



LDR Meeting DRAFT Minutes
Westfield YMCA
Tuesday, May 21, 2023
7:00PM

I. Attendees sign in and introductions.

Mike Walters, Deb Hall, Christopher Rinaldi, Edward Neighbour, Terry Mullane, Christine Prorock-Rodgers, Michael Barry, Eva Fisher

II. Minutes from previous LDR Meeting. November 1 , 2023

- *Minutes posted on USATF-NJ website. Copies were provided at the meeting for review. Motion to accept and seconded. Minutes were approved by acclimation*

III. 2023 Championships Discussion Events completed after November Meeting.

- *Post November 2023 Meeting: Ashenfelter 8k All Divisions. Thanksgiving November 23rd*
- *The 2k fun run did not follow the intended course and was short. This event was not part of USATF-NJ Grand Prix.*
- *The moving of the course start toward Bloomfield Avenue improved the congestion that the event experienced as the turnout numbers grew. There was discussion that Bloomfield Avenue should be closed a little earlier. Some runners were doing warmups across the road and it was a challenge to get them back across and behind the start before the start.*

IV. 2023 COED Team Championships completed after November Meeting.

- *Post Meeting COED Team Final event: Giralda Farms 10k November 12th*
- *Since the event had both a 5k and 10k , additional port-o-johns would help the race at the start reducing the lines prior to the start.*

V. 2023 Awards Banquet.

- *Discussed the LDR portion of the Banquet. The giveaways in lieu of awards plaques were well received.*
- *The possibility of making the awards certificates available prior to the banquet could help alleviate some of the printing errors. Making a pdf available was also discussed*
- *2024 Awards banquet is scheduled for Pines Manor on the last Sunday in January 2025.*

VI. 2024 LDR Championships

- **Spring Distance Classic 15k Rescheduled Date April, 28, 2024, All Divisions**
 - *Race date was rescheduled from March due to the flooding on the weekend of the original race date.*

- The new date was the same weekend as the USATF National Masters championship in Dedam Mass. On the same weekend. This did impact attendance.
- The switching of the 5k to after the 15k championship was better for Teams since some runners did both races and the Championship was better, from a team perspective, going off first
- **Our House 4 Miler, May 11, 2024, All Divisions**
 - The race had to use a different course due to construction at the venue. This made a hilly race even hillier.
- **Mile By Impact Zone, May 18, 2024, Masters M+W**
 - Event is also part of USATF-NJ Maniacs 4 Miles Series.
 - The feedback was positive in creating a separate series promoting a mile.
 - Discussion moved to other ways the mile could be promoted. It was noted that the College Avenue mile ended with a two person relay (course was laid out as a double loop and lent itself to a relay) Adding something like this to the end of a Road mile was seen as a positive and gives the event a club team dimension.
 - Event was same weekend as USATF National Masters Road Mile in Danville ,CA. Since that event was on the iother side of the country , there was little conflict for runners. Brookly Half did draw some of the potential participants for the event away.
 - Race shirt was noted as ugly. 'One of the worst race shirts'. Was more focused on sponsor of race.
 - Scoring 40s and 50s Men's teams with a timing company new to the USATF-NJ Championship scoring initially was incorrect, but this was remedied in a timely manor. Updated results posted on the timing companies site (Not runsignup)
- ***Upcoming Ridgewood 10k Open Men and Women Championship. Memorial Day***

VII. 2024 COED Team

- **Cherry Blossom 10k, April 7, 2024**
 - Race had largest registration and participation in 2024.
 - Working with Essex County which organizes event has typically been a challenge. Event requires additional coordination assistance between the Race, USATF-NJ and the National office to get the sanction into place.
 - The event supports Special Olympics and having events that are for a goord charitable cause was noted as a plus for our members.
 - Since start is a distance from registration/packet pickup having the additional pot-o-johns at the start area was good to have.
 - Start line is front loaded with participants approaching start walking past start and 'front' loading race.
 - Post race had food, gave out finisher metals and water. No issues noted.
 - Event is good as a COED Team event.
- ***Upcoming Sunset Classic 5 Miler 6-27-24***
 - This is a longstanding event t and is well suited as a COED team event. Thet Thursday Evening race has some challenges for those commuting from a distance to the event.

VIII. New Business.

- Half Marathon discussion.

- USATF-NJ has not had a half marathon as a Championship distance since the pandemic. There are several challenges.
 - Event cost at half marathon distance has higher cost.
 - Events typically open registration almost a year prior to the event. Lessening opportunities for discounts for USATF-NJ runners.
 - It was discussed that since the dates for these established events are typically know, USATF-NJ should consider compiling a list of Half Marathons sanctioned in the state and reaching out to events and soliciting bids and possibly awarding LDR Championship status earlier and announcing to allow our members opportunity to register and get discount earlier.

IX. Adjourn