

Coaster/It has scenic views of waterfront

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said he was prepared to turn the ride over to city employees who have been trained to operate and maintain it.

"They're ready," he said.

Members of the news media and city officials were treated to several successful test runs, with the coaster's orange and blue cars speeding atop the wooden frame.

Rides will cost \$1 each when the Zippin Pippin makes its public debut at 10 a.m. Saturday.

Ed Wiesner, the city's public works director, said he is not generally a roller coaster fan, but he thoroughly enjoyed the Zippin Pippin.

"It's a nice ride — a very nice ride," he said.

With scenic views of the waterfront, the coaster towers over the merry-go-round, bumper cars and other rides and attractions that have drawn families to Bay Beach for decades.



Zippin Pippin operators get the coaster ready to roll as a mixture of coaster fans and media members try out the new ride Tuesday at Bay Beach Amusement Park. Jim Matthews/Press-Gazette

After a consultant in 2008 recommended a roller coaster to upgrade the park, Schmitt and other city leaders visited Memphis to examine the original Zippin Pippin as it was being dismantled.

In March 2010, the City Council agreed to spend \$3 million acquiring the rights and re-creating the wooden

roller coaster at Green Bay's city-owned amusement park.

Some aldermen criticized the expense, and the project ran into cost overruns during construction. Schmitt said the final price tag is just less than \$3.8 million, with private donations of more than \$700,000 expected to make up the difference.

AT A GLANCE ZIPPIN PIPPIN FACTS

- » Height: 75 feet
- » Length: 750 feet
- » Top speed: 40 mph
- » Ride length: 1 minute, 35 seconds
- » Capacity: 30 riders per train

The city borrowed \$2.4 million in municipal bonds and tapped a Bay Beach reserve for \$600,000 to complete the funding without any direct taxpayer support.

City officials on Tuesday repeated assurances that ridership would generate enough revenue to pay off the bonds and continue Bay Beach's track record as a financial success.

"It fits the park," Wiesner said. "It fits the history of the park, and it fits the tradition of the park."

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