

CARSAB MINUTES

December 10, 2024

Carnival and Amusement Ride Safety Advisory Board

Meeting, December 10, 2024

Held Virtually via Microsoft Teams

Board Members Present

Edward M. Smith, Chair
Lawrence Cohen
William Gehlhaus
Steven Hildner
Geoff Rogers
Len Turtora

Board Members Excused

Albert Belmont
Debra Henderson

DCA Staff Present

Carrie Battista, Bureau of State and Local Code Inspections
Marie Daniels, Code Development Unit
John Delesandro, Bureau Chief, Bureau of State and Local Code Inspections
Patrick Gallagher, Supervisor, Carnival-Amusement Ride Safety Unit
Ian Rayfield, Code Development Unit
Ashraf Tahoun, Carnival-Amusement Ride Safety Unit

Guests

Halley Beam
Lary Zucker, NJAA

A. Edward Smith, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Roll call was performed.

B. Approval of the Minutes of October 26, 2023

Len Turtora made a motion, which was seconded by Lawrence Cohen to approve the minutes without change. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Old Business.

1. Incident Reporting

- The Board continued discussion from the previous meeting on incident reporting and the threshold needed in order to report. To that end, the Department offered a regulation change proposal to better define the intent of reporting. The first topic focused on amending the definition of *serious injury* so it does not cause reports that violate HIPAA provisions or rely on facts that would be unknown to ride owners and/or the Department. The second topic is the intention to include language that requires reporting for incidents involving key ride components and continued safe operation of a ride. Further discussion on this

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topic will continue at the next meeting after additional review from the Board of the topics discussed above.

D. New Business

1. Ride Safety Unit

Staffing - Five engineers, 18 inspectors

2. Illegal Inflatables

- Department staff informed the Board that information regarding illegal operation of inflatable playhouses and other similar equipment will be disseminated to the public through Department press releases and other communication means. The Board questioned when this will take place and were informed that it will occur following approval by the Department Commissioner.

E. Information

1. Ride Statistics

- Department staff provided the Board with the current and previous year ride safety statistics. The Board noted that it appears inspection numbers are down compared to last year; however, it was explained that the current statistic timeframe is shorter by a month and Department inspections are ongoing. Board members requested that statistics from a greater sampling of previous years should also be included with the current statistics in order to view greater trends. Department staff agreed and will provide statistics and reports prior to the next Board meeting.

F. Public Comment

- Lary Zucker requested a status update concerning the creation of a working group to review ATSM and type certification. Ed Smith stated that they are open to creating a working group and will discuss this item internally before moving forward.

- Lary Zucker noted for Board awareness of H.R. 10205, which is proposed Federal legislation that amends the Consumer Product Safety Act to include fixed rides for Consumer Product Safety Commission jurisdiction. In addition, he also noted the recent verdict of the court case involving a free-fall attraction in Orlando, FL and the potential negative consequences for the amusement industry.

- Halley Beam, an inflatable ride operator, questioned the Board on how many injuries in the ride reports are related to inflatables and if there is inflatable operator training in New Jersey. Department staff noted that training is performed by third parties and is mainly related to major repair certification. In addition, Department staff noted that they do not have the injuries figures on hand; however, they note that reports of injuries are rare and that a majority are unreported due to the type of the injuries.

G. Adjournment

William Gelhaus made a motion, which was seconded by Len Turtora, to adjourn the meeting; the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

H. Next Scheduled Meeting

March 2025.