

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2011 MEETING OF THE FLORIDA  
AMUSEMENT DEVICE AND ATTRACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Coronado Springs Resort, Walt Disney World  
Orlando, Florida

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bob Johnson, Chairman, OABA  
Bill Costagliola, Vice Chairman, Amusements of America  
Charles Pesano, Florida State Fair Authority  
Margaret Giacalone, Walt Disney World Company  
Jerry Smithson, Amusement Risk Management Inc.  
Mariana Frey, Sea World Parks & Entertainment, Orlando  
Hank Woodburn, Adventure Landing Parks

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Andrew Deggeller, Deggeller Attractions  
Phillip Clark, Miami Dade County Fair & Exposition  
Charles Panacek, Belle City Amusements  
James Strates, Strates Shows

VISITORS:

Joe Relich, Walt Disney World Company  
John Arie, Fun Spot Action Park  
Mark Brisson, Fun Spot Action Park  
Tony Pedonisi, ADP & Associates

DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE AND  
CONSUMER SERVICES:

Allan Harrison, Chief, Bureau of Fair Rides Inspection  
Michelle, Faulk, SMA II, Bureau of Fair Rides Inspection

The meeting was called to order at 2:15 p.m. by the Chairman.

After introductions, the Chairman opened the meeting asking all members to provide an update on the status of their parks and or place of business since the last meeting in February. Allan Harrison then confirmed that the three members that were up for reappointment this year were reappointed by Commissioner Putnam to the advisory board for a two year term.

Allan Harrison informed the Committee that the Department had just completed hosting an overview of their new ride inspector training course for the engineering staff visiting from Singapore. The engineers were first scheduled in the Tallahassee office for an extensive overview of Bureau operations. After completion they were scheduled in

the field to meet with Department amusement ride inspectors at various permanent park locations for an overview on procedures for inspecting a variety of carnival rides, go-karts, water related rides and bungee rides. After completing the Department training the visitors' were invited by the theme parks to attend the annual consultations later in the week. Mr. Harrison informed the Committee that there has been discussing of possibly combining the Division of Standards and the Division of Consumer Services creating a new Division of Consumer Protection. This move will not drastically affect Fair Rides however; there is hope that when the merge occurs a new database will be put into place allowing for an even more complex system to track rides that enter the state.

The Chairman called for comments on or corrections to the minutes of the February 9, 2011 meeting. There being none, the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

#### Old Business:

#### **Public Service Announcement (PSA) Letter:**

Mr. Harrison reported that the PSA letter had been submitted to the Commissioners media relations personnel and he hopes to hear something in the near future regarding this topic.

#### **How Other States Report Ride Deficiencies-Bob Johnson & Jerry Smithson**

The Chairman and Mr. Smithson reported that most states do not log deficiencies if corrected prior to the inspector leaving the carnival site. New York currently makes all documents public knowledge allowing for all citizens to check the status of rides that are operating in the state. New Jersey has also discussed this as an option. It was mentioned that after the train incident in South Carolina all state inspectors were released and third party inspectors now perform inspections on the rides within the state. Two separate inspectors are required to inspect the rides on back to back inspections to avoid issues in the future. The overall finding seems to be that states with a detailed computer system will note all deficiencies found during the inspection process, the other states require deficiencies to be corrected prior to leaving the site and they are not noted on the inspection report.

#### **Permitting Challenges for Permanent Parks**

Mr. Harrison presented the board members with copies of the letter from the Department in response to the Committee's letter addressed to Mr. Rommes regarding the permitting challenges for permanent parks. The letter stated that due to the fact that this is a statutory change and that the Bureau has seen very little variance in dates of permitting over the years it is not suggested that changes take place to alter the permitting process. The Bureau continues to avoid changing permit dates unless requested by the owner/manager or if the inspection date falls on a holiday or weekend. Mr. Brisson mentioned that although his company originally brought up the permitting issues he no

longer felt this was a matter of precedence and if there was not a minor solution then as far as his company was concerned it was not an issue.

New Business:

**Update of National Amusement Ride Incidents**

Mr. Harrison presented the board members with an overview of 13 major amusement ride accidents that had occurred throughout the world over the summer which resulted in serious injuries or deaths to patrons. The Bureau explained that all amusement ride accidents are monitored closely and often the Bureau is in contact with the manufacturer of these rides to determine the cause of the accident. Mr. Harrison reported the Bureau has several rides on the "do not operate" list which entails those rides that have been involved in a major accident and are still under investigation by the manufacturers to determine the cause. It was also discussed that the Bureau reserves the right to issue a stop operation for any ride involved in an accident until a reasonable cause can be determined prior to operating in the state of Florida.

Bureau Update:

**Fiscal Year 10/11 Inspection Stats**

Mr. Harrison discussed the inspection statistics for the previous fiscal year. He informed that since establishing the new procedure for issuing stop operation orders the number issued has decreased. There was discussing with the board members that several county fairs within the state will not be operating in the upcoming fiscal year which will affect the number of scheduled inspections; however the Bureau recognized that over the summer there was an increase of new rides installed at existing parks and new park construction, totaling over twenty rides.

The Board questioned the rule regarding county fairs and 5 mile radius. Mr. Harrison explained that there are statutory requirements that prohibit the operation of amusement rides within a 5 mile radius of and within 30 days before or during a public fair or exposition that is operated by a county fair association. The fair association does have the authority to provide written consent giving authorization for an event to take place during this time frame.

Also discussed was the number of administrative complaints the Bureau had issued. Mr. Harrison stated that most of the administrative complaints and warning letters issued in the last fiscal year were a result of a lack of documentation by the industry. Mr. Harrison relayed to the board members that the Bureau continues to emphasize to all owners and operators the importance of maintaining the statute required documentation. It has always been the policy of the Bureau to provide new owners a "welcome to Florida" package in which they are required to sign which acknowledges

that they have been given all the statute requirements prior to operating amusement rides in the state.

Next Meeting:

There being no further business for the Committee, the Chairman called for a date for the next meeting. It was suggested and adopted by unanimous consent that the next meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 8, 2012 in Tampa at the Florida State Fairgrounds.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.