

**Carnival and Amusement Ride Safety Advisory Board
Meeting, February 23, 2023
Held Virtually via Microsoft Teams**

Board Members Present

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

DCA Staff Present

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

Guests

Lary Zucker, NJAA

A. Mr. Edward Smith, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. Roll call was performed.

Before the meeting began, members of the Board held a moment of silence in honor of Paul Lamberti. A moment of silence was also held in honor of Bob Bennett.

B. Approval of the Minutes of December 16, 2021

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

C. Old Business.

There was no Old Business.

D. New Business

1. Boilers and Pressure Vessels – DOL Inspections

Mr. Patrick Gallagher introduced this item and noted to the Board that the New Jersey Department of Labor performs inspections on Boilers and Pressure Vessels. This is a required inspection pursuant to DOL regulations at N.J.A.C. 12:90 for any newly installed or existing boilers and pressure vessels. This is also reflected in our regulations for the operation of amusement rides.

2. Ride Safety Unit – Staffing Status

Mr. Patrick Gallagher provided an update on the staffing of the Ride Safety Unit and stated that the Department has ample qualified field inspectors and do not anticipate there will be an undue hardship in meeting inspection timeframes. The Board discussed engineering staff, and

Department staff noted that when new engineering staff are brought on, it can take about a year before new engineers are able to independently handle review of larger projects.

3. Incident Reporting – Interpretation Clarification as it pertains to a “Critical Component.”

Mr. Patrick Gallagher introduced this topic and stated that there was a need for further clarification of what constitutes a critical component. It was noted that the regulations define a critical structural or mechanical component is any component whose failure results in uncontrolled operation or movement of the ride or failure of the restraint system. Board Members discussed various components within rides and asked whether or not they were considered critical. It was decided that this item would be tabled for further discussion.

4. Ride Relocations – Engineer’s Letter

Mr. Patrick Gallagher reviewed the requirements regarding ride relocations with the Board. This includes the need for an engineer’s letter determining the relocation is undertaken appropriately.

5. C.P. Huntington Train and Similar Ride Directive

Mr. Patrick Gallagher reviewed the Department Directive regarding trains with unrestricted patron access. This directive was issued as a result of an incident during the 2022 season in order to provide a more positive means of control of public access at all track crossing locations throughout the park. This includes the use of stopping when entering unrestricted public crossing areas and using visual and audible signals before proceeding, or the installation of automated crossing gates and warning lights. The Board discussed various hypothetical instances where this could apply, and the Department noted that it would provide an update on this issue at the next meeting.

E. Ride Statistics

Mr. Patrick Gallagher presented the ride statistics and noted that 2021 serious incident numbers were high because they were utilizing the old definition of incident. He noted that since the adoption of the new definition, there is a clear decrease in serious incidents. One member expressed that there should be a breakdown in the statistics to show where the incidents occurred: water rides, go-kart, inflatable, fixed ride, etc.

F. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

G. Adjournment

Mr. William Gehlhaus made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Albert Belmont, to adjourn the meeting; the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

H. Next Scheduled Meeting

October 12, 2023.