



**ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
AMUSEMENT RIDE AND ATTRACTION SAFETY BOARD**

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**Thursday September 11, 2025
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

Illinois Department of Labor
Share Building, 4th Floor
524 S 2nd Street
Springfield, IL 62701

Illinois Department of Labor
Bilandic Building, 13th Floor
160 N LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60601

Webex Meeting link

<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=m44fbc9f0e130ebaed85e990b693b0f0f>

CALL TO ORDER Chair

10:05am.

ROLL CALL IDOL

- Jennifer Akhter – present in-person Chicago
- David Bennett, Chair – present in-person Chicago
- Michael Clark (remote) -
- Jane Flanagan, IDOL Director – present in-person Chicago
- Joseph Kagann – present in-person Chicago
- Andrew Purvin – not present
- Quorum met : 4 of 6 board members present in-person, 1 remote

Motion for Clark to attend remotely – Joe Kagann. Second – Dave Bennett

- 5 approve/no nay – Motion Approved

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF MINUTESChair

- Board Meeting of January 16, 2025
- **Motion** to Approve 1/16/25 minutes – Joe Kagann – Second Jane Flanagan

- Vote – 5 yes 0 opposed

OLD BUSINESS.....Division Manager Fox

- Brian Fox – Slide #4 of Power Point – Operators must have a First Aid/CPR Provider on site \$1,000 for any other violations – Brian wanted to point out and reiterate.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Department UpdatesDivision Manager Fox**

- Presentation via PowerPoint
- Introduction of New Inspectors in Division – Slide #4 (copy)
- 2025 Accident Statistics Slide #6 (copy)
- Overall inspections will be up from 2024, as bring on new inspector will increase.
Accident Report Comparison – Still not seeing accidents being reported and will be stressing if you have permit and any serious injury as defined under act, must report to IDOL within 48 hours, and if death – immediately report
2025 Accident Summary Slide – Patron cause, and not seeing many injuries that are operator or mechanical related.
Flanagan – This slide is just IDOL investigation based on Chief Ride Inspector reviewing accident reports, not outside investigations to trigger IDOL investigations.
Fox – Correct. We go through accident reports as those come in with patron, but for operator and mechanical immediate trigger investigations.
Bennett – so, Patron discretionary based on report, but Operator/Mechanical automatic
Akhter – If location is repeatedly coming up, I’m guessing that location is better at reporting.
Fox – Next slide. Stress not in trouble for reporting accident, but if you don’t report there are issues and penalties. There is one park that go above and beyond and just because they are over reporting does not denote it’s a bad operator, they are working with us. We are looking for trends such as why a particular attraction at different parks result in multiple injuries, for example.
Fox – Accident report Slide – Mostly patron, 1 mechanical.
Akhter – Six Flags scenario some increased height requirement, but why that increased and context why that occurred such as injuries?
Fox: Not sure without looking into that specific ride/location, but generally it would be done by manufacturer of the ride or the Operator decides to go above manufacturer standard, majority comes from Manufacturer whether it is accident or study related.
Akhter – appreciate the proactive action to safety.
Fox – Appreciate proactive safety measures as well, Six Flags as phenomenal procedures with on-site testing and invite our inspectors and great partner with IDOL.
Jane Flanagan: Great cross training opportunity for IDOL inspectors.
Bennett- Looks like accidents are down.
Fox: Again, two trampoline parks who used to report and managers change and now we are seeing a drop of numbers of reporting so can’t draw strong conclusion yet.
Akhter: Fewer operators possibly?
Fox: Possibly, but up in number of trampoline parks and added 2-3 mobile carnival operators, but total lower number of total operators, could be due to some bounce house or inflatable operators.
Bennett – in 2024 I believe we separate trampoline accidents? Are they down from year before.

Flanagan – Trampoline was not covered by law until a couple of years ago. Now that we are about 4 years into regulating trampoline parks, we are not separating those out, but for sometime we separated at the beginning. We could continue to separate if we want.

Bennett – taking trampoline out, we only had about 5 accidents

Fox – Correct

Akhter – What about Haunted Houses in terms of accidents?

Fox – Pretty benign regarding accidents and we have really good administrative rules and proud of our inspectors to work with haunted houses and we do pre-inspections starting in January to ensure safety in partnership with IDOL.

Flanagan – we also partner with State Fire Marshall for fire safety as well.

Akhter – Safety issue with chainsaws for safety and know we have good hiring regulations.

Fox: we do not have any regulations such as actor shooter plan in regulations, but operators we have seen they do have, such as Lockport is a gold standard.

Flanagan – More likely an operator responsibility. IDOL is more safety and hiring standards, training, manual is what we deal with.

Bennett – Do ride inspectors ask about actor shooter?

Fox: Not necessarily as we don't regulate, but we see them in their operational binders they provide to use with the required documents we do regulate

- New Application Demonstration of On-Line System:
 - Brian Fox introduces Bruce Monroe who built the on-line system. There have been a few bumps with the new systems, but Bruce has done great job with any issue and feedback in generally has been good from users.
 - Bruce Monroe – presents on slides of the on-line application
 - Bennett – how many operators have used?
 - Bruce – About 500
 - Fox – It allows people to do more than obtain a permit, such as download inspection reports, so this system is an significant upgrade which will be available through this system, not just through emails.
 - Flanagan – It has been a process, but a great improvement.
 - Fox – Almost through first year.
 - Bennett – yes, entering every attraction and ride, this is a great improvement.

● **Changes to Administrative Rules.....Legislative Director**

- **Anna Koeppel, IDOL Legislative and Policy Director.** – Discussion of some amendments to the ARAS administrative rules addressing some updates:
 - 1. ASTM is putting out new standard, so we will update our regs to these new standards.
 - 2. New types of slides manufacturer are recommending different ways of using them so amend admin rules to follow manufacturer's recommendations.
 - 3. New penalty in statutes and we want to clarify our Admin Hearing process for penalty assessment.
 - Happy to discuss or send to my email.
- Bennett – Do we vote on these?
- Koeppel: We go through administrative rule changes process through JCAR and this board doesn't vote on those.
- Flanagan – This board is welcome to comment on those, but once formally proposed, then

we go into formal process with formal public comments.

- Koeppel: Best practice at the time those are published, we notify the board to submit thoughts.
- Fox: More we are doing is tweaks than big changes
- Bennett – With ASTM standards effective date?
- Koeppel: Current rules effective April 25, 2025.
- Fox – ASTM2970 regulates trampoline parks is 2020 and need to update 2024.
- Flanagan – Tried to make automatic, but we have not been allowed to do so regulation.
- ARAS IDOL Engineer Abuhzaima – We also plan to update other codes as well and adopt such as Life Safety Codes, etc.

- **Board Discussion.....** Board
 - Tentative 2026 Winter Meeting Location and Time – Friday, January 16, 2026 10:00am-12:00pm, Crowne Plaza (Springfield) and simultaneously at IDOL office in Chicago.
 - Will do Chicago satellite so can attend in-person at this office. Received request from County Fair Bureau, to change from Thursday to Friday. Space is being provided to us and it seems to be the majority to have on Friday.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS.....Members of the Public
None.

ADJOURN- 10:51a.m.

Motion – Flanagan; Second Kagann. 5 yes.