

**OHIO VALLEY KARTING ASSOCIATION  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Aaron Banfield called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Lynda Coombs made a motion to accept the May 2, 2023 board meeting minutes as published. The motion was seconded by Rick Coombs and passed with nine in favor and one abstained (Lewis). Lynda Coombs noted the next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, due to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. Coombs reported she reported she received notification that our legal counsel, Thomas B. Allen, has changed law firms and we have been sent an authorization form for legal representation giving us three options, one being to transfer the legal files to Thomas B. Allen at Roetzel and Andress or keep the legal files with Frost Brown Todd or transfer to another attorney. Ray McKibben asked if Mr. Allen has been the one that has been with us for many years to which Lynda Coombs replied that's correct. Aaron Banfield stated his preference would be to follow the attorney as he is the one who we've worked with and he knows why he's made the recommendations he has; until he retires or something else happens, Banfield would prefer to follow him. Banfield made a motion that we move our legal counseling from Frost Brown and Todd following our attorney to the new office. The motion was seconded by Rick Coombs and passed unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** On behalf of treasurer, Jason Gregg, Lynda Coombs provided bank balances. She also provided an armband count for race three. Aaron Banfield reported on the Square account funds that were transferred.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**TRACK IMPROVEMENT:** Ray McKibben reported he did some grid painting to outline the main asphalt areas which he plans to finish. He also shared new headsets are on the way. McKibben said he would like to go ahead and purchase the single headset that we have as a demo as there are some people who like bigger ear protection. Aaron Banfield asked Dylan Cradlebaugh what the track crew needs. Cradlebaugh responded one person requested bigger ear muffs. Banfield asked McKibben to get with him about pricing. McKibben discussed making repairs to some of the platform steps.

**SHOWS & PROMOTIONS:** No report.

**SPONSORSHIP / PIT SPOTS:** Michael Lewis provided information about pit spot and sponsorship income. He reported there are some overpayment refunds that need to be addressed. Lewis discussed deposit documentation. He shared one of our sponsors, Ladders Marine, would like to bring a boat to display at the Champ Race. Aaron Banfield asked Lewis to obtain the size so we can make sure they get some good visibility and said we will need to get with Dylan Cradlebaugh and Gary Gregg about where to stage it.

**MARKETING & DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS:** Ethan Bokeno reported he sent Bruce Wyke information about a swapmeet@ovka account that he created. He explained he and Ethan Bokeno are going to look into how to digitalize the kart raffle so as to not make it isolated to just the club, but to also potentially promote it nationwide. Aaron Banfield discussed tickets sold at the Swap Meet. He noted the Margay kart has not been shipped yet which he thinks is

preferred so if someone in California wins the kart, it can be drop-shipped there. Josh Johnson asked that the kart raffle be mentioned at driver's meetings and asked what the plan is for the second kart. Banfield replied let's get through this year's kart and see if the raffle goes quickly because he thinks it is a different conversation if we struggle to sell tickets even online. Ted Cradlebaugh inquired about the number of tickets. Banfield responded it's 1,500 tickets that are sold for \$10 a ticket and we are about an eighth of the way there from the one day at the Swap Meet. Ray McKibben inquired about having a full-size image of the kart to display since we do not have the actual kart, as well as promoting it at the Champ Race. Banfield responded he has a banner that was at the Swap Meet that will be out there. He added he has a volunteer to help sell tickets at the next couple of races.

**TECH DEPARTMENT:** Brian Schroeder reported that he had problems turning on the fuel test gauge at the last race; it wasn't reading incorrectly; it just took multiple times to turn it on. He reached out and wound up just updating the software which has taken care of that. Brian Huntsbarger asked what is the absolute minute cutoff for teching karts. Aaron Banfield replied they have to be teched before they enter the track; if someone comes and they enter and run into a problem, they could be late. He stated if it is interfering with Huntsbarger's or Schroeder's race day to let him know as he can pre-tech as well. Banfield said Schroeder and Huntsbarger have been extremely helpful this season and it has been great and he appreciates them. Banfield further stated the rule is written if you go on the track before pre-tech is completed, it's two heats on the tail; that's where Schroeder does the crosscheck.

**CHAMP RACE:** Dawn Schroeder reported she has purchased and booked everything for the Champ Race and is ready to go. She shared we're going to have Luigi's dinner again; it's been a few years since we had them out and they do such a great job; the food is delicious. Dawn inquired about pricing for gate and race fees so she can put it on the flyer. Lynda Coombs said we typically increase the entry fees by \$5.00 to help toward the trophies. Dawn noted on Saturday we only did two-day passes. Gary Gregg said he's not so sure with the economy the way it is, we should increase fees. Aaron Banfield noted historically, we increased the pit pass on Saturday by \$5.00 and asked if that covers the food to which Gregg replied no. Following discussion of food expenses and fee options, Banfield suggested setting the gate fees at \$25 for the Champ Race and the race entry fees at \$5.00 more than our normal race entry fee to offset some of the cost of the trophies as that's what we have done historically. Consensus was to go with these fees which are not a change from last year. Don Boles made a motion to provide up to \$2,500 for Dawn Schroeder to use for the Champ Race as she sees fit. While Dawn Schroeder cut down on some of the inflatables to stay within budget, the food is going to be much more expensive this year, and trophies are expensive, she does not feel she needs \$2,500. Following further discussion, Boles revised his motion to \$1,250 and it was seconded by Ray McKibben. The motion passed unanimously. Dawn Schroeder will provide Elliot Bokeno with details about the Champ Race so he can promote it. Dawn discussed ordering food based on current attendance, as well as timing for dinner. Gregg said the meal has always been 6:00 p.m. in the past. Dawn would like to have a group picture taken and noted it has not been done in years. Banfield suggested reaching out first to Larry Neuzel and if he is not available, we will need to see who we can ask; Banfield will contact Neuzel. Elliot Bokeno and Emerson D'Agostino discussed some possible options. Ethan Bokeno discussed photographers who in the past would take action shots at the Champ Race and they would have prints of the pictures. He asked if there has been consideration in recent years having a photographer who

would date stamp pictures at the Champ Race, such as for 2023. Ted Cradlebaugh responded we used to have someone who passed away about seven years ago. Dawn Schroeder said she can reach out to a person who has a little van that comes to see if he can walk around and have photos. She asked that when advertising is done to include the need for volunteers, including someone to spearhead the cornhole tournament, as well as assist with the bike and peddle kart races, tire changing competition, snow cone machine, and craft-type things. Banfield extended his appreciation to Dawn Schroeder and said she does a great job. Schroeder shared the Schanies have offered to donate coffee from Cavu Coffee on Saturday and Sunday for the Champ Race and there will be donuts and all kinds of stuff. Lynda Coombs and Dawn Schroeder said that is very generous.

**BANQUET:** Jeanette Holliday reported she contacted the Marriott and they have penciled us in for January 20, 2024 as that is the only date in January they have available. She said we need to put down a \$500 deposit. The Marriott is working on the pricing and will try to stay pretty close to previous pricing. They do potentially have an event on the Friday before so it might have to be an early setup because we won't be able to get in. Holiday explained due to so many complaints about the soft drinks being flat, the Marriott will provide lemonade, fruit punch, and tea instead with soft drinks available at the cash bar for mixed drinks. Gary Gregg will assist with getting a check for the deposit. Holliday should have pricing at the next board meeting. Banfield said he realizes how much work the banquet is and Holliday does a great job and he extended thanks to her.

**SWAP MEET:** Josh Johnson said they are looking for one more member for the Swap Meet team. Please contact Bruce Wyke if interested or for more information.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**FUTURE PLANNING:** Ethan Bokeno reported next Tuesday night, June 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. there will be a future planning meeting open to all members of the club to retrospectively look at here the club is at and also look forward to plan for our future and where we see the club progressing in the next three to seven years. He said we had talked about doing this as a hybrid meeting in-person and virtually but he thinks it best to do this virtually. Ethan explained we will meet via the Teams meeting and he will provide a link where everybody will have access Mural Board and there will be some activities that he will facilitate and hopefully brainstorm some good ideas that we can digest. This will be presented back to everyone on a board meeting call in some form. Elliot Bokeno added there will be no decision made, no votes taken; it will be just chatting about ideas tossed back and forth and planning for the future.

**FUEL:** Brian Huntsbarger reported he got a test pale of fuel and he talked with Ethan and Elliot Bokeno about having some. He said if others are willing to try it to test, he will probably get five gallons to start. Ray McKibben asked if this is something we can get in bulk. Huntsbarger replied Gary Gregg has already talked with a supplier and there are about ten different blends we can get in bulk and we went with something we knew was going to work and also with pricing. He added it is pretty close to what the other tracks are running. Huntsbarger asked that anyone who is interested in doing some testing to let him know and he will get them some fuel. There was discussion of others who may be assisting with testing. Elliot Bokeno stated he will post his data publicly for the club to see. Huntsbarger said the fuel is about 96 octane and is a blend from VP; it's a newer fuel they've only been running in some cars the last three or four

years. Don Boles asked if a format is set so everybody's testing is the same. Huntsbarger and Elliot Bokeno discussed testing procedures. Boles said the reason he is asking questions is he wants to make sure we're going about this in a way that we're going to solve a problem and not create one. He said they are doing a great job on this and extended thanks. Aaron Banfield added it's really good we're going to collect this information and share it with the racers. Emerson D'Agostino asked if this is just information gathering for future seasons. Huntsbarger replied they thought with what Gregg said and what they are estimating, we will probably be at the very end of our tank by the end of the season. Banfield said in an ideal world, we switch after the last race of the season so people have a chance to get new fuel testes and it's not a mid-season change.

**OVKA APPAREL:** Elliot Bokeno discussed a vendor for purchasing shirts and shared potential shirt designs and colors they provided. He does not have a specific quote yet. Elliot said we could do a small or medium bulk order and run a separate table somewhere at the track until those shirts are gone then transfer everything to online from cincyshirts.com. He explained we would get a percentage of the proceeds and not have to do any of the work or shipping. Don Boles shared that the club used to do a t-shirt every year. Ray McKibben said by not having a year on the shirts, they could roll over to sell for the next year. Lynda Coombs shared that a visitor to this meeting, Lamar Ford, is involved in apparel. Ford shared he is with True Game USA Racing Academy which is located under the Edgemont umbrella in Dayton, Ohio. He explained they are not a recreational printer which means they don't do look good today and it's no good in two weeks but it is of a good quality and they would like to work with OVKA in that capacity, as well as educational for young people coming into this sport. He explained right now they are learning the mechanics of all of this with Eben Smith and his daughter who race with OVKA and is their first endorsee they are working with this year. Ford shared that even though some of the kids may not get a chance to actually drive, they want them to learn the mechanics and safety behind karting and then as time goes on, actually next year, they will be participating in competition efforts. Coombs said this is reminiscent of the Spirit4Racing organization that OVKA provided a type of sponsored for in the past. Ford explained they were invited to the Indianapolis Grand Prix by Mr. Penske a couple of weeks ago and they took 25 plus kids there to an experience they never had before. He said they have been fortunate to be able to mentor about 12 to 13 more kids on top of that. Ford shared when the kids were told about OVKA, they pulled it up on their smartphones and said they want to go. He said this is an exciting opportunity for not just them as a company coming out of the gate, but for the kids that have only seen go-karts on TV to bring this type of experience to them in a more organized manner and structure. Aaron Banfield said he looks forward to learning more about their program and finding ways we can help support them as we go forward. Banfield asked Ford to provide his contact information so there can be a conversation between him and the Bokenos. Elliot Bokeno said he is trying to figure out a number for shirts to quote and asked if a motion for \$2,000 should be made to have the money available. Banfield said he would not have any idea and asked if Lynda Coombs can assist. Coombs found information from 2017 that she provided to Elliot. Ethan Bokeno asked if a motion should be made tonight with the Champ Race coming up. Lewis asked that the quote be disseminated to the entire board before the next board meeting. McKibben responded the problem with that is we all have to vote yes, whereas here, we can use a percentage of the vote to pass or fail. Dawn Schroeder said she would like to talk with Elliot about shirts as she makes them too. Following further discussion, Elliot will obtain a quote.

**NEW BUSINESS / OPEN DISCUSSION:**

**TECH:** Ray McKibben discussed being vigilant about things such as lead weights or anything that comes off and suggested re-teching karts involved in a crash. Brian Huntsbarger agreed to re-teching karts and said maybe one time a year go back through; he offered to assist with this. Aaron Banfield said we can absolutely do that and need to plan it out so we have enough pre-tech people. He further stated tech people at any point in time can walk up to a kart and say we want to take a look at it or ask to see specific karts. Banfield said we can get together offline and figure out the process and he would like Dylan Cradlebaugh to be involved in that conversation. Michael Lewis stated he thinks a big part of this is education in best practices; he thinks that would be beneficial.

**ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Aaron Banfield, seconded by Rick Coombs, motioned to adjourn to executive session at 8:43 p.m. Motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Aaron Banfield reported we have been having a hard time getting coverage for EMTs because of the amount of reimbursement. Rick Coombs explained the current hourly rate of \$45 is divided three ways with one-third going to each of two EMS workers and the other third going to the ambulance company. Chad Wilson, coordinator between Gratis EMS and the track, reported they are having trouble attracting people to work at the track because everyone's pay is going up elsewhere plus the cost of supplies has gone up. He proposed increasing to \$60 per hour to cover the ambulance and two crew members splitting equally in thirds. Following discussion, Aaron Banfield made a motion to increase the ambulance pay to the requested \$60 per hour. The motion was seconded by Ray McKibben and passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Aaron Banfield, seconded by Rick Coombs, motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m. Motion carried.

**SUMMARY OF COMMITMENTS:**

- Aaron Banfield – Contact Larry Neuzel regarding a group picture at the Champ Race.
- Elliot Bokeno – Obtain quote for t-shirts.
- Gary Gregg – Provide a check to Jeanette Holliday for the banquet deposit.
- Jeanette Holliday – Follow up regarding banquet deposit.
- Ray McKibben – Finish grid painting.
- Dawn Schroeder – Coordinate Champ Race; provide Elliot Bokeno with Champ Race details.

**UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS:**

- Future Planning Meeting – 7:00-9:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 13, 2023, virtually via Microsoft Teams Microsoft Teams (link on the OVKA website).
- OVKA Monthly Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 11, 2023, virtually via Microsoft Teams Microsoft Teams (link on the OVKA website).

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** A. Banfield, Elliot Bokeno, D. Boles, R. Coombs, T. Cradlebaugh, S. Golladay, G. Gregg, J. Holliday, J. Johnson, R. Landes, M. Lewis, R. McKibben, and B. Schroeder.

**MEMBERS / VISITORS PRESENT:** T. Abel, R. Beaman, Ethan Bokeno, L. Coombs, D. Cradlebaugh, E. D'Agostino, D. Fiehrer, L. Ford, B. Huntsbarger, C. Irby, D. Jennings, R. Johnson, W. Klein, J. Love, C. Moore, T. Myers, R. Neuzel, R. Pansch, D. Schroeder, and C. Wilson.

Respectfully submitted by Lynda Coombs, OVKA Secretary, 6/29/2023