



Minutes
Amusement Advisory Board Meeting
December 8, 2005

Attendees: Jonathan Brooks, Elevator & Amusement Device Bureau
Tom Chambers, Elevator & Amusement Device Bureau
Robert Brinkley, Brinkley Entertainment
Les Powers, Powers Great American Midways
LouAnn Bowen, Hughie & Louie's Rentals
Hobie Wright, The Vertical Edge
Steve Mains, Hickory American Legion Fair
Bob Rippy, Jungle Rapids Water Park
Steve Burrell, Paramount's Carowinds
Joel Rickards, Interactive Playgrounds
Jeanette Isley, Alamance County Fair
Nancy Vick, Elevator & Amusement Device Bureau
Andy Frazier, Standards and Inspections
Dolores Quesenberry, Communications Division

Jonathan Brooks welcomed all the members and briefly discussed Tabled Items that are on-going: The Bureau's new computer system initiated by July, 2006 with better tracking system for data on hard ride companies, inflatables, and permanent parks.

2005 Fair Season

This was an excellent fair season: No major injuries and all companies kept their rides in good condition.

The Bureau has issued 35 penalties to inflatable companies to date. The penalty fees go to the Education Fund – do not go in our budget.

County fairs went smoothly as far as inspections and no reportable injuries. The State Fair received a lot of publicity this year. It was a grueling 2 weeks for our inspectors. We are featured in Amusement Business Magazine this month. All permanent parks and carnivals had a good year. Out of 15-20 million fair goers, there were only 3 or 4 reportable incidents.

OSH Protocol

Allen McNeely is Deputy Commissioner of the OSH Division, Department of Labor. They are not planning to visit fairs and carnivals to inspect or fine anyone. They will only come if requested by our Bureau. Our Bureau is mainly concerned with fall protection per OSH Guidelines. Protocol will be: 1. We warn about fall protection to fair operators and fair managers twice. 2. Third time, we will call OSH.

We plan to make OSH requirements and our protocol a topic of discussion at the fair convention as well as other public interactions in order to get the word out.

OSH requirements are on their website. We can extract what affects your companies and is relative to what you do in order to make for easier reading, and then place this information on our website. OSH guidelines contain a very large amount of information.

NAARSO Board training requires our Bureau to insure fall protection also. This is part of the NAARSO curriculum. We will be speaking at this year's Fair Association meeting on this topic in January. The Bureau's amusement company meeting this year will be mandatory and also cover this topic.

Our Bureau's main issues are with fall protection and hard hat safety. Our guidelines will be a short list dealing with setup and tear down. We will not be enforcing all OSH guidelines.

Amusement Code Violation Numbers

Beginning in 2006, amusement company invoices will have a code violation number along with each violation. This is a number created by us to use internally to identify the violations and track information better. We followed NEC code for these numbers.

Tracking Show Performance

A rating system for shows is very tedious and hard for our Bureau to handle. The Department of Agriculture has something like this as far as rating shows. Our Bureau should only track violations, etc. If requested, we send copies of inspection reports to the public as all our reports are public information. They can make their own assessments from these.

2006 Fair Season

There will be no major changes for next year. There is one policy change on any device with NDT work required by the manufacturer. The NDT Company must send to our Bureau their procedures on how they inspect the devices.

Rider Safety Program

The ride related incidences have dropped 50-60% in the last 3 years. There was a coloring contest this year for all children. The coloring book pages were on our website for printing, coloring and sent to Department of Labor for judging. The winner received a \$50 gift certificate from ToysRUs. The signs will be posted again at the fairs.

We request your new ideas for the 2006 season. We will use the bookmarks again as well as the signs, but are looking for something new. We also plan to step into permanent parks with our signs.

One idea for theme came to us as "Measure Up to Safety" with something pertaining to size charts for children for the rides. We will also request ideas from attendees at the Fair Association meeting in January. We plan to talk to schools, fair employees/operators, etc. to get new ideas.

Ideas presented:

1. New bookmarks with Department of Labor on one side and Department of Agriculture on the other.
2. Talk to the children as they get off the buses (in conjunction with Department of Agriculture). The school buses are loaded with kids from schools visiting the fairs.
3. Opening day of the fair, get press on safety at the fair.
4. June is National Safety Month. Do something during that time on fair safety.

5. Give a ruler out to kids this year. This goes with the “Measure Up to Safety” theme. The Fair Association may contribute to the cost for these.

2006 Bureau Projects

We are working on better ways of collecting data with the new computer system.

We will be placing more information, forms, etc. on our website for you.

The OSH requirements and information relating to your business will be posted as well.

Field Issues

Question on written rules by Department of Labor for climbing walls: The regulations are being addressed with our legal department as to what will be put into legislation. You will be given a chance to give feedback before anything is put into law. We plan to send out “proposed” rules for your review and feedback.

We are also addressing waterslides now for regulations.

Question on HIPPA laws as to giving out information on accident victims: We now have a policy for receiving name information on elevator accident victims. Our legal department has written a letter that legally covers us for receiving victim information for elevator accidents. We are discussing this same type memo for amusement device accidents. We will send a notification via email to members when this is posted on our website for your information.

Indoor inflatables: Must have a trained attendant at each operating inflatable; must be 18 years of age; must have documentation of your training.

Open Discussion

Everyone feels our inspectors are “getting on the same page” this year. Can see more consistency and are doing a good job.

Rider Responsibility Act is getting a sponsor. We will get back with the Commissioner on what the Advisory Board recommends. Please come to the next meeting with recommendations of what you would like to see in this Act. We could have someone from OAB at the mandatory amusement company meeting to speak on the Rider Responsibility Act active in another state such as New York, New Jersey. Les Powers will contact Bob Johnson.

Apprenticeship Program

The new program has been completed and our inspectors have been certified except for a couple of new ones. This is a 2-year, 4000 hours training program. It is the only training and certification program in the nation for amusement industry.

Members requested another meeting to discuss a few of today’s issues more in-depth. The next meeting is set for all day Friday, March 3, 2006 in Raleigh beginning at 9:00 am. This is the day after the yearly Amusement Company Meeting held by our Bureau.