

UTAH PASSENGER ROPEWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 17, 2015

UDOT - Complex  
Salt Lake City, Utah

- Committee Members present: John Barlow, Vice Chairman  
Steve Thygerson, Board Member  
Spencer Chipping, Board Member  
Curt Panter, Board Member  
Robert Miles, Ex-officio Member
- Members absent: Onno Wieringa, Chairman
- Transportation Commission: Wayne Barlow, Commissioner
- Staff: Brian Allen
- Others present: Jeff Miller, Deer Valley Resort  
Steven LaRue, Snowbasin  
Jeff West, Beaver Mountain

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am. Robert Miles was introduced as the ex-officio member of the committee that is appointed by the UDOT executive director. Robert Miles replaces Robert Hull who retired from UDOT.

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

After a review of the minutes taken August 3, 2015, a motion was made by Steve Thygerson and seconded by Spencer Chipping to approve the minutes with the noted changes. The motion passed unanimously.

6 **II. PUBLIC HEARING – Ski lift registration fee increase**  
7

8 After a brief review of the procedures for a public hearing John Barlow opened a public  
9 hearing for the increase of ski lift registration fees and asked for any comments on the latest proposal  
10 that included the revisions suggested in the August 3<sup>rd</sup> UPRSC meeting. Jeff Miller stated that he  
11 had spoken with managers at Deer Valley Resort and they thought the proposal was reasonable and  
12 voiced their support for the ropeway safety program. John Barlow had spoken with managers at  
13 Brighton Ski Resort and they feel the proposal is reasonable. John Barlow expressed his support of  
14 the proposed increase. Jeff West from Beaver Mountain Ski Resort agreed with the previous  
15 comments that the proposed increase was reasonable.  
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17 The details of the proposal were reviewed for the public hearing record. The increase is 4%  
18 for all lifts, with a 15% surcharge for lifts that are used both winter and summer seasons. The  
19 categories for a detachable lift have been expanded. The new fee structure has 3 passenger, 4  
20 passenger, 6 passenger, and 8 passenger detachable lift categories. That overall is about a 9%  
21 increase in fees collected for the ropeway safety program budget.  
22

23 Robert Miles added his thanks for the ski industry’s involvement in developing the new fee  
24 structure and support of the ropeway safety program through it supporting the fee increase.  
25

26 Wayne Barlow expressed his favorable impressions of the working relationship of the resorts  
27 and the UPRSC. He expressed his opinion that UDOT is a well-run and managed organization and  
28 the UPRSC demonstrates those qualities.  
29

30 There was a call for any further comments, and none were offered. The public hearing was  
31 closed. Following the close of the public hearing Spencer Chipping made a motion for the UPRSC  
32 to express its support of the proposed fee increase. Steve Thygerson seconded the motion. The  
33 motion passed unanimously.  
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36 **III. OPEN DISCUSSION**  
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38 Brian Allen introduced an issue that he became aware of the previous day. The new lifts  
39 at Park City are being installed by Doppelmayr. The manufacturer of the wire ropes is Redaelli  
40 and Redaelli is providing the wire rope splicer. His name is Erwin Gurschler. He has been  
41 splicing wire ropes for 25 years and is registered in Italy, and certified under CE rules and EN  
42 standards for this type of work.  
43

44 Utah has a requirement for wire rope inspectors to be approved, and the committee feels  
45 that the person performing a splice should be on that list. The committee discussed that the  
46 ANSI standard has different requirements for splicing ropes than the European standards. To  
47 insure that the splice is being done to ANSI standards it is requested that a qualified engineer  
48 certify that the splice meets the ANSI standard. Even though the committee is confident in the  
49 experience and training of Mr. Gurschler, they require an application to be submitted to comply  
50 with previously established practices. The committee is aware that the application will not be  
51 formally reviewed and approved prior to the splice being completed.  
52

6 The committee did consider that Mr. Gurschler was an employee of the wire rope  
7 manufacturer and not an independent contractor. It was noted that at times we have European  
8 engineers from the lift manufacturers working on equipment as representatives of the  
9 manufacturer and we do not require each of them to be approved as qualified engineers. The  
10 requirement for a MRT inspection to be performed on the rope within the first year was  
11 discussed and the requirement for that inspection to be performed by an approved inspector.  
12 Following the discussion it was identified that for the splice to be completed by Mr. Gurschler  
13 prior to the formal approval of his application by the committee a qualified engineer needed to  
14 certify that the splice was being performed in compliance with ANSI standards. That the MRT  
15 inspection needed to be performed by an approved inspector, and that Mr. Gurschler needs to  
16 submit an application, even if the only work he was performing was the splice.  
17

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19 **IV. FOREST SERVICE / AREA UPDATES**

20 Updates:

21 Curt Panter spoke about the loss that the committee and the ski industry felt with the  
22 passing of Jan Leonard. The ski areas and manufacturer's updated those present on current  
23 activities and issues.  
24

25 **VI. SAFETY TOPIC / QUESTIONS**

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27 A safety topic was not presented at the meeting. Curt Panter made a motion to adjourn  
28 the meeting, and it was seconded by John Barlow. The motion passed and the meeting was  
29 adjourned.  
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