

# **AMUSEMENT RIDE SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

Thursday, June 20, 2024 | 9:00 a.m.

Howard Johnson's Plaza Meeting Room | Ocean City, Maryland  
(In-person and virtual meeting)

## **MINUTES**

### **Board Members Present:**

Glenn Fishack, Chair  
Roy Shaw  
Karen Nicklas  
Gordon Trimper  
Steven Pastusak  
Samantha La Mell  
Steven Rothenberg  
Mandy Rimmell (7/1/2024)  
Victor Isailovic

### **DLI Staff Present:**

Commissioner Devki Virk  
Mischelle Vanreusel, Deputy Commissioner  
Sarah Harlan, Assistant Attorney General  
David Dearborn, Program Manager  
Robbie Finecey, Chief Inspector  
Chad George, Amusement Ride Inspector  
Pamela Torres, Administrative Officer  
Andrew Friel, Legislative Coordinator  
Tiffany R. Jones, Board Coordinator

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

Joe Henry, ZavaZone  
Ralph Shaw, Former Amusement Ride Safety Board Member  
Timothy King, Jolly Rogers Parks  
Chandler Fishack, Smithburg Tractor Society  
Sheila Fellenbaum

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Board Chair Glenn Fishack, Sr. called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Karen Nicklas made a motion to approve the minutes with changes. The motion was seconded by Stephen Pastusak. The motion passed unanimously.

### **REGULATION UPDATE:**

Trampolines:

Robbie Finecey shared the recommendations of the subcommittee formed to discuss adoption of the ASTM F2970-2022 trampoline standard. The subcommittee recommended that the standard be adopted with the exception of the definition of "major modification" in section 8.1 of the standard. The subcommittee felt that the COMAR definition of "major modification" was preferable to the ASTM definition. The subcommittee further recommended that the standards apply to any trampoline or trampoline park installed after January 1, 2025.

*Motion#1:* Stephan Pastusak put forth a motion recommending that the Commissioner adopt the ASTM trampoline standard subject to the recommendations of the subcommittee. Roy Shaw seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Escape Rooms:**

Robbie Finecey provided an update on the Safety Unit’s inspection of the 38 Maryland escape room as of November 1, 2023. He explained the criteria used by the inspectors. He noted that many escape rooms change designs every 6-8 months to keep the interest of consumers.

Roy Shaw asked if the Unit has enough staff to regularly inspect newly added features like trampoline, ziplines and now escape rooms. Program staff responded that they have sufficient staff and that they try to schedule inspections of attractions such as escape rooms during the “off season.”

**PROGRAM:**

2024 Inspection to Date

| INSPECTION TYPE | TOTAL       | INSPECTOR       | TOTAL       |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Inspection      | 1359        | Chad Georg      | 119         |
| Re-Inspection   | 4           | Chris Tout      | 411         |
| Preliminary     | 541         | Chris Wingo     | 15          |
| Strip Down      | 57          | Garreth Carey   | 407         |
| Assist          | 281         | Gordon Ridgley  | 369         |
| Consultation    | 2           | Kevin Finnegan  | 139         |
| Incident        | 1           | Larry Joyner    | 5           |
| Accident        | 0           | Larry Logan     | 7           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>    | <b>2245</b> | Pete Yeagy      | 451         |
|                 |             | Robbie Finecey  | 3           |
|                 |             | Travis Anderson | 319         |
|                 |             | <b>TOTAL</b>    | <b>2245</b> |

Zipline inspections are going well. There are 33 zipline challenge course companies in Maryland and 175 challenge courses in those locations have been inspected. Inspectors Travis Anderson and Raji Butler will sit for certification this winter. Staff training is ongoing and will continue throughout the season.

Roy Shaw commended the Safety Inspection Unit staff’s knowledge and professionalism. As an update, the inquiry to bring Dining in the Sky never materialized.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Two new board members; Mandy Rimmell and Victor Isailovic were introduced. The board selected to have all future board meetings begin at 10:00 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Karen Nicklas made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Stephan Pastusak. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:41 a.m.