

Notes of CARSAB meeting of 4/12/18

Because there was no quorum, these are notes of the meeting, not official minutes.

Board Members Present:

Albert Belmont
Lawrence Cohen
William Gehlhaus
Debra Henderson
Leonard Turtora

DCA Staff Present:

Assistant Director John Terry
Carrie Battista
Michael Baier
Paul Lamberti
Michael Triplett

- A. Vice Chairman Gehlhaus called the meeting to order: 11:06am
- B. Approval of Minutes: Tabled until next meeting
- C. Introductions: New Assistant Director, John Terry, and new Amusement Ride Inspection Manager, Paul Lamberti, introduced themselves.
- D. Old Business:

Electrical Permits for carnivals and fairs:

Michael Baier explained that the Uniform Construction Code (UCC) is not followed for the set-up and inspections of carnivals and fairs. He briefly explained process of UCC electrical permits. He stated how he envisioned different process-similar to an annual permit for facilities. The show would get an inspection and approval at the beginning of season with periodic inspections taking place throughout the season by our electrical inspectors. Ms. Henderson expressed concerns as to the application of this for inflatables. Michael Baier stated that he did not see the applicability of this for inflatables. Mr. Belmont stated that it would be difficult to get an electrician for every show. His staff gets a required 42hrs of training every 2 years to work on the electrical aspects. John Terry stated that the need for a licensed electrical contractor is rooted in the regulations established by the Division of Consumer Affairs, not the Department of Community Affairs. Mr. Gehlhaus asked how the Department intended to address this matter. Staff responded that a rule should be drafted however, there should be input from those impacted. Michael Baier stated that the key issues are the qualifications of people doing the work. As stated previously, this is regulated by the licensing board in the Department of Consumer Affairs (Newark), not the DCA. John Terry stated that the Ride Inspections Unit currently has two Electrical Subcode Officials. The two officials have trained the electrical subcode officials assigned to the Office of State and Local Code Inspections. The newly trained staff will shadow the experienced officials to gain experience in the field. This is to provide a more efficient service to the ride industry. Members were informed that if they had any issues with electrical inspections, they should contact Paul Lamberti. Mr.

Belmont stated that the cords used to supply power to the amusements are all labeled for each specific ride. Michael Triplett stated that 40% of the electrical inspections fail. Michael Baier stated that at every setup, we have seen it time and time again, the setups are wrong every time. Mr. Cohen stated that this is contingent on what is considered a qualified person. Mr. Turtora suggested that the Department draft a proposal for the Board to review. Ms. Henderson stated that a 40% failure rate speaks loudly, and we need to look at this issue. Mr. Belmont commented that no other State does it the way we are doing it. For example, in Florida and Delaware, they utilize a third- party stamp, and in Pennsylvania, the ride inspectors are trained and owner signs affidavit with periodic oversight by the Statewide inspectors. John Terry assured the group that the Department would have a draft rule proposal for the next meeting

E. New Business:

Fireball-Ohio incident

Michael Triplett informed the group that the Fireball ride that was involved in the accident in Ohio ran in NJ, and we saw nothing wrong. Two to three weeks later, the Ohio incidents occurred. We have been informed that ASTM is attempting to address it. Several manufacturers have put out bulletins. Once ASTM amends the standard, we will review it. John Terry stated that he has already sent a guidance document to the inspection staff reminding them of their authority currently provided by the regulations. We are also providing endoscopes to staff for better inspecting capabilities.

On Going Projects-

Michael Baier stated that the Department will be preparing regulations for “Rope Courses” as there are many proposed courses but no specific regulations in place. Michael Triplett assured the group that these projects were reviewed by the engineering staff. Michael Baier also stated that the go-kart chapter, aquatic chapter, and the bungee chapters also need updating. Additionally, there are several small housekeeping matters in the regulations that need updating.

F. Information

Statistics:

The Board reviewed the statistics provided. There was a question regarding the “Serious- Go Kart” injury. Staff informed the Board that the 2/19 injury was bruised shin, and that the kart was taken off-line until our inspector investigated it. Mr. Belmont stated that the accidents should be identified based on the ride, for example, go-karts, water rides, inflatables. Ms. Henderson disagreed with Mr. Belmont and stated that the Department should be more specific in how serious and non- serious are entered and labeled.

G. Public Comment-

Lawrence Zucker-NJAA: Mr. Zucker stated that he would like to see the statute revisited as it was last amended in 2001. He also stated that there is an ASTM standard for Aerial Adventure Courses.

H. Adjournment: 12:41pm