

Huckleberries asked Deputy City Administrator Sam Taylor if he's aware that the owners of the floating jungle gym has returned to city waters. Bob Riley, owner of the "Hooligan Island" vessel was told last month to move his floating play area out of Coeur d'Alene waters. Here's Sam's response to Huckleberries:

Yes indeed, we are aware of it and very actively dealing with that issue. This is the same "Hooligan Island" vessel. While they took it away and indicated they would be heading south to, I believe, Utah for the summer, they instead chose to bring it back to the lake.

The owners of this vessel have been informed numerous times that they are not licensed and authorized to conduct business within the waterways of the City of Coeur d'Alene. The City's incorporated boundaries and jurisdiction extends to 1,000 feet into the lake. At no time have we ever told them they could conduct business on the water and have worked hard to educate them on the various rules related to conducting business in the public waterway and the steps necessary to be considered for conducting such business.

We recently had a meeting with the owners that included staff from Parks & Recreation, the Fire Department, the Police Department, the City Attorney's Office, and the Municipal Services Department. We understand that they have also been engaged by local staff of the Idaho Department of Lands, which has jurisdiction over the lake bed (meaning anything anchored to it, etc.).

During that meeting (we have minutes and I am attaching those verbatim notes for you – we tape recorded the meeting due to concerns that the public statements being made by the owner were not accurate regarding what we have told them in the past) we expressed numerous concerns and also explained the various regulations. Those included the general requirements to be licensed as a mobile vendor (which they are not licensed for) as well as public safety issues from the Fire Department and Police Department.

Little to none of those items we sought compliance for have occurred and, again, they have not come into compliance with our business licensing requirements for mobile vendors.

For that reason, on Tuesday, June 27, the Coeur d'Alene Police Department contacted the owner, Rob Riley, because the island was anchored within our jurisdiction. They were ferrying passengers by boat from North Idaho College's shores and dock. We learned they were charging \$12 for people to utilize the on-water jungle gym, which means they were engaging in business despite their past statements to us that they were just citizens with a vessel not conducting business. Again, this is a violation of our licensing requirements.

The Police Department had the island moved to 1,240 from the shoreline, meaning it is no longer within the City's jurisdiction. Officers also advised the owner that NIC wanted his business trespassed from using their dock for commercial purposes. The sheriff's office also spoke with Mr. Riley about rules for transporting customers to his island and informed him that the Coast Guard would be notified about the events of that day.

While the vessel is no longer within the City's jurisdiction, and therefore does not need to be licensed to conduct business within the City, it should be noted that for any on-water rescues the City of Coeur d'Alene Fire Department would be the ones going out to assist as we have the fire boat to provide interjurisdictional assistance. Because of that, our Fire Department has asked for a Public Safety Plan from Hooligan Island to help us coordinate any rescue of injured people. This plan has still not been provided to the City.

The Idaho Department of Lands, as I understand it, will also be contacting them now that it is within the unincorporated area.

More than anything we are extremely focused on public safety related to this issue. We license these businesses in order to ensure that they are operating safely both for their employees and especially the public.

At this time, the Parks & Recreation Commission has also declined to approve their operation within the City's waterways. The mobile vendor rules require approval from the Parks Department director, who will rely on his Parks & Rec Commission to review these issues from a community perspective.