

**OHIO VALLEY KARTING ASSOCIATION  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Aaron Banfield called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. via Zoom and welcomed everyone.

**INSTALLATION OF 2022 OFFICERS:** The 2022 OVKA officers were installed as follows:

Treasurer – Jason Gregg

Track & Board Secretary – Lynda Coombs

Vice-President – Michael Lewis

President – Aaron Banfield

Banfield welcomed the officers back and extended appreciation for their continued service to the club.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Lynda Coombs made a motion to accept the January 4, 2022 monthly board meeting minutes and the January 15, 2022 annual membership minutes as published. The motion was seconded by Aaron Banfield and passed unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** On behalf of Treasurer, Jason Gregg, Aaron Banfield provided the checking account and track improvement fund balances. Ray McKibben asked if that is current with expenditures. Banfield replied we do have outstanding expenditures and noted there was significant expense for the banquet. He explained we do not set aside 20% of the banquet allocation toward track improvements. Banfield reported Gary Gregg will be providing a final number of the remaining balance that is owed to him. Banfield discussed developing a system for keeping track of outstanding expenditures.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**BANQUET:** Aaron Banfield extended thanks to Jeanette Holliday and all of the people who helped with the banquet. Holliday reported the banquet budget was \$33,000; we came it at \$30,893.17. She said she is trying to get an idea for next year if we want to stay at the same place or if we want to look at something different; she needs to get back with the Marriott if we want to go back there. Ray McKibben said the food was very good and was hot. Josh Johnson asked if a deposit is needed. Holliday said it is normally \$500 and discussed securing the date if we want to go back there. McKibben suggested locking the date down sooner than later and said he likes the spacing between New Years and the banquet. Michael Lewis said he thought everything was fine; the venue and food were fine, and all seemed to worked well. Randy Landes reported his table was last to be released and when they got there, they were out of food which had to be replenished; he also thought they ran out of desserts a little fast. Holliday will make a note of that for next year. Banfield said he wants something in writing once the date is selected, the date is locked in. Aaron Banfield made a motion to appropriate \$500 to lock in the dates for the 2022 banquet to be held in January of 2023. The motion was seconded by Rick Coombs and passed unanimously.

**SHOWS & PROMOTIONS:** Ted Cradlebaugh asked how the boat show went. Randy Landes reported he was there on Sunday and thought we had a good response; people stopped by and they educated them; he felt the people seemed pretty positive. Rainer Pansch said from working Cavalcade before, he got a far better response; he had an easy time drawing people in and having communication with them. Pansch shared about a couple of potential members. Rob Neuzel said he thought there was a pretty good turnout on Saturday. Lynda Coombs reported she and Rick were there for the first shift on Saturday and thought the turnout was good and people seemed

interested. Neuzel added having Bruce Wyke's kart there was really helpful and drew people in. Pansch extended thanks to Wyke. McKibben shared a couple of his friends who were there said people were knowledgeable; he heard from other members that the turnout was great. Pansch said it is the way to go from here on out and he will gladly volunteer to work a shift next year. Wyke suggested getting two booths next year. Brian Schroeder said another thing to consider is we only did the second half and there was the first weekend. He does not know if there were more customers that walked through on the first weekend but we couldn't do the first weekend because that was when our banquet was. Pansch said raised the question of rescheduling the banquet and said if someone could get some information about which week was more well attended, that would be wise. Schroeder will reach out to see if he can get attendance numbers for each of the days and inquire about the 2023 dates. He will get that information to everyone, especially Holliday. Holliday replied she can see if we can do an opposite date and noted she needs to book soon; she asked for the dates to be provided to her as soon as possible. Wyke thanked Schroeder for coaxing us off the car show and onto the boat show. Banfield asked Fiehrer to provide Lynda Coombs with a list of everyone who worked at the event. Fiehrer replied he has already done so. Lynda Coombs extended thanks to Fiehrer.

**SPONSORSHIP / PIT SPOTS:** Josh Johnson reminded everyone that we changed the deadline for pit spot fees to March 1<sup>st</sup>. He reported reservations are low as of this time.

**TECH DEPARTMENT:** Ted Cradlebaugh said he is awaiting hearing back from Digatron.

**TECHNOLOGY:** Michael Lewis reported outside of some housecleaning on the website concerning 2022 class structure and the rulebook, he does not think there is too much to do. Lewis asked Dylan Cradlebaugh to provide him with the rulebook that went to print. Bruce Wyke discussed providing the class structure which Cradlebaugh will take care of. Lewis will provide the rulebook to WKA, as well as publish it on the OVKA website. Cradlebaugh explained the weight for the KT100 in the 100cc Heavy class was left off; he will update the information. Dan Fiehrer asked if the slides can be updated on the website. Lewis explained the pictures to use needs to be determined then provided to Gary Osterholt. Fiehrer said he doesn't think it is a bad idea to have the current year's champions; they just need to be updated. Ray McKibben reported Rob Neuzel provides some great pictures for the banquet and asked him if he can work with Lewis on this. Neuzel replied he will be glad to and said he has a website page with all the pictures. Lewis will peruse the website and pick five then make sure everybody's alright with them taking the place of the old ones then have a conversation with Osterholt. Wyke responded he is fine with Lewis picking them and suggested having some decent size classes such as the 206 and KA. Banfield agreed.

**TRACK IMPROVEMENT:** Ray McKibben reported he sent an email with some information to Aaron Banfield, Ted Cradlebaugh, Michael Lewis, Lynda Coombs, and Dylan Cradlebaugh about doing track sealing and laid out a plan. First on the list is to set a date to get everybody out there and walk the track and figure out what work we're going to accomplish; the rest of it is detailing how much material we will need and checking the old material to see if it is viable. Next will be to come back to the board when the group has determined what supplies we need. McKibben said maybe we can meet up there in the next two or three weeks. Rick Coombs discussed the importance of making sure the ground is thawed out before starting this. McKibben replied we plan to do this when the weather is in our favor. McKibben reported he was contacted about the transponders and they have been repaired. The final amount of the invoice is \$279.45 which includes shipping them back to us. McKibben said he believes this amount came in under what was budgeted. Lynda Coombs stated \$300 was budgeted. McKibben said he will have Lynda

Coombs and a couple of other people look at them then make a determination if we want to go forward and get the rest of them repaired. He said this was very cheap considering the cost of new transponders. Banfield extended thanks to McKibben. Ted Cradlebaugh noted Dylan Cradlebaugh said something about the track raising up. Dylan Cradlebaugh reported in old turn three, the outside groove is probably an inch higher than the outside. Banfield said we need to get out there one day and walk the track, make that list, and assess what we're going to do. McKibben added maybe the third week of this month or the first week of March would be a good time to walk it. Banfield suggested doing it this month so we can figure out what material is needed and we can move forward. Wyke asked to be included in the email string. Ted Cradlebaugh said he mentioned the turtles last month and if Gary Gregg is going to get the track repaved, he doesn't want to invest in turtles before that; he thinks it would be a waste of time if we raise the track up and then they don't fit. Banfield asked Ted to get the estimate then we will get more clarity from Gregg. Banfield reported Gregg gave us the go-ahead to look at some paving companies. Brian Schroeder said he sent an email to Banfield and Mark Heber will do so as well.

**SWAP MEET:** Scott Golladay reported on tables sales and proceeds and said we are in good shape. He said the hotel is sold out which is a good thing and means we have a lot of interest in the Swap Meet. Golladay explained Max and Erma's restaurant closed the end of the month and the only they will have open is the bar; we will have a concession stand inside the Swap Meet; but there is a Wendy's, Subway, McDonald's, and a couple of gas stations. Golladay asked if sponsors get a free armband or just the table. Brian Schroeder replied just the table is his understanding to which Aaron Banfield agreed. Schroeder added in year's past, we never handed out free armbands. Dan Fiehrer said he does not mind paying for his armband. Golladay reported sign-ups for the seminars is going really well. He explained there are six seminars and reported on the number of people signed up for each one. Golladay said it became necessary to go back to the Roberts Centre to rent larger rooms. Golladay explained they couldn't get a Mychron 5 in time so they ended up going with a GoPro 10 which will be the grand prize. He reported six more volunteers are needed and reviewed the times the positions need filled. He asked that people reach out to him to be door volunteers. McKibben asked how old a door volunteer can be and asked if they can be 14 or 15-years-old. Golladay said if they're comfortable asking people to raise their arm and stop them from walking in if they don't have an armband, that's fine; he would put them on the center doors where there will be more help and there will be adults who could call it out. Golladay will be sending out emails and posting the volunteer's positions on Facebook and explained in the event someone doesn't show, they will be reassigning positions. Golladay clarified that 7:00 a.m. is the time of arrival for vendors. Fiehrer asked the arrival time for vendors on Friday night to put stuff at their tables. Golladay replied from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., trailers will be brought in then 1:00 to 9:00 p.m. for everybody. He explained it is a hard stop of 9:00 p.m. and if it goes to 9:05 p.m., there is an additional fee of \$100 to keep everybody working. Golladay said he will tell the Roberts Centre we are planning on going back there next year if that is what we want to do and they will be expecting a \$1,000 deposit. Bruce Wyke, seconded by Ted Cradlebaugh, made a motion to appropriate \$1,000 for the reservation to return to the Roberts Centre next year. The motion passed unanimously. Lynda Coombs asked Golladay to provide the names of the volunteers for the participation list.

**MARKETING:** No report.

**RULES COMMITTEE:** Dylan Cradlebaugh reported we have a rulebook and he will make a couple of adjustments for the website.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW / OPEN DISCUSSION:**

**MEETING PLATFORM:** Aaron Banfield explained we need to get off Zoom and onto another platform that gives us the ability to transcribe these meetings. He said Zoom does have that capability but you have to have different licenses than he has access to or buy a ten-pack of business licenses which he does not need. Banfield would like to move to a Microsoft Teams platform next month. Ray McKibben said if we are going to make that move, there are a lot of people that don't go to the website but do come to Zoom so we need to get that word out in advance. Banfield said he would like to test it with Lynda Coombs then communicate it out as effectively as we can. McKibben noted the website and Facebook are the two places to communicate it. Banfield said he will jump on the Zoom meeting on his phone next month and the month after in case someone is on it so he can point them to the right place.

**206 SPORTSMAN WEIGHT:** Glenn Sheppard reported he took this to the Rules Committee earlier this year; he was unable to attend and speak to the request, and the Rules Committee decided to go a different direction than what he had requested and leave the weight as is. He said he gathered some feedback from the Rules Committee and the primary reasoning behind keeping the weight at 250 pounds is to move up the older drivers into the Junior class and keep them from lingering in the Sportsman class which is a 100% valid reason to have that weight at 250. Sheppard stated we're also going to run into cases where we have the opposite problem and that's the situation he thinks we're in for this particular year and one of the benefits of us to be able to look at this year over year is we have drivers this year that are not ready to move up to Juniors but are well over the 250-pound weight limit so in order to keep them competitive, the idea would be to move that to 265 at least for this year. He said the main reasoning was to move up Sportsman drivers to Juniors and he has the opposite situation where he has a driver that just turned 10-years-old two weeks ago that he would have to request to move up a full year early just because of a weight requirement in order to be in a class that they can be competitive in. Sheppard stated he is looking for some feedback; he is looking for the board to discuss this a little bit and ultimately his request would be that at least for this year, that the Sportsman class be moved to 265 to keep the class competitive for the drivers that are in it and obviously we can revisit it at Rules Committee next year. Josh Johnson responded Sheppard is not the only one in that situation and reported about other drivers who will be over the weight; he thinks Sheppard is on the right track of 265 that would be consistent with surrounding tracks. Dylan Cradlebaugh said he does not recall that it was a huge discussion; the committee had a little bit of dialog and came to the conclusion to leave it as is. He said if it's an issue, he doesn't have a problem with changing it; it's whatever benefits the entire class, not just three drivers. Dylan Cradlebaugh noted typically there are about twenty drivers in the Sportsman class and said if it's only three of them that are overweight, you can't just bolt 100 pounds of lead on a kid's kart; when they fly out of it, you've got a rolling missile. He further stated he is not against anything. Ray McKibben asked if the rulebook has already gone to print. Dylan Cradlebaugh responded, yes, it was at the banquet and he can adjust anything on the website but the printed version is what it is; this would be a tech update. Ted Cradlebaugh said he is not sure how many kids are overweight but you've got to look at how many are light and adding a lot of weight to make that 250; he is not sure what the range is; that is something you've got to look at when they show up this spring. Dylan Cradlebaugh replied if it's an obvious weight issue, we can make adjustments; if everybody's overweight, common sense says to adjust the weight. Bruce Wyke added he thinks we want to look back a few years at what we were facing then too because it's not just what's good for the class but also what's good for the club as a whole. He said he discussed this with Sheppard; the Junior class was pretty much decimated and it was by lowering the weight in the Cadet class and lowering the weight in the Junior class but also lowering

the age in both, we tried to give some push behind moving out of what is really our de facto Rookie class; it's where kids come out of Kid Karts and jump into a Cadet kart with a green slide and learn how to race. He further stated it's both for the good of the Junior and Senior class because a solid Junior class is going to feed people, like happened this year, into that Senior class. Wyke said his goal, and he thinks it's the goal of others, is to see us with a Senior Lite and a Senior Heavy and all the issues go away with the 206 classes; this is not just an isolated instance where we've got one or two drivers that might have difficulty making weight, albeit to them, it's 100% that and he totally gets that; if you decided to move the weight, that's fine but he wants you to understand that it's a multi-layer approach that we took to build this Junior class to in fact build our Senior class and classes all above. He reiterated that 206 Cadet racing is OVKA's de facto Rookie class; it's where you're going to see those kids come out of Kid Karts and move into a bigger kart and learn how to race; 80 pounds on a go-kart on a green slide can get a kids attention pretty quick; it's both safety and class structure in his mind. Ted Cradlebaugh replied absolutely. Sheppard said the point Wyke made about looking at it from a safety perspective; that it was just a year or two ago that we moved the from 12 to 11 so we've already moved back one year from an experience perspective and now we're in a situation where the ask is to move a 10-year-old into the Junior class. He further stated as much as you're trying to build the Junior class, you also want to keep the Junior class safe and not move drivers into a full-size go-kart at over 300 pounds that are not ready to be there as the flip side of the coin. Wyke replied he hears Sheppard, and shared about his child's situation; he said he was speaking about the 7-year-olds, not the Junior racer. Sheppard discussed the weight disadvantage there are at to which Ted Cradlebaugh replied it is a tough one there. Michael Lewis discussed the 206 weight being pretty dynamic the last few years not just at OVKA, but at CKNA, WKA, GoPro Motorplex, and New Castle. He said the move was to go to 250 and then the next year everybody went back to 265 and he would like to know what the reasoning was for that. Lewis said it is just an observation that he has seen over the past couple of years in regards to 206 weight; it does seem to be a bit dynamic year-to-year and he does not know why. Brian Schroeder replied he has noticed the same thing; it seems to be that kids move from the Kid Kart class into the Sportsman; they do it at such a young age so then they have to add more weight on and people have requested that the 265 be lowered to 250 because they have to add so much weight on. Schroeder further stated once the 7 and 8-year-olds get a few years under their belt, then the weight seems to go back up to 265; it seems to be like a little wave of the children racing and their size. Lewis replied he thinks looking at weights is good for every class on a year-to-year basis because it could possibly be dynamic based on who's in the class, who's coming in, and who's leaving. Wyke asked Sheppard if rather than making a motion tonight, could we ask some questions and take a little closer look at who's coming in and who's moving up and come back next board meeting. Sheppard replied he thinks that would probably be the best course of action; as much as he would like to resolve and figure out what the rules are as soon as possible, he thinks it makes sense to make sure we check all the avenues in the past and make sure everybody is on the same page. Dylan Cradlebaugh said he doesn't mind being a part of that as he missed Sheppard's email and will take responsibility for that.

**OVKA SWAG:** Bruce Wyke would like to have discussion about how we can handle OVKA swag, such as t-shirts and hats, on race day. He said we can take this up at the next board meeting. Ted Cradlebaugh stated he thinks we should look at some cool t-shirts.

**TIRE TESTING:** Bruce Wyke said he would like for the board to start the discussion on tire testing; he assumes Aaron Banfield will be naming a committee and he would like that to be part of a future discussion about timing, what we're going to be doing and how we're going to handle it. Banfield said we do need to get a committee together and who wants to be involved in the test. He noted we have had some through testing before and he thinks it's time to dust that off and walk

through it then send the Request for Proposals out to the tire manufacturers; he thinks now is the right time to start to do that. Banfield will get together the packets that we've used previously and asked that those who would like to be involved in it, reach out to him offline. Dan Fiehrer asked if we ought to take a membership poll on what tires they may want to use; there might be some reasons, for example, if there are some big races that mostly run MG reds; it might be easier on the pocketbook. Banfield replied that is definitely an idea and suggested selecting a group of people, he will get the previous test stuff together, and let that group discuss what the best way to handle the testing is. He thinks what the membership wants is a valuable part of that.

**TECH DIRECTOR:** Dan Fiehrer asked about the status of the Tech Director. Aaron Banfield explained he will be talking with some people at the upcoming Swap Meet, including someone with thirty years experience with AKRA. He would like to pull Ted Cradlebaugh into that conversation to help give some actual guidance. Banfield said ideally, he would like to find someone who can be with us for a few years and give us consistency and stability like we have had with Ted Cradlebaugh. Banfield thanked Ted Cradlebaugh for his service as not only Tech Director, but other positions as well.

**ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:** A motion to adjourn to executive session was made by Aaron Banfield, seconded by Rick Coombs, and passed unanimously at 8:14 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Discussion of workers for the upcoming season.

**ADJOURNMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Aaron Banfield, seconded by Bruce Wyke, motioned to adjourn the executive at 8:41 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS**

- 2022 OVKA Swap Meet – Saturday, February 5, 2022, The Roberts Centre, 123 Gano Road, Wilmington, OH 45177
- OVKA Monthly Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 1, 2022, in person at Full Throttle Adrenaline Park, 11725 Commons Drive, Cincinnati, OH, 45246 **AND** via a virtual platform that will be posted on the OVKA website and Facebook site.

#### **SUMMARY OF COMMITMENTS:**

- Aaron Banfield – Provide past tire testing information.
- Dylan Cradlebaugh – Email rulebook and class structure to Michael Lewis.
- Michael Lewis – Email rulebook to WKA, post rulebook and class structure on the OVKA website.
- Brian Schroeder - Reach out regarding attendance numbers for each of the days of the Cincinnati Boat, Sport and Travel Show and for 2023 dates then inform the board

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** A. Banfield, R. Coombs, T. Cradlebaugh, S. Golladay, M. Heber, J. Holliday, J. Johnson, R. Landes, M. Lewis, B. Schroeder, and B. Wyke.

**MEMBERS / VISITORS PRESENT:** R. Beaman, L. Coombs, D. Cradlebaugh, E. D'Agostino, D. Fiehrer, B. Glasgow, R. McKibben, R. Neuzel, R. Pansch, K. Schanie, and G. Sheppard.

Respectfully submitted by Lynda Coombs, OVKA Secretary, 2/21/2022