

**OHIO VALLEY KARTING ASSOCIATION  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2016**

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Josh Wagar called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. asked that cell phones be turned down or placed on vibrate and side conversations are taken outside.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Lynda Coombs made a motion to accept the July 5, 2016 board meeting minutes as published. The motion was seconded by Rick Coombs and passed unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** On behalf of Treasurer Jason Gregg, Josh Wagar provided bank balances.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**SHOWS & PROMOTIONS:** Ted Cradlebaugh noted the Lebanon Blues Festival is this coming weekend. Lynda Coombs said she will bring printed materials to the event. Cradlebaugh will be taking the kid kart and a pipe kart. He said anybody who wants to bring a kart is welcome to since we will have three spots. Josh Wagar reported OVKA did not participate in the Rollin' on the River event as planned due to issues with lights on the trailer and not enough volunteers. Brian Schroeder suggested bigger events be taken into consideration when scheduling races for next year. Wagar responded scheduling off national events has been a bigger priority and we try to accommodate other events when we can. Wagar explained while he voted in favor of purchasing a trailer, a lot of people don't want to tow it due to insurance issues. He reported currently there are light issues and it needs tires and asked if it is worth keeping. Schroeder responded the light issue is just a \$5.00 bulb. Ray McKibben said he will take ownership of tires and apologized this has not yet been done. Pat Slattery asked if we are over the insurance issues to which Wagar explained it depends on your own insurance company. Cradlebaugh suggested keeping the trailer and said if anybody wants to use it, it is there and if not, they can unload the items then return them to the trailer. Wagar said another consideration is having a place to park it when towing to events such as the Cavalcade Show. Brent Warren stated it is handy to have around as a place to store everything and he thinks we should keep it. He added if you pull everything out, you need to put it back in the trailer and not in the tower. Wagar said he is fine with this.

**SPONSORSHIP / PIT SPOTS:** Lee McCready reported Ray McKibben painted pit spot numbers and there are a few that still need to be checked. McKibben explained all official numbers are in red and Jeff Roberts made a nice map. Josh Wagar reported one map is in the tower and one at the ticket booth. McCready said only a few on the map are open. McKibben and McCready will finish up on Sunday. Rick Coombs suggested next year moving the free area up a row so new people do not have to go way in the back. McCready discussed the billboards and said everything can come off except for two panels. McKibben said the billboards need to be looked at structurally as the winds have shifted them but the poles are okay. Wagar responded these can be looked at this weekend. Randy Landes asked if the pathways for the back section are smooth to which Wagar responded they are gravel and in good shape. Brent Warren noted Coombs cleaned a lot of that up. Don Boles suggested designating two free spots for new people. Wagar responded this can be looked at for next year.

**TRACK IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE:** Brent Warren reported he and Ray McKibben worked on the guy wiring. He said he had a little trouble with one of the amplifiers and he will be keeping an eye on it. Ted Cradlebaugh thanked Elaine Gregg and Shelley Powers for putting up banners and flags and for landscaping. Warren discussed how he and his boys walked the track last night and found there

are some pretty bad spots with a lot that is abraded and rough. Josh Wagar responded we are planning on sealing the track this fall. Warren asked how many times we want to do that before we consider repaving. Gary Gregg said it would be \$70,000 to \$80,000 to do the whole track. Doug Benson stated paving everything would cost \$110,000. Warren explained coming out of the B turn is a two inch drop. McKibben responded that changes throughout the season. Brody Warren asked when was the last time the track was repaved to which Wagar responded approximately twenty years ago. Don Boles said right now the track is in better shape than it used to be. Wagar said we will determine a date at the end of the season to seal the track and use Rhino on the rough spots. Boles said he would like us to pick something for the 50/50 raffle to go towards and noted we started it for restroom improvements. Wagar responded right now it is allocated for the Charity Race. Lynda Coombs said she would like to see the shed near the tower replaced as it is falling apart. McKibben said he can get one at the end of the season. Wagar stated we need to figure out what to do with the ticket booth. Gregg explained the trailer he is going to provide can be used to store the retrieval vehicles. Warren asked whether we want a separate shed since we will getting a trailer. Wagar responded it depends on where the trailer is located. He further stated we need to determine what projects need to be addressed. Lynda Coombs suggested waiting to make any decision about the shed until after the trailer is put in place. Rick Coombs said he would like to add insulating the ceiling in the tech barn to the project list.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**TRANSPONDERS:** Josh Wagar discussed pricing through Aaron Banfield for a second transponder charging suitcase. He explained it would allow us to put the loose transponders in it, leave room for nine more and give us two cases. Brian Schroeder asked if we have lots of individual transponders. Brent Warren responded it is a problem when we travel. Ray McKibben stated he has a case ready to be built. Schroeder said with that we would be talking \$75 and he doesn't mind helping with it in the winter. Gary Gregg reported the motorcycle club bought a soft case on eBay for \$800. Schroeder said he will make a case once the season is over and suggested it be aluminum. Warren said he votes for buying a brand new AMB case. Lynda Coombs asked if the board would consider buying more transponders considering the changeover to subscription transponders. Ted Cradlebaugh stated he thinks we should make the case and save money then fill it up with transponders. McKibben made a motion to purchase ten transponders. Wagar asked that the matter be tabled one more month to obtain exact pricing. McKibben rescinded his motion.

**TaG WEIGHTS:** Ken Kuethe reported he received a call that some racers from New Castle would like to run a Rok GP with us and asked what their minimum weight would be as it is 380# at New Castle. Ray McKibben noted they will not be in the points. Ted Cradlebaugh said to let them come and race. Josh Wagar explained he told Kuethe we wouldn't turn them away and we can start with whatever weight they're running at. Cradlebaugh responded we don't have that motor in our rulebook. Don Boles stated the motor must not be homologated yet. Brent Warren looked online and reported KRA lists all others at 370#. Wagar said we can look up WKA weight to which Slattery responded it won't be in there because they don't run them. Wagar said he will let Cradlebaugh handle it. Gary Gregg asked why the TaGs have gone astray. Wagar said there are multiple reasons to which Kuethe agreed.

**CHAMP RACE:** Josh Wagar thanked Gary Gregg for providing the drinks and organizing the tables for the Champ Race. He extended thanks to Dawn Schroder, Angie Calvert, Kellie Byrd and the Vets for organizing the games and thanked all of the racers and workers. Ken Kuethe thanked everyone who got in the dunk tank. Wagar reported everything ran smooth. Jeff Calvert said the food was great. Brent Warren stated the live music provided by Something Good was excellent.

**AWAY RACES 2017:** Josh Wagar said we have been talking the last couple of months and he has had input from only two of three people saying they want to travel and others who do not want to. Pat Slattery said he is not a big fan of Circleville and last time we had no retrieval vehicle, no ambulance and they scheduled bikes on the Saturday before. Brad Crutchleo stated the New Castle EMTs were not great. Wagar responded there were issues at both tracks, in addition to a cost difference for practice, especially at New Castle. He said there are things we have to deal with and it is a big undertaking. Wagar further stated he has received numerous complaints and that is why he started talking about whether we should travel, especially since we have nine configurations at G & J. Slattery said he would like to try a year without traveling. Brian Schroeder asked if we need fourteen races to which Gary Gregg responded he thinks we do and he would like to see us continue to go to New Castle. Brent Warren stated he would like to continue to travel. Wagar noted at New Castle we had 25 or 30 of their racers run with us. Lynda Coombs said we continue to have people become argumentative about our rules. Doug Benson responded while he hasn't been here for a year, he is hearing the same thing and one year the club had board members stand there for this very reason and there were no complaints. Ken Kuethe stated people are complaining. Benson said every time we polled the membership, they wanted to travel. Kuethe responded it's been about seven years. Don Boles discussed how we have to know what Gary Gregg is willing to do. Ted Cradlebaugh suggested taking one travel race away and there are two drops if you don't want to go. He further stated when we talk with the other tracks, we need to tell them we run our rules. Cradlebaugh stated we can vote on having an ambulance at Circleville. Ray McKibben explained when he went to KRA, he spent a lot of time defending OVKA. He said people have come at the Kid Kart Director and Mike needs to talk to his people and tell them to treat us respectfully. Wagar explained our racers have complained about insurance issues, extra costs and the motorcycles. Slattery discussed a situation at New Castle where they were going to turn away two of our racers because of insurance. Lynda Coombs said by the time she got there, it was three racers. Wagar reported he had talked with Mike Adams and was not told of any changes. Warren added nothing changed. Coombs responded the need for red ink on the document indicating it is the original is what resulted in issues with insurance. Warren said the year before it said you cannot duplicate this form. Wagar stated in 2015 it wasn't an issue. Warren responded if he is going to send his child to do something like this, he is going to make sure he has the proper paperwork. Crutchleo suggested writing a list of what people need to know. Wagar said he specifically called Mike and asked if we're good on all of this and that is his issue with this. Benson said isn't that a communication issue? Cradlebaugh stated there are always going to be issues, especially at registration. Kuethe said he is all for not racing at Circleville even though his driver loves it because it's the facilities. Wagar asked Gregg if we wanted to stay home for all fourteen races, can we? Gregg answered we can but he feels we still need to go away. Benson said he remembers two polls and reported every time the membership wanted to travel. Randy Landes stated he likes going to New Castle and he had one member come to him saying they don't want all races at one place. Crutchleo asked if we have considered the Wilmington track. Wagar responded they don't have enough parking. Crutchleo said they say they do and it's a lot closer and has better facilities. He explained they are eager and asked if we would come. Wagar said to his knowledge, he hasn't called us. Cradlebaugh stated there is a space issue. Crutchleo stated it is bigger than out pits.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**SWAP MEET:** Josh Wagar reported Hara Arena announced last Friday they are closing so we will need to find a new place for the Swap Meet. Wagar and Doug Benson have researched a few places. Pat Slattery asked about the Clark County Fairgrounds. Wagar responded that is an option but he feels that is a step back. Benson explained there are not too many options in order to find the

square footage and parking we need and half of the options are old fairgrounds. He said the Roberts Center near Wilmington has 60,000 square feet and is in a building with a Holiday Inn and Max and Erma's Restaurant. Benson said this seems like a perfect combination for people coming from out of town and it is a super nice facility. Ray McKibben asked if vendors can pull vehicles in to which Benson replied yes and there are 24' ceilings, ceramic tile floors and a lot of ground level doors. He said the problem is it's expensive and discussed pricing. McKibben asked if we would have to rent the tables from them as McKibben can get them. Benson replied he would be worried about the logistics and Roberts Center will set them up. Slattery asked if we can rent three-quarters of the facility. Benson responded it would be about \$2,000 less. He discussed table sales last year and said we had the best turnout in ten years. Gary Gregg said he was thinking we should increase the table fee by \$10 and change the gate fee to \$12. He added he would like to have the banquet that same evening. Wagar replied we are already contracted for this year's banquet. Benson explained the pricing at the Roberts Center has been discounted and she is willing to hold the date and price for three years. McKibben said we need to promote to vendors that there is food and a hotel on site. Rick Coombs said he thinks we are one of the more expensive swap meets but one of the better ones. Brad Crutchleo said we get a lot of grumbling when a whole family comes in. Wagar stated he does not think there is any real difference in mileage for our vendors. Jeff Calvert noted from Indiana it would be farther. Ken Kuethe made a motion we move the Swap Meet to the Roberts Center with a three year option holding the date and price. The motion was seconded by Rick Coombs. Benson said he would like to see us not raise the prices the first year so people can see it is nice and talk about it. McKibben said he would like to go there this upcoming year with the option to go there two more years so if it flops, we aren't locked in. Wagar asked if we have to sign a three-year contract or can we sign for one year with an option to stay. Benson responded she's telling us we will have the option. Following further discussion was voted on and passed with twelve in favor and one abstained (Schroeder had left the meeting). Wagar thanked Benson for all of his efforts.

#### **OPEN DISCUSSION:**

**TIRES:** Ted Cradlebaugh said last month we kicked around the idea of branding tires and running them two weeks. He asked if board members talked with members and reported the people he talked with are in favor of this and he looked into branding equipment. Pat Slattery responded it is very time consuming with big, long lines and people get upset. Cradlebaugh replied it will save racers \$1,800 per year. Josh Wagar noted nothing says we can't do it in the tire contract. Cradlebaugh asked board members to continue to talk with members about this.

**JUNIOR CLASS:** Nate Patterson said he heard there has been discussion on qualifying in the past and he feels it appropriate to bring up for the Junior class in light of what happens on the track. He reported there is growing frustration among the parents. Josh Wagar responded he has talked with them a couple of times and the final went smoother. He said he plans to remind them for the rest of the year. Pat Slattery suggested eliminating pea-pick and doing winner-take-all instead of cumulative points. Wagar responded the reality is he watched them at the Champ Race and there were just as many off. Patterson reported there is a lot of talk about people leaving that class. Brent Warren replied he is considering it. Reid Smith said he has heard that too. Brad Crutchleo noted they are 12 to 15-year-old kids. Wagar asked he be given a little more time to work with them to get things under control as he thinks we are starting to go in the right direction. Brody Warren explained it is not fast kids knocking slow kids out of the way and that he has been driven over by slower kids. He added the main reason there were so many issues this past weekend was because there were three novice kids on the front rows. Wagar responded welcome to racing and explained it has happened in Seniors and Masters. He said racers need to know to wait to get through turn three and everybody can blame somebody. Wagar said everybody needs to understand there are two peddles on your

kart for a reason and you have control of your kart. Brent Warren said we like racing at OVKA, the people and Gary Gregg but we are considering not racing OVKA next year as we will be racing two in Juniors and don't want the repairs to two karts. He stated we've got a nearly three second lap range in this class and suggested running transponders in the second warm-up and line up based on that. Wagar said he will wake this under advisement. Slattery said we ought to poll the Junior parents and see if they want to do a six minute group qualifying then two heats as it would be safer. Crutchleo asked if somebody can explain why pea-pick is so important here because nowhere else do they do this and they are nearly stopping in turn one. Calvert replied fast kids have got to learn to slow down. Cradlebaugh said pea-pick has created some good drivers and nobody is three seconds apart going into turn one. He further stated racers should not push others out of the way. Ray McKibben reported at KRA there were 39 karts qualifying in the LO206 class and they still had a huge pileup. Brody Warren said he will not disagree pea-pick has created some good drivers but it is putting him and other drivers in unsafe conditions. Wagar replied we can debate this all night and asked that he be given the opportunity to work on this. Patterson suggested considering having a parent's meeting as he's coaching not to give up the spot. Ken Kuethe responded as the parent of a racer with 18 in the class, you say you have got to figure out how to stay on the track. Wagar explained the classes change as there have been years where it was Masters, Seniors and Sportsman and this year it is Juniors. Cradlebaugh said he will volunteer to help in turn one. Smith asked how many penalties have been levied in Juniors this year. Wagar replied he doesn't have that information at this moment and he and Cradlebaugh will welcome extra sets of eyes. Wagar added if he can't tell who it is, he would rather make a no call than a wrong call. He reported there has been a lot of conversation on the radio this year when it is felt there needs to be a penalty but we don't want to penalize the wrong driver. Patterson stated he watches enough video to know accidents start four rows back. Gregg said you could start them slower and 100 feet closer to turn one. Wagar said he is not putting the Head Flagman on the track. Slattery said we should start them further back and get them sorted out. Wagar explained we changed the rule to as soon as the green flag is thrown, you're racing. Boles stated if you start them further back they will be going into it harder. Brent Warren said it seems when Rick Wagar sends them faster, they get through more. McKibben said in the past it seemed like the Juniors got through better when they started a little faster which may be because of where the clutch comes in. Cradlebaugh stated it only takes one racer in that corner and it can affect everybody and he hates to say it but it might be on purpose.

**TECHNICAL INSPECTIONS:** Josh Warren stated they don't tech anything except can hole sizes. Josh Wagar responded we have a new Tech Director. Brent Warren reported they had a vacuum test and height one time and other than that, not anything.

**KID KARTS:** Brad Crutchleo said we need a sign for Kid Karts on practice days. Josh Wagar asked to be reminded about leaving a checkered flag so parents can check for the Kid Karts to go out. Lynda Coombs will provide signs to be posted.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Josh Wagar, seconded by Ray McKibben, motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 p.m. The motion passed with twelve in favor and one abstained (Schroeder had left earlier).

**UPCOMING MEETINGS / EVENTS:**

- OVKA Monthly Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 6, 2016, Hampton Inn, 2880 Towne Boulevard, Middletown, OH, 45044 (west side of Interstate-75)

**SUMMARY OF COMMITMENTS:**

- Lynda Coombs – Bring printed materials to the Lebanon Blues Festival, provide signs for Kid Karts regarding practice time.
- Ted Cradlebaugh – Help monitor turn one for the Junior class.
- Lee McCready – Finish marking pit spots.
- Ray McKibben – Address tires on trailer, finish marking pit spots.
- Brian Schroeder – Make a transponder charging case in the winter.
- Josh Wagar – Assess condition of billboards.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** D. Boles, J. Calvert, R. Coombs, T. Cradlebaugh, G. Gregg, K. Kuethe, R. Landes, L. McCready, R. McKibben, B. Schroeder, P. Slattery, R. Smith, J. Wagar and B. Warren.

**MEMBERS / VISITORS PRESENT:** D. Benson, M. Cook, L. Coombs, B. Crutchleo, N. Patterson, W. Schroeder, B. Warren, and J. Warren.

Respectfully submitted by Lynda Coombs, OVKA Secretary, 8/22/16.