La Chute Runners Summer 2021

Montcalm Mile Update

The La Chute Runners have decided that unfortunately the timing of the event - less than 1 1/2 months away - does not allow for sufficient planning and the unknown factors and restrictions of Covid make it impossible to promote the high quality, safe and rewarding experience that runners expect from the Montcalm Mile. After a lengthy discussion, we concluded that we would not be able to host that event in 2021.

La Chute Runners Club Meeting Minutes

7:00 Tues. 5/18/21

Members present: Tim Malaney, Brian Kiely, Tracy Smith, Jim and Linda Cunningham

The Focus of the meeting was to discuss the possibility of having the Montcalm Mile this year. Here are some of the considerations:

1) Can we realistically provide a quality race?
Generally, at the conclusion of a Montcalm Mile race, we evaluate the race and make concrete plans for the following race. We begin to actualize those plan at a meeting in the December before the race. We assign roles and make plans for the acquisition of race materials. With unfolding situations, one and a half months before the event, is not enough preparation time.

2) With regard to the Road Runners Club of America, what parameters does that group offer and how does the race interface its insurance aspects?
RRCA does not provide mandates but does guidelines which demonstrate the intricacies of running an event:
Recommendations
https://www.rrca.org/our-programs-services/services/covid-19-information-resources
Survey
https://www.rrca.org/news-articles/news-archives/2020/05/08/return-to-running-runner-attitude-survey-results
Guidelines
https://www.rrca.org/news-articles/news-archives/2020/05/03/looking-forward-guidelines-for-races
Waver
https://www.rrca.org/resources/event-directors/guidelines-for-safe-events/waivers

3) What are the concerns associated with the finish line?
a, How would awards be handled?
We had not decided on the nature of the awards. If award were to be give they would need to be mailed.
b, How would timing and result information be handled at the finish line?
It is unclear how our service, RaceWire, would provide timing. Results then would only be posted online.
c, How would a developing crowd be dealt with?
The size of the crowd at the finish line, might exceed the state limit in effect on May 19th, of 500. We do not have the staff to handle large crowds.

4) What problems are anticipated at the starting line?
a, What size crowd is anticipated?
Looking over past race statistics, we see that in 2016, 428 runners entered the race. That race was held on Monday. The potential day for this year's race is Sunday, with the possibly that more than 500 will wish to enter, especially since there was no race last year. *"Beginning May 19, the indoor social gathering limit will increase from 100 to 250 people. Also, the outdoor residential gathering limit of 25 people will be removed, reverting to the social gathering limit of 500 people with space for appropriate social distancing"*
b, With online-registration the only possibility, how many will show up to registration the day of the race?
As determined by past data, 20% may preregister, with the remainder signing up on race day which is no longer a possibility with staffing and restrictions.
c, How would race "bandits" be handled?
Bandits, or those not registered for a race would not be allowed, creating a potential problem.
d, What about club staffing?
We have a limited number of members able to staff the event.

5) What assistance is RaceWire able to provide?
It is unclear what roll RaceWire or another timing service would have at this time.

6) What are practices of other area races?
A query was made to a recent race and they posted that they assumed that all racers would be vaccinated, masks need to be worn at the start of the race and for the first 1/4 mile, at the finish line, and up until exiting the area.

7) With recent changes in Covid restrictions what are the race implications if there is there is another surge?
This rhetorical question can only be as answered with the passage of time. It was suggested with the relaxing of restrictions, this could be a possibility and adversely effect the race.