

# MINUTES

## Amusement Ride Safety Committee

---

*DATE | TIME:* March 8, 2023 | 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

*LOCATION:* 4501 S 2700 W, Taylorsville, UT 84129, Redwood B Conference Room | Google Meet

---

### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

---

Andre Meacham | Johnnie Miller | Larry Mullenax | Cara Sherlock | Robert Miles (Non-voting Member)

---

### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

---

Pam Zoeller | Benjamin Sheldon

---

### OTHER ATTENDEES

---

Rhett Arnell (UDOT Amusement Ride Safety Director), Michael Sheffield (UDOT Consultant), Peter Esplin, Dennis Sutherland

---

### WELCOME

- Johnnie calls the meeting to order and takes roll

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY MEETING

- Johnnie addresses a couple of errors he identified in the February meeting minutes. No other committee members identify additional errors. Johnnie asks for a motion to approve the UARSC meeting minutes for the February 1st meeting. Cara makes the motion, Robert seconds the motion, and it passes with a vote of 4 - 0 - 2.

- |                   |                 |                   |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| o <u>Yeas - 4</u> | <u>Nays - 0</u> | <u>Absent - 2</u> |
| Andre Meacham     |                 | Pam Zoeller       |
| Johnnie Miller    |                 | Benjamin Sheldon  |
| Larry Mullenax    |                 |                   |
| Cara Sherlock     |                 |                   |

## UPDATE ON ADMINISTRATIVE RULE EFFECTIVE DATE

- Robert states that the rule has been made effective and notes that legislation passed modifying the code pertaining to amusement ride safety, so modifications to the rule will need to be made to align with these changes.
- Johnnie summarizes the legislative changes by stating that ziplines are no longer defined as an amusement ride, so references to ziplines in the rule will need to be removed.
- Larry asks what will happen with ziplines. Johnnie responds that during the legislative session legislators opined that ziplines should be regulated, but maybe by the Ropeway Safety Committee instead of the Amusement Ride Safety Committee.

## AMUSEMENT RIDE ONLINE SYSTEM AND CURRENT STATE OF INSPECTORS

- Rhett shares that many QSI applications have been received and over 20 inspectors have already been approved. PDF versions of the forms have been used up to this point and are working well.
- Rhett states that the beta version of the online system will soon be live. The contractor developing the online system doesn't see any issues preventing it being live by April 1. He is pleased with the progress being made.
- Johnnie asks about how the developers will use search engine optimization to facilitate users' ability to find the site on the internet. Rhett states that it has been discussed with the site developer but he will follow up on it.
- Johnnie asks Dennis Sutherland, an approved QSI in the state of Utah, to comment on how the application and approval process went for him.
  - Dennis states it was simple and straightforward to submit everything. He further states that he is licensed or certified in 14 states and this was one of the only states with a formal application form.

## REVIEW STATUS AND UPDATES TO RELEVANT FORMS, INCLUDING REPORTABLE SERIOUS INJURY FORM AND QSI APPROVAL CERTIFICATE

- QSI Approval Certificate
  - The draft QSI Approval Certificate is displayed, which is modified from the analogous certificate used by the Ropeway Safety Committee, and Rhett asks for comments from the committee. Johnnie asks whether an Amusement Ride Safety Committee has an approved seal and Robert indicates that one has not been approved. Johnnie asks whether a seal could be approved like the Ropeway Safety Committee and Robert responds that he will look into it.
- Reportable Serious Injury Form

- o The draft Reportable Serious Injury Form is displayed and Andre comments that the phone number needs to be updated. Larry asks how a record will be made to confirm that proper reporting by an owner/operator was made within the identified timeframe. Johnnie states that UDOT's phone system will be able to provide this confirmation and requests that Rhett identify a process to record this.
- o Dennis Sutherland asks about the public availability of information on this report. Johnnie responds that only certain data on this form are considered public and the rest is protected.
- o Johnnie asks Rhett if this form can be provided to owner/operators when their amusement ride permit is issued so that they have it readily available and don't need to search the internet for it. Rhett agrees and says it will be provided.
- o Andre states that the reference to the rule needs to be updated. He asks what information needs to be provided to assist the Director in authorizing the operation of a mobile amusement ride after a reportable serious injury occurs. He also identifies several pieces of information that have already been reported to the Director on other forms, like the ride application, and probably don't need to be part of this form.
- o Andre asks what the relevancy is for the question that asks whether the injured person is an on-duty employee. Several committee members opine that it doesn't matter for the purposes of this form.
- o Johnnie states this form should only have questions for data not protected under statute, which includes the ride description, the owner/operator, the location of the ride at the time the reportable serious injury occurred, and the general nature of the reportable serious injury. Some of the additional information identified by the committee, which will also assist the Director in authorizing the operation of a mobile amusement ride after a reportable serious injury occurs, can be part of a supplemental form since it would be protected under GRAMA.
- o The committee members agree that publicly available information should be on one form and protected information should be on a supplemental form.
- o Johnnie states that this form should state that the information provided in response to the questions on this form is considered public information that the Director must release if requested.
- o Johnnie opines that the committee should identify the standards under which the Director will authorize the ride to reopen since this committee has governmental immunity. This way, the Director merely performs the administrative function of providing the authorization. Johnnie requests that this be run by the AG assigned to UDOT to make sure they agree with this line of thinking.

- o Johnnie requests that staff create these two forms and distribute them prior to the next committee meeting.

### **ROUNDTABLE**

- Larry asks that feedback be gathered from the QSIs and owner/operators that have gone through the application process to allow Rhett to further refine it.
- Andre says that a couple glitches with the fillable PDFs have been identified and Rhett was notified. He also says that Rhett has been great to work through the application process and has been very responsive.
- Larry asks Andre about his financial impacts to comply with these regulations. He responds that most of the work is already being done, but there are the QSI and ride application costs, a little bit of additional administrative work, and one additional inspection performed.
- Andre states that whoever the UDOT spokesperson for amusement rides is might want to look into the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) website, which has some great material on ride safety, including talking points and general statistics on amusement ride safety.
- Andre states that he, Cara, and Ben each have an expiration date for their committee positions in June 2023 and asks how the process goes for handling this. Larry responds that he is very familiar with the process and can provide information to Rhett and Johnnie on trainings that just happened. Recommendations would go to the Amusement Ride Safety Director, who would then provide a recommendation to the UDOT Executive Director. Peter Esplin states that positions are open for reappointment as well.

### **MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

- Johnnie accepts a motion from Robert to adjourn the meeting, Cara seconds, and the meeting adjourns at 10:16 AM.