

## Citrus Preservation Commission – Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City of Redlands Citrus Preservation Commission held on Tuesday, December 10, 2019, at 4:00 pm in the Municipal Utilities and Engineering Department Conference Room, 35 Cajon Street, Suite 15-A, Redlands, are as follows:

Members: Bill Oesterlein Michael Day Jack Stewart  
Lib Cook Rolland Moore

City Staff: Jocelynn Santa Cruz Erik Reeves Zach LaBonte  
Toni Momberger Tim Sullivan

Farming/Packing Companies: Chuck Hills

Guests: Dennis Bell

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm by Chairman Day.
2. Public Comments: None
3. Approval of Minutes:
  - A. The minutes of the November 12, 2019, meeting was approved as written. M/S/P.
4. Status Reports:
  - A. Packing House Report – No PH rep.
    1. It might be a slow start to the Navel season due to smaller fruit locally, but the demand being for larger fruit.
    2. Locally, the sugar levels are fine but the fruit has been slow to color.
  - B. Farming Report- Chuck provided the following updates:
    1. ACP treatments are almost complete.
    2. Weed work will begin in the next or so.
  - C. Quality of Life Staff Report –Erik, Zach and Tim provided the following updates:
    1. The ongoing rail project has forced the relocation of some equipment at the I-10 groves.
    2. The removal of the hedges along the University grove has been reviewed by the City

Attorney. The 5' easement is no longer an issue and City staff will work with the HOA to remove the hedges.

3. City staff have been assisting Chuck with the ACP spraying.

4. The bids for replanting the groves at Texas and Palmetto have been delayed again. The bids are now not expected to open until after January 6, 2020, with a two to four week bid window. Bids are not expected to be presented to the City Council until February or March. That would likely delay planting until 2022. The Commission expressed concerns about the slow movement of the projects will City staff and staff will try to expedite the process.

5. There was a lengthy discussion with City staff about the landfill/waste water site. City staff contends that since the 2 parcels on land are within the Enterprise Zone, any revenue from the site would have to go to the Enterprise Fund, not the Citrus Fund. The issue did not go to City Council, as Chris and the City Attorney did not feel there was firm ground to move forward with the idea of planting citrus on these parcels. It was noted that the City did approve a month to month lease in 2005 to a local farmer, for \$1200/mo. **A motion was made, seconded, and passed 4-0 by the Commission to recommend that City staff review the option to lease and plant citrus on these two parcels for a 25 year term with the option for one renewal, with terms similar to the prior lease agreement executed by the City.**

D. Individual Commissioner Reports:

1. Jack commented that the fruit color is improving, but still slow; He also expressed concerns that recent rains will increase weed populations.

2. Jack asked Chuck about his observation of a sudden leaf drop on a tree at the Olive grove: Chuck suggested several possible causes.

E. 10 Year Citrus Plan:

1. No update this month.

5. Old Business:

A. Re-planting the lower 11 acres at Prospect Park:

1. Michael deferred discussion until a later date but asked City staff to keep the item on the agenda.

B. Possible planting near the landfill/wastewater site:

1. See 4, C, 5 above.

C. Discussion and possible action on ACP education for residents:

1. City staff will follow up with Heather to see about the progress made on having NST print the two inserts discussed at the last meeting.

6. New Business:

- A. Discuss packing houses options for smaller growers:

1. Chuck provided background on the only remaining packing house in the County. There was a lengthy discussion on the need for small growers to have a local outlet for their fruit if they were to stay in the citrus production business. It was noted that there were several packing houses in Riverside and VPOA was always an option. It was suggested that small growers work directly with the packing houses when considering planting or re-planting to see what varieties would be most advantageous to the grower and the house. Chuck agreed to provide contact information for growers interested in talking with VPOA.

7. Future agenda items for consideration:

1. Discussion and consideration for replanting the lower 11 acres at Prospect Park.
  2. Update on Recommendation to lease and plant the landfill/waste water parcels.
  3. Update on the Bid process for Texas and Palmetto groves.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:54 pm.

9. The Next Meeting date will be January 14, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Oesterlein  
Commission Secretary