

CARSAB MINUTES

March 11, 2025

Carnival and Amusement Ride Safety Advisory Board
Meeting, March 11, 2025
Held Virtually via Microsoft Teams

Board Members Present

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

Board Members Excused

William Dauphinee
Debra Henderson
Nancy Sheridan

DCA Staff Present

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

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

B. Approval of the Minutes of December 10, 2024

Geoff Rogers 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

- Department staff provided background information and a description of the draft proposed changes to N.J.A.C. 5:14A-1.2 and 4.3, which concerns the definition of *serious injury/illness* and the code section regarding accident, incident, or mechanical breakdown reporting. CARSAB members requested Department clarification concerning the draft changes to the definition of *serious injury/illness*, and after discussion, the Board determined the changes were appropriate.

Lawrence Cohen made a motion, which was seconded by Len Turtora, to approve the draft proposed changes and move this item forward; the motion carried unanimously.

CARSAB MINUTES

March 11, 2025

2. Illegal Inflatables

- Department staff provided the Board with a notice concerning the use of non-permitted inflatable amusement rides intended for publishing on the Department website. CARSAB members noted witnessing numerous instances of non-permitted inflatables and requested a larger scope of dissemination of the notice. The Department staff stated that the notice will also be included in an upcoming Construction Code Communicator.

D. New Business

1. New hotline procedures

- Department staff provided, for information, the new hotline procedures to the Board that are intended to help decrease response times. CARSAB members requested additional clarification on the specific procedures and noted that they appreciate the changes.

E. Information

1. Ride Statistics

- Department staff provided ride statistics for 2019-2024, in accordance with the discussion from the previous Board meeting. Board members requested the Department provide an additional breakdown of ride type for patron accidents, and recommends providing a clear delineation between accidents and incidents, as these terms can have different meanings.

2. CARSAB member additional information

- CARSAB member William Gehlhaus noted a couple of items for the Board and Department staff. The first item concerned the difficulty of sending mail to the Department and the proper P.O. Box listed on Department forms. Department staff noted that forms on the Department website are current and provide the appropriate P.O. Box. Additionally, Department staff stated that expedited delivery of mail should be done through USPS certified mail, and that individuals may drop-off mail at the Department office but requests that they call the Rides Unit to ensure staff are available to pick up the item.

The second item noted was the occurrence of ride permit holdbacks due to violations from previous years not being updated in the Department system to reflect compliance. Board member William Gehlhaus recommended that the Department reinstate the process that occurred in the past where owners could provide a letter to the Department stating that the violations were complied with. Further, Board member Albert Belmont recommended that the system should not flag this issue if the ride has received a green tag within the past year. Department staff stated that they will continue discussions on this item internally.

F. Public Comment

CARSAB MINUTES

March 11, 2025

- No public comment

G. Adjournment

Albert Belmont made a motion, which was seconded by Lawrence Cohen, to adjourn the meeting; the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

H. Next Scheduled Meeting

October 14th, 2025.