this point, discussion returned to nominations. With the option of co-webmasters not available to the group, James Daniel offered to withdraw his name from nomination, nominate Allison LoCicero as

webmaster and facilitate the turnover to the new webmaster. Discussion turned to the limitations of the current website and how it might be improved. James pointed out the limitations of the current site included the proprietary interest of the original webmaster, Elmer Beardshall. James also expressed the opinion that the club would be better served by focusing on social media rather than relying on the website.

The discussion of the current bylaws arose again when the group considered how exactly the election of the new officers would be accomplished. Becky read the section of the bylaws which stated that the officers were to be elected by a majority of current members. As Becky pointed out, membership in the group now numbers in the hundreds. Options such as email voting were discussed, with Charles Jackson offering to handle this if the group could decide how long members would have to respond to the email ballot. Allison LoCicero suggested that survey monkey might be a simpler solution. James Daniel reported that earlier attempts to use survey monkey had not resulted in many responses.

Allison then asked that her name be removed from consideration as webmaster. Allison expressed that her wish was still to help with the website but that she did not want to do that as sole webmaster.

Becky suggested that a remedy to the co-officer problem might be available if the current officers agreed to vote unanimously to amend the bylaws to allow co-chairs to serve. Becky made this motion, seconded by James Daniel and approved by all current officers present.

With the option of co-officers now in place, Becky nominated James Daniel and Allison LoCicero, seconded by Donna Davis as co-webmasters and social media chairs. It was suggested that the co-webmasters could work with Charles on the election, whether through email or other mechanism.

On motion by James Daniel, seconded by Mitzi Lawhead, Becky Ryder and Elmer Beardshall were nominated as co-liaisons to the Longleaf Trace.

On motion by James Daniel, seconded by Terry Lawhead, Ginny DuFrene was nominated as the Pacer's Record Keeper.

On motion by James Daniel, seconded by Becky Ryder, Keith Barrett and Kelly Spiers were nominated as Social Chairs.

With a full slate of officer nominations in place, the question of how to conduct the election began once more. One question was that of family memberships. Is each member of the family, regardless of age, allowed to vote or does the family membership qualify for one vote? A variety of opinions were expressed on this matter. At this point, Becky Ryder made the following observation. The slate of nominations only included one position for which more than one person was nominated. This was the position of PR chair. Becky suggested that if that position was also shared between the two nominees as co-chairs then the election of officers could be concluded. Denise Joplin, one of the nominees, agreed to work with the other nominee if this was a solution that the group wanted, but pointed out that the issue of the club's bylaws remained to be addressed. Donna Davis noted out that as an officer, Denise would be able to participate in the meetings to examine the bylaws, comparing them to other running

groups and utilizing the RRCA information as Denise had earlier suggested. The group agreed that the ability to elect officers at this meeting and then examine the bylaws in a thorough and careful manner was an attractive option. Audrey agreed that if issues arose between co-chairs, as President, she would be prepared to help resolve such matters.

At this time Mitzi Lawhead nominated Terry Ward and Denise Joplin as PR co-chairs, seconded by Kyle Joplin.

James Daniel made a motion that the nominated slate of officers be elected by acclamation seconded by Mitzi Lawhead and approved by those present.

Announcements of upcoming events included the Wednesday, March 13th St. Patrick's run, the 1 mile run on March 20th, sponsored by Soccer Locker/City Runners, and the Temple Baptist 5K training leading to a night race in June. This event will include an 8K as well. These events are all posted on FaceBook. Donna Davis asked that Denise Joplin, as new PR co-chair, consider preparing a monthly newsletter which would list all such events. Donna had agreed to work on this project earlier but welcomed the chance to have Denise handle this as part of PR. Denise agreed to do so, including these events in a newsletter sent to members email addresses.

Pam Wilmore reported that 10 new members had joined the Pacers, receiving membership packets and bumper stickers in the mail. Charles asked about the possibility of paying membership online. James noted that this option would cost between 3-5% in fees. Those present thought this could be handled as a processing fee added to the membership cost.

Discussion of issues related to the Longleaf Trace began at this time. Mustafa asked if the possibility of a softer running surface for a section of the Trace had ever been considered. Becky offered to discuss this with Herlon Pierce, pointing out that issues to be addressed would be where to put such a surface and how far it would go. Becky noted that the Trace has made an effort to be responsive to club concerns and appreciates the support the club has provided to the Trace over the years. For example, they are working on the improvements to the Clyde Depot parking area at this time.

Becky discussed plans for the November Birthday Challenge Ride on the Trace. A cycling store in Jackson, Ride South, will handle the first section of the ride, and the Trace is looking for someone to take the southern section. The project will raise money for the Trace and the job is similar to that of a race director. The Joplins will contact Herlon Pierce for more information about the requirements of this project.

The Pacers next meeting will be at the Barrett's home and will include an event designed to replace the yearly banquet. More information about this event will be made available.

Audrey will email the newly elected officers about plans to meet and examine bylaws.

On motion by Becky Ryder seconded by Audrey Jackson, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Donna Davis Secretary.

