

## **AMUSEMENT RIDE SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

Thursday, December 12, 2024 | 10:00 a.m.

Mt. Airy Library | Small Meeting Room

705 Ridge Avenue

Mount Airy, MD 21771

### **MINUTES**

#### **Board Members Present:**

Glenn Fishack, Chair

Roy Shaw

Karen Nicklas

Victor Isailovic

Samantha La Mell

Steven Rothenberg

Mandy Rimmell

#### **DLI Staff Present:**

Commissioner Devki Virk

David Dearborn, Program Manager

Sarah Harlan, Assistant Attorney General

Robbie Finecey, Chief Inspector

Chad George, Amusement Ride Inspector

Pamela Shiflett, Administrative Officer

Tiffany R. Jones, Board Coordinator

#### **Members Not Present:**

Gordon Trimper

Steven Pastusak

#### **Members of the Public:**

Chandler Fishack, Smithburg Tractor Society

#### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Board Chair Glenn Fishack, Sr. called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

#### **COMMENTS REGARDING SUMMER 2024 INFLATABLE INCIDENT:**

Chair Fishack recognized Commissioner Virk who took a moment to acknowledge the tragic incident involving an inflatable attraction that occurred in Waldorf on August 2, 2024 and discussed the steps the Safety Unit has taken since then including re-deployment of Safety Inspection Unit staff, a re-emphasis on the importance of strict adherence to standards, and the importance of educating the owners and the operators of amusement attractions. She asked the Board to re-examine the standards and consider what, if any, changes need to be made to increase inflatable safety.

#### **Motion#1:**

A motion was put forth by Karen Nicklas to form a subcommittee to examine and propose modifications to the current inflatable regulations. Steve Rothenberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A subcommittee of the following board members was created; Steve Rothenberg, Samantha La Mell, Mandy Remell, and Victor Isailovic.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Karen Nicklas made a motion to approve the minutes without changes. The motion was seconded by Roy Shaw. The motion passed unanimously.

**PROGRAM UPDATE:**

**Staff Levels:** Rob Finecey provided a program update. He advised that there are a total of eight full-time inspectors and assistance is provided by elevator, railroad, and boiler inspectors to complete inspections. He indicated that all inspectors will be attending the annual certificate training with NAARSO in January of 2025. A number of inspectors will sit for NAARSO certification.

**Overview of inspections, inspectors, complaint, and operations of 2024 season:**

AMUSEMENT ATTRACTION INSPECTIONS CY2024

| Inspector           | Total       | Accident | Assist     | Complaint | Consult  | Incident | Inspection  | Prel        | Reinsp    | Strip Down | Training |
|---------------------|-------------|----------|------------|-----------|----------|----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|------------|----------|
| Chad Georg          | 384         | 4        | 10         | 1         |          | 2        | 303         | 56          | 5         | 3          |          |
| Christopher Tout    | 817         | 1        | 80         |           | 1        |          | 517         | 196         | 3         | 19         |          |
| Christopher Wingo   | 17          |          |            |           |          |          | 17          |             |           |            |          |
| Garreth Carey       | 1154        |          | 122        |           |          |          | 844         | 154         | 21        | 13         |          |
| Gordon Ridgley      | 640         |          | 16         |           |          |          | 553         | 59          | 2         | 10         |          |
| Kevin Finnegan      | 736         |          | 15         |           | 1        |          | 579         | 127         | 4         | 10         |          |
| Larry Joyner        | 24          |          |            |           |          |          | 24          |             |           |            |          |
| Lawrence Logan      | 15          |          |            |           |          |          | 15          |             |           |            |          |
| Lionel van Dommelen | 2           |          |            |           |          |          | 2           |             |           |            |          |
| Peter Yeagy         | 1122        | 1        | 116        |           |          | 1        | 710         | 266         | 12        | 16         |          |
| Rajae Butler        | 256         |          |            |           |          |          | 249         | 4           |           |            | 3        |
| Robbie Finecey      | 11          |          |            |           |          |          | 9           | 2           |           |            |          |
| Travis Anderson     | 871         |          | 175        |           |          |          | 503         | 174         |           | 19         |          |
| <b>Totals:</b>      | <b>6049</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>534</b> | <b>1</b>  | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4325</b> | <b>1038</b> | <b>47</b> | <b>90</b>  | <b>3</b> |

**REGULATION UPDATE:**

Commissioner Virk advised that the trampoline regulations recommended and adopted by the Board have been submitted for publication. Those regulations will then be reviewed by the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review (AELR) for a 30-day review period. The trampoline regulations should be finalized before the start of the season in April.

**AMUSEMENT RIDE DATA REPORTING:**

There was some discussion about how the Safety Inspection Unit reports incident and accident data. Karen Nicklas queried whether it would make sense to separate the

incident and accident reports into mechanical vs. non-mechanical attractions. Commissioner Virk advised that the Unit would look further into the issue.

**MARYLAND RIDER RESPONSIBILITY BILL:**

A question arose about a rider responsibility bill. Sarah Harlan reminded the Board that its authority is limited to regulating the owners of amusement attractions.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

There was no new business to discuss.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Roy Shaw made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Karen Nicklas. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

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