

**OHIO VALLEY KARTING ASSOCIATION  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Aaron Banfield called the virtual meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. He welcomed everyone and said he is really excited to get going this weekend with racing.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Lynda Coombs made a motion to accept the March 1, 2022 monthly board meeting minutes with an amendment that during the executive session, Aaron Banfield made a motion to provide an additional stipend up to \$10 per race day for the all-day workers for the snack shack. The motion was seconded by Ted Cradlebaugh and passed unanimously. The motion for the minutes was then seconded by Aaron Banfield and passed with nine in favor and one abstained (Gregg). Coombs reported that on behalf of OVKA, a sympathy card was sent to Carma Withrow upon the loss of her husband, Ron Withrow, who was one of the founding members of OVKA and WKA. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Carma and her family. Also, a note of thanks was received from Judy Stafford for flowers sent in memory of her husband, Jean Stafford. A thank you card was received from the Gratis Emergency Medical services for the donation that was made from the Charity Race.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** On behalf of Treasurer, Jason Gregg, Aaron Banfield provided bank balances and expenditures. Banfield noted a big expenditure was the recent purchase of a golf cart which came in under budget including travel expenses for fuel. Banfield thanked Ray McKibben for his assistance in obtaining the golf cart. Banfield added he is looking forward to having the cart out on the track this season as it will help the race staff. Banfield reported he and Gary Gregg have discussed the status of reconciliation with the track for 2020 and 2021. Calculations are in process and an update will be provided. Banfield explained on race day, pit pass totals will be provided to us for inclusion on the race day report and that will help us be current moving forward.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**SPONSORSHIP / PIT SPOTS:** Josh Johnson provided an update on pit spot payments and sponsorship income. He reported there are nineteen sponsors, with some having two sponsorships. Johnson explained some classes will have more than one sponsor. Ted Cradlebaugh responded those are great numbers. Johnson reported that Gary Gregg is building a fence inside the cow pasture that will be extra parking at 180 feet by 250 feet wide. Johnson explained there will be gates on both sides so the cows can go in when there's no race day. He said it is supposed to be ready to go this weekend. Aaron Banfield will be following up with our track owner and another track about potential advertising. Johnson and Banfield reported on two pit spots at the end of scales that had to be re-assigned to other locations in order to make room for doing tech.

**BANQUET:** Jeanette Holliday reported the 2022 banquet date has been confirmed. She explained a \$1,000 deposit is required and in February \$500 was approved. Holliday made a motion to change the 2022 banquet deposit amount to \$1,000. The motion was seconded by Aaron Banfield and passed unanimously.

**SHOWS & PROMOTIONS:** Lynda Coombs shared that she purchased a tote and will put together OVKA flyers, schedules with the class structure, tri-folds, and business cards that can be available if someone comes across a show they would like to do. Ray McKibben asked if we

plan on promoting on Facebook. Aaron Banfield said Bruce Wyke did a great job last year with the recaps and asked if he is able to continue that this year. Wyke replied he can do that and he is searching for a better way to capture drops.

**TECH DEPARTMENT:** Josh Johnson asked if we are going to be using engine seals for Karting 101. Aaron Banfield replied he would like to get the seals out as soon as we can and he is going to need some help the first few races. Johnson agreed to help to explain how the seals work. Ted Cradlebaugh reported the fuel tester has been received, tested, and is working. He said they did a good job repairing it and the cost was \$34. Aaron Banfield noted we had budgeted \$800 for the repair. Bruce Wyke asked if Cradlebaugh has everything needed for the 22-millimeter IAME header. Cradlebaugh replied he will check.

**TECHNOLOGY:** No update.

**TRACK IMPROVEMENT:** Ray McKibben reported he, Ted Cradlebaugh, and Bruce Wyke met at the track to identify areas that need to be sealed. McKibben said he did a rough estimate and came up with 3,500 feet of medium to large cracks. Also identified was a rough area coming out of the B configuration onto the front stretch and after obtaining permission from Gary Gregg, McKibben took care of it at a cost \$86 for the grinder rental. McKibben provided Aaron Banfield with pricing for Rhino seal. Ted Cradlebaugh noted there are a lot of cracks happening in the new section that are not big but need attention. Cradlebaugh and McKibben discussed having two dates for sealing. Bruce Wyke explained we will get commitments through Sign-Up Genius and will be seeking fifteen volunteers. Dates are planned for May 7<sup>th</sup> and June 4<sup>th</sup>. Aaron Banfield made a motion to approve \$2,640 for Rhino racetrack repair inclusive of \$500 for miscellaneous expenses. The motion was seconded by Ted Cradlebaugh and passed unanimously. Banfield discussed getting lumber to construct a tower in the area of the turn three exit similar to what is in turn one. Wyke inquired if the plan is to include a roof to which Banfield explained right now the plan does not include one. McKibben suggested seeing what we would like to put up there that would be wind resistant that could be used for a roof. He will obtain pricing. Ted Cradlebaugh offered to donate shingles and tar paper. Following further discussion, Aaron Banfield, seconded by Ted Cradlebaugh, made a motion to approve \$1,400 for an additional turn tower. The motion passed unanimously. McKibben shared he contacted Jeff Roberts about doing graphics for the newly acquired golf cart and made a motion to appropriate \$500 for the graphics. The motion was seconded by Rick Coombs and passed with nine in favor and one opposed (Johnson). Banfield extended thanks to the thirty-one people who helped at clean-up day and reported a lot was accomplished. He explained painting could not be done due to it being a little chilly and said the paint would not bond well. Banfield shared that Rainer Pansch will help with repainting the start/finish line. Banfield reported pizza and drinks were delivered from Powerhouse Pizza and total expenses came out to about \$226; we had budgeted \$500 so we came in under budget. McKibben reported in response to Banfield reaching out to him, radio antennas have been ordered and are being shipped to Gary Gregg.

**SWAP MEET:** No update.

**MARKETING:** Bruce Wyke asked if we have utilized any email marketing, such as Constant Contact or Mailchimp. Aaron Banfield replied not that he is aware of.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**OVKA SWAG:** Bruce Wyke suggested starting with embroidered patch hats that are of a good quality and are available in most any color and style. He shared pricing for hats with a pre-curved bill that are also available with a flat-bill and said they can be ordered in different types and colors in lots of twelve. Wyke said he thinks they can be sold for \$20 each and asked what others think. Several people indicated they would buy them. Following further discussion, Bruce Wyke made a motion to allocate \$1,420 for the purchase of OVKA patch hats from Custompatchhats.com. The motion was seconded by Scott Golladay and passed unanimously. Wyke asked Lynda Coombs if she would work with him on t-shirts and other OVKA swag which Coombs agreed to do so.

**TIRE TESTING:** Bruce Wyke reported he, Michael Lewis, and Rob Neuzel have not had a kick-off yet. Aaron Banfield said he is happy to help and will write the RFP and get it out. Wyke discussed determining who we want to send RFPs to and considering a second Hoosier compound. He said the committee will start to work on these things and come back with information. Wyke noted this is a club tire and they are looking at weighing three different things: performance, value, and economics. He further stated they will be looking at very similar compounds. Ray McKibben said one of the biggest factors on a tire is what some people have termed a qualifying kick. He added this tends to push people to buy more tires because of the difference of new versus a few laps old and it becomes important in racing. Ted Cradlebaugh said you've got to weigh it all; it's a complete package. Dylan Cradlebaugh replied that the guy who wants to buy tires is still going to buy them so it doesn't matter and is a moot point. Banfield said we can talk about the test plan and said let's identify which tire manufacturers we want to invite to participate in an RFP process and rock and roll in moving forward.

## **NEW / OPEN DISCUSSION:**

**TECH DIRECTOR:** Bruce Wyke said we have got talk about the tech director position. Aaron Banfield responded he has had a number of people who have said they are willing to drop in and do tech with us throughout the season. Ted Cradlebaugh has been gracious enough to say he can be there in the afternoons to ensure that we get post-tech done when we don't have a guest tech director. Banfield said he will take care of doing pre-tech and make sure that that is covered. Banfield shared he has talked to a number of people about doing full-time tech and hasn't found someone who is able to commit to us for the full season to do what we're looking to do. Banfield's plan right now is for him to do pre-tech and Ted, along with several other folks, will be doing post-tech throughout the season. Ted Cradlebaugh noted there might be days where he will not be available but he is going to try to do whatever he can. Banfield said he likes the idea of having some different people as we will see some different expertise from people who have worked with us before, as well as worked with other series. He added he is actively looking for a full-time tech person to carry us into the future and it has been tough. Ray McKibben will provide contact information for a person he knows.

**NEW YAMAHA:** Emerson D'Agostino reported he learned of a new dedicated Yamaha class at New Castle and asked where they would be placed if they were to come race with us. Dylan Cradlebaugh said he would probably place them with 420s. Aaron Banfield thanked D'Agostino for giving us a heads-up as it gives us a chance to be better prepared.

**RACE ONE:** Dan Fiehrer inquired if anyone will be doing pre-tech Saturday night for Sunday's first race. Ted Cradlebaugh explained with the first race, you have got to get your pre-tech form and go through tech. Banfield said he will find a way to make that happen Saturday night after

Karting 101. Lynda Coombs offered to start registering people after Karting 101 for Sunday's race.

**REQUEST TO MOVE UP:** Brian Schroeder requested that his son be permitted to move up to the 100cc Senior class and the 206 Senior class. Dylan Cradlebaugh said as far as driving capabilities, he doesn't have any issues with Wes moving up and noted he is still a child and would be moving into racing with 40-year-old men and women. He further stated Wes has got to understand that he's racing with adults that have jobs on Monday; that their dads aren't going to fix their karts for them. Aaron Banfield added in this case, if he moves up, he is going to be treated like as a senior-age driver and asked if that is what the parents are asking for. Brian Schroeder replied true. Wyke stated he is well aware of Wes's abilities on the kart track and that's not the reason for his comments and he will be one that if that's what the Schroeder's want to do, he will be backing them, but he wants the board to take a look at what's occurred here and try to understand. Wyke reviewed some past history with other drivers who stayed in the Sportsman class until they aged out then did one year in Junior then bumped straight up to Senior and said it decimated the Junior classes. He stated so take a look at this; it is a perfect example of a young man with one year in and right to Senior and he does not think that is what we want; he does not think it is healthy for the club to allow that and when we go back and look at weight and ages for Sportsman drivers, this is the ripple effect. Wyke said Wes is a more than capable driver and he will be supporting him 100% and whatever they decide they want to do but from the club standpoint, let's take a look at this and remember how we got here and what we're trying to do to keep younger classes healthy. Ted Cradlebaugh said he agrees with what Wyke is saying and he thinks Wes could compete in Juniors even with more weight. He further stated we used to not let anybody move up to 15-year-old classes unless they were majorly overweight. Ray McKibben said this sounds like something for review by the Rules Committee to determine what direction the club wants but as it stands, we just opened the gates. Ted Cradlebaugh responded he does have the qualifications as a driver on the track but it is going to hurt the Junior class and he hopes that class is still healthy. Wyke discussed Cadets and other Juniors moving out and said that it is a real conversation to have. Banfield stated by our rules, that at least five board members need to raise their hand to attest to the safety of this and if we get that, we send it to WKA for approval. Board members Aaron Banfield, Ted Cradlebaugh, Mark Heber, Josh Johnson, Randy Landes, and Bruce Wyke feel there are no safety issues with this action and believe Wes Schroeder is capable of racing in the 100cc and 206 Senior classes. Lynda Coombs will submit a request to WKA following this meeting.

**OVKA BYLAWS:** Bruce Wyke inquired if review of the bylaws will be starting back up. Aaron Banfield replied, yes, he would like to get that going and finish this season.

**RACE ENTRY FEES / FUEL COSTS:** Aaron Banfield said we need to talk about race entry fees for next season and noted a lot of our expenses have gone up. He reported our fuel costs have gone up so we have adjusted fuel prices based on that. Banfield said we're going to need to look at this long term and make sure that the club is continuing to be profitable; he's not saying we need to do a drastic increase but we need to make sure we're covering our expenses and leave enough in the account to cover expenses. He asked everyone to start looking at this and put some thought into it and said he would like to talk about this over the next couple board meetings. Banfield further stated there's plenty of time to be prepared; he's not proposing any change to this year's fees. Ray McKibben reported he has been asked questions about fuel pricing and noted how volatile fuel can be. He asked if we are going to be reactive. Banfield replied yes, we are, and explained we left blank lines on the registration forms for both two-

stroke and four-stroke fuel prices that we can fill in when people purchase fuel. He said we're going to take a look at the costs and his hope is when we order fuel next, the costs will have gone down and we can drop our price. Banfield explained while people may see fuel prices at the gas stations dropping, we buy 55-gallon drums and we are charging based on the cost of the fuel when we purchased it. He added the margins that we make on race fuel are not that significant. Banfield said he would be happy to explain this to anyone who has a challenge as he would like them to understand that better.

**TROPHIES:** Dawn Schroeder said the only issue she sees with having more than one sponsor per class has to do with trophies because we are limited on the number of letters that can go on them. She said this was a problem last year with Kid Karts so she had to split the trophies between two sponsors. Schroeder asked if that's an issue going forward, do we put three trophies with one sponsor's name and three with another sponsor? She said this is something to think about; it's not life or death, and she that's the only issue she can see with having multiple sponsors per class. Aaron Banfield asked Josh Johnson to have a conversation offline about the answer to this and then make sure we circle back with those sponsors so everyone has the right expectation. Johnson relied it seems like the majority of them don't really mind who they sponsor, but he does have three of them that were pretty adamant about sponsoring a specific class. Banfield said we may have to let them know about the trophies and as a sponsor, he does have a problem with not being on the trophies.

**WORKERS:** Dylan Cradlebaugh said he would like to stress that we are one corner worker short for this weekend and if anybody knows someone, to please send them his way. He explained if we do have to get a corner worker at the first race, the first class on the list for the season is 206 Masters Heavy so they should start looking unless they want to get their name drawn as per page 39 in the rulebook. Randy Landes offered to fill the corner worker position. Cradlebaugh reported upon looking at the weather forecast for Karting 101, he told his workers to stay home and he would like to utilize board members if we miraculously get track time. He noted it is only for two heats and he does not foresee a bunch of karts being entered that day.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion to adjourn was made by Aaron Banfield, seconded by Rick Coombs, and passed unanimously at 8:45 p.m.

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

- OVKA Monthly Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 3, 2022, in person at Full Throttle Adrenaline Park, 11725 Commons Drive, Cincinnati, OH, 45246 **AND** via Microsoft Teams virtually.

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

- Aaron Banfield – Follow up about advertising.
- Lynda Coombs – Put together a tote with OVKA promotional materials, collaborate with Bruce Wyke regarding OVKA swag, submit a request to move up letter to WKA.
- Ted Cradlebaugh – Check on test equipment for 22-millimeter IAME header, donate shingles and tar paper for turn marshal stand.
- Josh Johnson – Assist with explaining engine seals the first few races.
- Randy Landis - Fill corner worker position this Sunday.
- Ray McKibben – Obtain pricing for a stand in the turn three area including roof material.
- Rainer Pansch – Repaint start/finish line.
- Bruce Wyke – Order OVKA hats to sell.

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

**MEMBERS / VISITORS PRESENT:** R. Beaman, Elliott Bokeno, Ethan Bokeno, C. Bonno, L. Brown, L. Coombs, D. Cradlebaugh, E. D'Agostino, D. Fiehrer, C. Holliday, B. Huntsbarger, R. McKibben, R. Neuzel, R. Pansch, K. Schanie, D. Schroeder, and T. Wilkinson.

Respectfully submitted by Lynda Coombs, OVKA Secretary, 4/27/2022