

**CITY OF REDLANDS  
CITRUS PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
Meeting of March 9, 2021  
MINUTES**

**1. Call to order at 4:00 pm - Attendance**

**Present:** Michael Day, Chair  
Bill Oesterlein  
Heather Ross  
Rolland Moore

**Absent:**  
Kyle Kenison  
Libb Cook  
Jack Steward

**FCS Staff:** Erik Reeves  
Zach Labonte  
Chris Boatman

**Farming/Packing companies:** Al Ruiz  
John Gless

**Guests:** None

This was conducted as a hybrid teleconference meeting in the Facilities & Community Services Department, Civic Center 35 Cajon Street, Redlands, California.

In compliance with public health recommendations to limit public gatherings during the Covid-19 pandemic and acting as the City of Redlands Emergency Services Director, City Manager Charles M. Duggan Jr., directed meetings of the City of Redlands be closed to the public until further notice or until the current local State of Emergency has been lifted. Public comments, up to 250 words and received by 5:00 P.M. the day before the meeting, were read aloud by the Commission Chair.

**2. Public Comments:** Two public comments were received about the citrus grove located at 301 West Palm Avenue. This item will be placed on the April agenda for discussion.

**3. Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the January 12, 2021, and February 9, 2021, meetings were approved as written. M/S/Pass 4-0

**4. Status Reports**

A. *Packinghouse report:* Al Ruiz reported that the winter freeze in Texas will be good news for California citrus growers. The Mountain View grapefruit were harvested early due to demand and price, and the yield looks good. The gibbed Navels are 85% harvested and the late Navels are several months away.

B. *Farming report by John Gless:* John is meeting in the field weekly with City staff. Due to the situation in Texas, John recommended the City not thin Mountain View grove for 2 or 3 years. Larry Jacinto is current on all jobs requiring spraying equipment. The irrigation staff are doing a good job and continue to train with John and Larry.

C. *Facilities & Community Services report:* Erik and Zach reported that staff are doing weekly walk-through in each grove.

D. *Individual Commissioner Reports:* Michael agrees with John on the Mountain View grove thinning recommendation. The sucker growth at the West Redlands Gateway grove needs to be removed. Michael stated that the weekly walk-throughs are limited to one or two Commissioners, but he will work out a schedule for any who want to participate.

- E. *10 year citrus plan*: The gross packinghouse revenues for the last nine years, summarized by grove and by acre, were shared with the Commissioners. More data will be prepared for the April meeting. Bill still needs expenditure data from the City.

**5. Old Business**

- A. Staff reported that the flyer was mailed in January. Some have already arrived with the utility bills.
- B. The Texas and Palmetto groves replanting project received no bids. Staff was asked to investigate other means to advertise, such as trade magazines.
- C. After some discussion, it was suggested that the Olive Avenue grove be “given” to another entity to maintain, but that the Commission would pay for the cost of the ACP spraying. The will be decided after a further review of revenue and expenses takes place.
- D. The RFP for ACP spraying should go out soon. Larry Jacinto will continue to spray until another firm is hired.
- E. It was recommended to City staff not to re-bid the Mountain Grove thinning project and leave the trees alone for another 2 or 3 years.

**6. New Business**

- A. Mr. Boatman stated that staff is meeting with Council to discuss how to fill frequent absences across several different commissions. He will have more information at the April meeting. Councilmember Guzman-Lowery will be the primary liaison to the Commission, with Councilmember Davis as the alternate.
- B. The Annual Report is due at the June 16<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting, via letter or Zoom.

**7. Possible Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

- A. Continue update and discussion and possible action on replanting of Texas and Palmetto groves
- B. Continue discussion and possible action on options for alternate uses for the Olive Avenue grove
- C. Continue discussion and possible action on request for proposal for ACP spraying
- D. Discussion and possible action on available positions within the Commission
- E. Discussion and possible action on the Annual Report to the City Council

**8. 5:05 pm – Adjournment to the April 13, 2021 meeting**

Minutes submitted by City of Redlands staff.