

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH
BUREAU OF COMMERCIAL SERVICES – LICENSING DIVISION
2501 Woodlake Circle, Okemos, Michigan 48864-5955**

CARNIVAL-AMUSEMENT SAFETY BOARD

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 28, 2008, 10:00 a.m.

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, 1976 PA 267, as amended, the Carnival-Amusement Safety Board met in Regular Session on March 28, 2008 at the Department of Labor & Economic Growth, Bureau of Commercial Services, Second Floor, Conference Room 1, 2501 Woodlake Circle, Okemos, Michigan 48864.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting for the Carnival-Amusement Safety Board was called to order by Chairperson Kipling at 10:00 a.m.

Present:	Kurt G. Kipling	Chairperson
	Martin J. Heppler	Member
	Douglas S. Schmidt	Member
	Carrie E. Jones	Member
Absent:	David O'Neill	Member
Staff:	Ann Millben	Licensing Administrator
	Lori Porubsky	Assistant Licensing Administrator
	Connie McCall	Secretary
	Archie Millben	Director of Enforcement
	D. Mark Doman, PE	Inspection Manager
	Gilbert Townsend	Inspector
	Kirby Pettyjohn	Inspector
	Davy Pier	Inspector
	Tim Slattery	Inspector
Visitors:	E.J. Brown	Michigan Association of Fairs & Exhibitions
	Ryan Schmidt	Visitor

ADDITIONS TO OR DELETIONS FROM AGENDA

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD OCTOBER 26, 2007

MOTION: After review, Mr. Heppler moved to approve the minutes from the board meeting held on October 26, 2007. Mr. Schmidt seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Mr. Doman discussed the "2008 Spring Amusement Board Information Package." This packet was distributed to Board members for their review prior to the Board meeting, which included the following topics:

Safety Outreach

Mr. Doman asked the Board for feedback on "Amusement Ride Safety Week," which has been scheduled for the week of July 4th during the past few years. He proposed that the dates of safety week be moved to the week of Memorial Day. Everyone agreed that the week of Memorial Day was the beginning of the carnival/amusement ride season and made sense to "kick off" the season with safety week.

Mr. Doman continued this discussion with what types of public service announcements and which type of media can be utilized to get the message of safety week to the general public. The discussion covered:

- Press releases and Governor's Proclamation have been the main types of media in the past.
- DLEG develop a short video to specifically address Carnival and Amusement Ride safety. Discussed utilizing videos that exist, but would need to review for safety awareness vs. mechanics/economics of amusement parks. Whether or not existing videos have the message that we want to communicate for safety week was debated.
- Utilize public and private school systems to reach children, teenagers and parents. Utilizing the school system supports the idea of moving safety week to the week of Memorial Day, as most schools are not in session during 4th of July.

- Utilize school newsletters, reading programs and the local library system such as "Ride-to-Read."
- Utilize local media such as radio stations, newspapers and television stations.
- Create fliers that safety inspectors can take with them to on-site locations.
- Fliers can also be e-mailed to Carnival management, as most Carnival managers maintain e-mail accounts while traveling during the season. Mailing fliers would probably not keep up with carnival movement.
- Promote safety week along with tourism through the State of Michigan Economic Development Commission (MEDC). The tourism industry in Michigan includes carnivals and amusement parks. Michigan can begin the summer tourism season by celebrating the past safety record.
- Create links to various web pages through the DLEG and Board web sites.
- The Outdoor Amusement Business Association (OABA) may have some existing materials that can be utilized.
- Promote safety week through local businesses.
- Create promotions like contests and incentives for safety week.

It was the consensus of the Board that existing materials and resources should be utilized as much as possible and these materials and resources should be coordinated to get the best coverage possible.

Mr. Doman discussed the presentation made at the annual meeting of the Michigan Association of Fairs and Expositions (MAFE) in January. Mr. Brown invited Mr. Doman and the topic selected was on the history of amusement ride regulation, which got its significant start in Michigan in 1965 after a notable ride failure which resulted in death and injury.

Zip-lines and ZipRiders

Mr. Doman brought to the Board's attention during the last Board meeting the many zip-lines and ZipRiders being built in various venues across Michigan. Mr. Doman's handout clearly highlights the differences between zip-lines and ZipRiders. Zip-lines are being built as obstacles or challenges in challenge/ropes course venues and ZipRiders are purpose built high-speed zip-lines made by ZipRider of Park City Utah. The ZipRider proposed for Boyne Mountain is in the mid-range of length and steepness for ZipRiders.

Common zip-lines use harnesses and trolleys intended for rock climbing and depend on the operators for safe attachment and dispatches. Two professional associations exist to train and certify those who build and operate common zip-lines; the Association for Challenge Course Technology (ACCT) and the Professional Ropes Course Association (PRCA).

Mr. Doman proposed that the State does not regulate zip-lines that are designed and operated certified by ACCT or PRCA personnel and do regulate ZipRiders in special cases such as the one being constructed by Boyne Mountain.

MOTION: After much discussion, Mr. Heppler moved to table the discussion about zip-lines and ZipRiders until the next Board meeting on October 24, 2008. Mr. Schmidt seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Unlicensed Go-Kart Track

Mr. Doman stated that the unlicensed go-kart track at Fiddlerland in the South Haven area was no longer in use. The track has no insurance, the telephones have been disconnected and several lawsuits are pending. Inspector Townsend will follow up to ensure that this track does not re-open illegally.

New Rides for 2008

Mr. Doman reviewed the list of new rides coming up in 2008 with special attention to the Alpine Super Slide being built at Crystal Mountain, the ski area in Thompsonville. These types of rides are becoming more common at ski areas looking for summer business. One of the challenges is the difference between the nature of the ski and amusement ride industries. The Alpine Slide is in the skiing model in that the operator takes riders to the top, but getting to the bottom safely depends on the rider's skills. This ride is similar to water or dry slides and go-karts, but speed and separation are more controlled by the rider than other interactive rides.

Other new rides for the 2008 season include:

- Michigan Adventure's 100' inverted coaster. The Thunderhawk is a steel-inverted roller coaster originally installed at Geauga Lake, Ohio in 1998. This refurbished roller coaster will have a new control system and a new foundation. It has the capacity of 1040 riders per hour.
- Kokomo's Family Fun Center's 45' sit-down coaster. The Galaxy is a refurbished coaster from Ohio built in 1987. This ride is still in the process of being refurbished and engineering and documentation are being assembled.
- State Fair – Labor Day Weekend, the Pinfari "41" is a sit-down coaster.
- Orchard Lake – Memorial Day Weekend, the Zamperla Twister, spinning coaster.
- Fourteen new waterslides are being constructed throughout Michigan.
- Six go-kart tracks are either under construction or modification across Michigan.

Other rides on hold or on-going include:

- Binder Park Zoo aerial ropeway, which is still looking for construction funding.
- Boyne Mountain ZipRider working on the design and projected installation in the fall of 2008

- A private ropeway between a private residence and the Lake Michigan shoreline is on-hold and not progressing.
- Copper Peak ski jumping hill lift modification, licensed as an amusement ride are interested in changing the lift's hydraulic and mechanical system in order to evacuate riders in an emergency. The manufacturer no longer exists.

LICENSING DIVISION

Ann Millben stated that there is a vacancy on the Board for a representative from the Retail Merchant's Association if anyone knows someone who is interested. Filling this vacancy is important as several other Board positions will expire in 2008.

Ann Millben made correction on the 2008 Mobile Operations list that Durant Amusements has not renewed any permits. Mr. Schmidt stated that Durant continues to operate at a church in Southfield. Mr. Doman will contact Durant directly to follow up. Also, the Turbo Force is no longer in use.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Brown, Executive Director for the Michigan Association of Fairs and Expositions (MAFE):

- Thanked Mr. Doman and the State inspectors for the rider safety presentation.
- Mr. John Curry from the Mecosta County Fair and a former fair manager is now on the MAFE board.
- Invited everyone to Legislative Day on April 23, 2008, at the Capitol building, on the corner of Capitol and Walnut. He has invited Legislators to participate. Ms. Millben noted that Assistant Licensing Administrator, Lori Porubsky, will attend from the Licensing Division.
- MAFE continues to require that all carnivals be licensed.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION FROM BOARD MEMBERS

None.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Carnival-Amusement Safety Board will be on October 24, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Heppler moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Schmidt seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

