

RIVERFRONT COMMITTEE-WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 2021-10:00 AM-BUFFALO CITY MUNICIPAL BUILDING

The Buffalo City Riverfront Committee was called to order by chairman Kevin Mack. Present: Jeannie Czapplewski, Citizen Dan Arendt, City Superintendent Stan Meier and Clerk Jenny Ehlenfeldt. Also present: Ken Peterson and Ray Marinan of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Marinan and Peterson discussed issues they have recently had with several lease topics:

- Tree cutting – Marinan said while he knows the policy for cutting trees in the past several years has been that the City had permission to cut dead, beaver chewed or invasive species trees that policy will no longer be used. Marinan spoke with Mack during the spring tree cutting project that the City and Buffalo County worked on, and has since consulted with others in his office. The policy will now be that the city must again make a request for any tree cutting that is wanted for trees that are dead or alive. The standard two-inch diameter that was used before will not be used anymore. Anything over the size of a finger should not be removed without approval. Marinan also stated that unless a tree is a “hazard” tree, meaning it is putting people or property in danger, the chances it will be approved for removal is minimal. Even very large, dead trees will not be approved for removal if they do not pose a threat to anything.
- Electric Service – Peterson said during their recent inspection of the Buffalo City riverbank they saw a newer electrical service placed on a permittee's spot. The Corps does not feel this service at the level it is at is needed. He said the City must control what types of service are acceptable at very minimal amperage. City will contact Corps for approval of any requested electrical service from now on. Discussion on large house boat sitting on the same area. Peterson feels the owners are living on the house boat all summer and that is not what the intended use of the Corps riverfront is for. Committee unclear what control we should have of this, but also noted that the boat in question is not being “lived” in.
- Rip Rap – After stopping a recent rip rap project in the City and discussing with the permit holder, the City clerk, mayor and the Department of Natural Resources representative, Peterson and Marinan understood that there was a miscommunication between the groups. The City was previously told by the DNR that a permittee could execute a rip rap project without a permit if they were able to meet specific guidelines. After speaking with the DNR representative, the Corps said there was a misunderstanding and from now on the City itself would need to make the rip rap request online with the regulatory board made up of DNR and Corps representatives.

Other discussions:

- Marinan would like a tree planting replacement plan by budget time this year. The Corps would be willing to put funds towards the replacement trees once a plan is submitted with a goal of planting in the spring of 2022.
- All trees that the City currently has marked with the pink ribbons to be cut in the future will need to be reviewed by Marinan's office.
- Refuge area permits were discussed. No new structures are allowed on any of the areas. Docks and steps that are there are grandfathered in and can be maintained or replaced at existing size. Any areas that no longer have permits on are still part of the City's lease and ultimately the city is responsible for making sure they are not used inappropriately. Marinan said the Corps would consider issuing fines to someone who has put private property (docks, platforms, steps, electric, etc.) on what is the Corps of Engineers land.

- Discussed breakwater at 10th Street on a private landowner's land. Marinan said the private land owner would have to apply for a rip rap permit for the breakwater. Mack will be discussing with the land owner. A survey would need to be conducted to find out where the property line actually is in the water.
- Two permits were discussed. City will move permit holders who are willing to move to make the 40' sections we are ultimately trying to get. Spot at #86 will be turned into a 40' section and spot at 102 will be turned into a 40' section.
- Clerk has two spots that came back to the City. Both will be given to the top of the waiting list.

Kevin Mack, Mayor

Jenny Ehlenfeldt, Clerk

_____date approved