

Interviewer: Scott Badgett

Interviewee: Mr. David Bobzien

Topic: The role of recreation in building and maintaining communities

Date: June 1, 2007

Place of Interview: 2022 Durand Dr, Reston, VA

## **Transcript of Interview**

**Scott Badgett:** I am Scott Badgett. Today is June first, 2007, and I am interviewing David Bobzien on the topic of how recreation builds and maintains communities. Hello Mr. Bobzien.

**David Bobzien:** How are you Scott?

**Scott Badgett:** I'm good. Thank you very much for doing this interview with me today.

**David Bobzien:** Oh I'm happy to do so.

**SB:** So I understand that you have been involved in Reston Runners for a long time.

**DB:** I was one of the five or six runners that actually formed the organization.

**SB:** Really. So what was the main reason why you actually formed it?

**DB:** Well, There were a number of us that were meeting informally on the weekends to run together. There weren't a lot of runners back then. This was probably; we moved to Reston in 1975, and I started running in 1975. And I think it was after my first marathon, which was the New York Marathon in 1978 that I started to meet a number of other runners in Reston. And so I think that we actually formed Reston Runners in around 1979. And one of the reasons we did that was that by forming a club we could become members of the National Road Runners Club of America. And by doing that we were able to get access to not only their publications and magazine but also we were able to get liability insurance for races and events we wanted to put on and were also able to purchase insurance through them for equipment that we felt we would need if we wanted to start putting on races.

**SB:** It sounds like you get a lot out of making clubs. Was it difficult to start this particular one?

**DB:** Not really because the Road Runners Club of America had a template that we could use in putting the club together and we had to come up with by-laws and things to get us chartered by the Road Runners Club of America. And really we just had to get a few people to decide to do it and to meet on a regular basis and try to do what had been done informally. And one of the founders of the club was Joe Flagg and he and others before I began to run with them had started a running program for children of Reston even before there was an official Reston Runners organization. And so we felt that that was another reason for us runners to actually have a formal organization.

**SB:** At its beginning did Reston Runners help make a lot of new friendships and strengthen the community?

**DB:** It did because at that time in the late 70's and early 80's there was a boom in America in running and there all of a sudden became an increased population in Reston of runners. And we were able to offer them structure to their running and to be able to