

Quantico Orienteering Club, Inc.
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2021

I. Call to Order

President Fish called to order the regular meeting of the QOC Board of Directors at 7:04. The meeting was held via teleconference in accordance with CDC recommendations on social distancing. President Fish welcomed everyone from a cabin in West Virginia. Jon Torrance is back in DC.

II. Roll Call

President Don Fish	Vice President Michael Newman
Vice President Charles Carrick	Vice President Bill Wright
Treasurer Karla Hulett	Secretary Laura Linville
Membership Greg Lennon	Publicity Kathleen Lennon
Immediate Past President Jody Landers	Mapping Ted Good
Director at Large Dasa Merkova	Director at Large Aaron Linville
Vice President Craig Shelden	

III. Officers & Directors Reports

a. Secretary report- Laura Linville

The meeting minutes were distributed prior to the meeting. Craig Shelden and Don Fish sent minor corrections.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mike Newman, seconded by Aaron. No objections.

b. Treasurer report- Karla Hulett

Karla shared the report with account balances through the end of 12/31/2020; income and expenses for the season to date; the season venue accounting; and the 20/21 operating budget. Our expenses are down because we haven't had as many meets, and our lack of spending on food and water is a wash with the PayPal fees. The park fees, permit fees, and shelter fees have all increased. When our permits are denied we are often out the filing fee, though we typically get the permit/shelter fee refunded.

Annual fee to OUSA will be paid.

Jody asked how the dues revenue are holding up compared to prior years? Karla says the numbers are in line with prior years.

The account balances are in good shape and if we want to start spending on mapping projects (or other projects that can benefit the club) we will be able to.

A motion was made by Jody to approve the treasurers report, and it was seconded by Aaron. There were no objections, the motion passed unanimously.

c. MD VP Report- Craig Shelden & Mike Newman

The 2 MD events (Rosaryville and Kings Landing) were gap fillers after 5 of our events were cancelled due to issues obtaining permits. Mike and Pam Dvorsky were the MVPs updating maps and setting courses.

Working on park permits and health department permits.

The Bumble planning is ongoing, but will not be able to be mass start.

Working on a slate of other events: Patapsco Granite and Patapsco McKeldin, UMD, Lake Needwood.

At UMD we need a student organization to sponsor, but it is unlikely that we will be able to get a permit this year. We need to reestablish Terrapin Trail Club contact.

Patapsco Parks do not allow orienteering if there is .25 inches of precipitation prior to the event.

d. VA VP Report- Charles Carrick & Bill Wright

Report on PWF Oak Ridge which was overwhelmingly positive. It was challenging terrain and challenging courses, but overall was a great day.

Upcoming events- NoVa parks and Virginia state parks are being cautious and not allowing any event permits through the end of January.

We are on track to have our meet at Hemlock Overlook out of Kincheloe Road in February.

Discussion of training weekend at PWF at Happyland- proposed to cancel the event and save courses for next season. It is not likely that training weekend could be held safely. However, we could hold the Night-O. The price is high for using that venue. Our window for starting will not be as large as it is for our day meets, and having to space out the starts may reduce the number of starts. For whatever time we are there we will have to rent the camp. Another option would be to convert it to a Day-O and not do a Night-O.

Action: Bill W will check on the price of the rental to see if the cost is reasonable for a 1 day (or night) event.

Charles recommends cancelling the entire PWF Happyland event and allowing that weekend to be used for a different event.

Training weekend 2022 needs to be discussed, the reservations will open February 1, 2021.

Charles and Bill discussed some other venue options for in person events with adequate parking and orienteering terrain.

- e. Membership, Website, Registration, & Communication-** Greg Lennon
Memberships are holding steady, insignificant change in the last 6 months.
- f. Publicity-** Kathleen Lennon
Kathleen continues to promote events, and has added 'products' to our Google site.
- g. Mapping-** Ted Good
Ted has created a map baseline in a shared Google sheet. The Dvorskys sent new maps to Ted, and he has corrections. Ted will work with them to make the corrections.
- h. President-** Don Fish
 - 1. OUSA Charter Renewal**
It has been renewed. Because of a drastically reduced number of starts last year (due to cancelled events) our fee was reduced.
 - 2. Valerie Meyer proposal to dispose of SI-5 cards**
 - Donate to Grizzly Orienteering
 - Suggest that we give them to QOC juniors on first come first served basis
 - a. At an upcoming event post that there are dibbers available and that anyone with a family membership who wants one can have one (until we run out). We think there might be 30-50 available.
 - b. Another option is to give them to volunteers who do not already have e-punches.

Action: Don will let Valerie know that the BOD is fine with giving the SI-5 cards to juniors or another group that needs them. [action complete]

IV. Other Business

- a. Policy to implement Map Run and UsynligO events using permanent and QOC designed courses**

Craig has put together data and information on putting together virtual events for our members.

- The overarching goal is to increase member engagement and improve member experience, despite group gathering restrictions. There are 2 major software options available- MapRun and UsynligO.
- Also need to not detract from approved/permitted phased-start group events.
- It needs to be a minimal cost and liability to QOC, and minimal impact on volunteer time.

There was a discussion around whether this is something we want to move forward with as a club and if we can do it without creating an onerous amount of work for volunteers.

The board members were in agreement that use of these options should be seen as training opportunities and a great way to let people get out in the woods when it is convenient for them. These will not replace our in person events. But, if we want to use this as an option, we need to obtain permits, pay insurance, etc.

Several board members thought these options should only be available to our club members. The rationale is that members pay a fee and should get something extra, it might encourage people to become members, members are more likely to run advanced courses.

Craig showed the cost of MapRun (park permit fees, insurance, payment to MapRun) and the board discussed the amount that should be charged for a pdf map and pin for MapRun. The general consensus was it should be the same as our regular events.

Several board members thought that the course setters should still use streamers to ensure they are getting out in the field to see the points as they've envisioned them. There is not an expectation that the streamers will always remain for the duration of an event.

The board considered a pilot to iron out details and determine if there is enough demand and how it will work in practice.

Jody proposed a trial in Maryland at a venue to be decided by the Maryland VPs, for a \$10 fee, over a 2 week period (actual dates to be decided) by the Maryland VPs. Jody's motion was seconded by Bill Wright. Craig Sheldon recused himself from voting because he has been closely connected to the MapRun trial. All others agreed.

b. Discussion of a proposed permanent course at Black Hills Regional Park

Greg is in discussion with staff at Black Hill Regional Park about an existing but old permanent course as well as potential new courses. A discussion about holding public orienteering events at BH is being held in parallel with the discussion of how best to improve the permanent course(s).

Information about the new permanent courses at Little Bennett is currently the top news item on the website and was also promoted through QOC social media.

c. Mapping discussion

One of the best ways to improve our events for members is to update and improve maps.

Don would like a committee of the willing to get together to discuss what the priorities should be for mapping (sooner rather than later), and only 1 hour per meeting. Volunteers for the committee include Jon Torrance, Francis, Gary, Charles, Craig, Ted, Jody, and Dasa

Action: Ted will be the chairperson for the group and he will set up a meeting as soon as possible (but likely after January 20th). [Action of setting up mapping committee complete]

Meeting adjourned at 10:07.

Next meeting will be held March 24, 2021 at 7pm.

Others in attendance: Jon Torrance, Sidney Sachs, Francis Hogle

Minutes submitted: Laura Linville