

**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

October 24, 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 October 24, 2008 at the Department of Labor & Economic Growth, Bureau of Commercial Services, Second Floor, Conference Room 1, 2501 Woodlake Circle, Okemos, Michigan.

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	Vice-Chairperson
	Douglas S. Schmidt	Member
	Carrie E. Jones	Member (arrived at 10:30 a.m.)
	Jeffrey D. Ledy	Member
	Nicholas J. Infante	Member
Staff:	Joyce Karr	Licensing Director
	Ann Millben	Licensing Administrator
	Lori Porubsky	Assistant Licensing Administrator
	Angie Diro	Secretary
	Barrington Carr	Acting Director of Enforcement
	D. Mark Doman, PE	Inspection Manager
	Gilbert Townsend	Inspector
	Kirby Pettyjohn	Inspector
	Davy Pier	Inspector
	Tim Slattery	Inspector
	Melody Duwe	Secretary
Visitors:	E.J. Brown	Michigan Association of Fairs & Exhibitions
	Adam Schmidt	Schmidt Amusements

ADDITIONS TO OR DELETIONS FROM AGENDA

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD MARCH 28, 2008

MOTION: After review, Mr. Heppler moved to approve the minutes from the Board meeting held on March 28, 2008. Mr. Schmidt seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Brown stated that this year was a good season. It was relatively safe and they had good weather.

STAFF REPORTS

ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Mr. Doman stated that the success of the Carnival-Amusement season has received mixed reviews due to the price of diesel fuel and the economy. Michigan's Adventure did have a banner year. Mr. Doman discussed the "2008 Fall Carnival-Amusement Safety Board Information Package." It was distributed to Board members for their review, and included the following topics:

Safety Outreach

Mr. Doman stated that staff had worked with the new DLEG Director of Communications, Mario L. Morrow, and his staff and the week of May 25th was declared "Amusement Ride Safety Week" by Governor Granholm. Along with it came a press release on amusement ride safety focusing on the riders and their part in the safety equation.

Mr. Doman indicated that last week the Michigan Association of Fairs and Expositions (MAFE) had asked the Department to host a roundtable discussion of amusement rider safety in January. It will offer an excellent opportunity to get those who hire carnivals to talk with carnival operators about the part that each has in providing safe amusement rides to the public.

Season Summary

Mr. Doman stated 226 Companies were inspected; of that number, 187 were fixed operations and 39 were mobile. Also, 865 devices were inspected, 418 were stationary and 447 were mobile. There were 65 Safety Orders issued, 47 have been satisfied and 18 are still pending.

Incident Summary

Mr. Doman stated that there have been 24 incidents reported, 2 of those 24 reports were for failures that produced injuries. One was a go-kart where the steering wheel came off resulting in the loss of steering, it crashed into the guard rail where the rider hit their head. The second was at a fixed location where a chair swing ride center seized up and stopped suddenly. Mr. Townsend is currently investigating the chair swing incident with insurance investigators.

Mr. Ledy inquired as to what defines an incident. Mr. Doman replied that there are two types of incidents. One incident type involves a mechanical failure which includes electrical, control or structure. And the second incident type is injury-producing that requires treatment from medical personnel.

New Rides, 2008

Mr. Doman stated that Michigan's Adventure opened a very professionally relocated 100' inverted coaster. There are also two other new coasters in the State, both are mobile coasters and have operated in states with engineering requirements. One is the Pinfari "41" sit-down, (Wade) and the other is Zamperla "Twister" spinning coaster, (Mid-America). Also, the Kokomo's Family Fun Center is erecting a mobile 45' sit-down coaster at its facility in Saginaw to open yet this fall.

Mr. Doman stated that another new mobile ride is the trailer mounting of the Chance Helicopter ride for Arnold Amusements out of Traverse City. There are also 15 waterslides that opened in Michigan this summer and there are 3 waterslides in development. There are 6 new or modified go-kart tracks that were opened in Michigan this summer and 4 new go-kart tracks are under development. He also stated that Crystal Mountain ski resort in Thompsonville installed 2 Alpine Super Slides. These rides are increasingly common at ski areas that are looking to enhance summer business.

Other Rides: On-Hold/On-Going

Mr. Doman stated that the Binder Park Zoo in Battle Creek is still interested in an aerial ropeway. They continue to seek funding for this project. Additionally the Fall 2008 opening of Boyne Mountain's "ZipRider" has been postponed until the Spring of 2009 to allow more time to develop the design of the building on which the "ZipRider" trolleys will land.

Zip-lines and ZipRiders

Mr. Doman brought to the Board's attention during the last Board meeting the several Zip- Lines and ZipRiders being built in various venues across Michigan. Mr. Doman

stated there are presently two to three hundred Zip-Lines in the State, primarily operating at challenge/ropes courses. Mr. Doman stated that the "ZipRider" is a special type of Zip-Line with significant differences between ZipRiders and common challenge/ropes course Zip-Lines.

Mr. Doman stated that there are two professional associations that exist to certify those who build and operate challenge/ropes courses and their Zip-Lines. They are the Association for Challenge Course Technology (ACCT) and the Professional Ropes Course Association (PRCA). Also mentioned was that other jurisdictions are increasingly regulating Zip-Lines, but how they regulate them varies. Massachusetts and New Jersey have the two largest programs, while Washington only regulates Zip-Lines in special cases.

Mr. Ledy asked what is involved in regulation. Mr. Doman responded that they would need to submit an application, fee, have an inspection and receive engineer certification. Mr. Heppler asked if the rides need to be insured. Mr. Townsend replied that yes they need to be insured and that they would be inspected for the insurance certificate.

Mr. Heppler reiterated that 5 states regulate Zip-Lines but many states do not. He feels that the staff, while limited, does an excellent job of regulating the rides and educating the operators. He does not want riders to get hurt. Mr. Infante asked if the ACCT inspects the ZipRiders that they certify. Mr. Doman responded they do not inspect them. Mr. Infante asked how many injuries have occurred on the ZipRiders. Mr. Doman replied that we do not have statistics as they do not report that information to us. Mr. Infante stated that if regulation is required, he would hate to not regulate due to lack of manpower.

MOTION: Mr. Heppler moved to send the issue back to the Department and have them bring it before the Board in March. Mr. Ledy seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION FROM BOARD MEMBERS

None.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

MOTION: Mr. Heppler moved to nominate Mr. Kipling as Chairperson. Mr. Schmidt seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Kipling moved to nominate Mr. Heppler as Vice-Chairperson. Ms. Jones seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

2009 MEETING DATES

The 2009 meeting dates of the Board of Carnival-Amusement Safety Board are scheduled for Friday, March 27th and Friday, October 23rd at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

_____/s/_____
Kurt G. Kipling, Chairperson

_____3/27/09_____
Date

_____/s/_____
Ann Millben, Licensing Administrator

_____3/27/2009_____
Date