

Citrus Preservation Commission – Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City of Redlands Citrus Preservation Commission held on Tuesday, November 14, 2017, 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 Peter Buoye Libbern Cook
Jack Steward Michael Day

City Staff: Andy Ortiz Rick Cross

Farming/Packing Companies: Chuck Hills Roy Bettencourt

Guests: Dennis Bell

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Chairman Buoye.
2. Public Comments: None
3. Approval of Minutes:
 - A. The minutes of October 10, 2017, meeting was approved as written. M/S/P.
4. New Business:
 - A. Packing House Report – Roy (CCC):
 1. There is a strong market demand for Navels right now, especially for export.
 2. The Chinese New Year will be in February, so plans need to be made by the end of December, if interested in exporting to China.
 3. Local Navels are currently being harvested – Just waiting for color, Gibb, and Copper sprays (for export fruit).
 4. Navel production in the Central Valley may be down by 20% this season.
 - B. Farming Report- Chuck provided the following updates:
 1. ACP sprays have begun in several locations – there is 2 week treatment window.
 2. Early Navels are being harvested at University and Riverview groves.
 3. Copper sprays will begin soon for export fruit.
 4. Irrigation watering has been cut back due to cooler weather.

5. The petition to form a Citrus Pest Control District was supported by a majority of the citrus growers. The future status of the District will be discussed with LAFCO.

C. Individual Commissioner Reports:

1. Peter noted that there are large suckers on the young trees planted at the West Riverview grove. He also noted that there was damage to the tree wrappers. Chuck will investigate.

D. 10 Year Citrus Plan:

1. The spreadsheets were accepted as written and data from Chuck, City staff, and the PH will be used to populate the sheets, which will be brought back to the CPC at a later date.

5. Old Business:

A. CPC Planting Guidelines:

1. City staff will be meeting with the Planning staff in the near future to discuss; Lots of turnover has delayed the discussions. Planning staff may meet with the CPC at a later date.

B. Citrus Fencing Updates:

1. Bids have been received for both groves (West Riverview and West Redlands Gateway) and City staff are working on the work agreements right now.

6. New Business:

A. Verizon Cell Tower alternate site:

1. The City Council asked staff to look at alternate sites for the proposed Cell Tower after concerns were expressed by some residents about the original Mullin grove location.

2. An alternate site might be the Judson grove. The trees are older at this location. Access would also be a problem and would require more trees to be removed than the Mullin site. The Judson site would also require additional access off San Bernardino Ave.

3. It was also noted that any revenue from the Cell Tower would go to the specific grove fund; It seems more prudent to offset the loss of trees at the Mullin site instead of the Judson site.

4. **A motion was made to recommend that City staff keep the Cell Tower at the original Mullin site because there would be less tree loss, less traffic congestion at the street corner, and no concrete driveway approach. M/S/P.**

B. San Bernardino Ave street widening:

1. City staff made a short presentation about the need to widen San Bernardino Ave adjacent to the Mullin grove. **A motion was made to recommend to City staff that the street widening include curb and sidewalk, and no parkway. M/S/P.**

7. Future agenda items for consideration: None

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 pm.

9. The Next Meeting date will be December 12, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Oesterlein
Commission Secretary