

**CITY OF REDLANDS
CITRUS PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting of January 11, 2022
MINUTES**

1. Call to order at 4:02 pm - Attendance

Present: Michael Day, Chair
Roger Hardy
Rolland Moore
Heather Ross
Marc Shaw
Jack Steward

Absent: Bill Oesterlein

City Council: none

FCS Staff: Chris Boatman, Zach LaBonte, Tricia Swope

Farming/Packing companies: John Gless, Jim Layes

Guests: Dennis Bell, Iris Chu, Chris Sedmack, Manual Martinez

2. Public Comments: No public comment.

3. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the December 14, 2021 meeting was approved on a motion by Commissioner Hardy, seconded by Commissioner Moore and carried.

4. Status Reports

A. *Packinghouse report:* Quote sheet and averages provided. Picking Desert Rios and Cara Caras right now. Market is good. \$14-\$17/bin. Market is firm. \$14/\$15 bins for 113s/38s. Selling 63s and larger. Exporters are having problems with transportation. Puff and crease is a concern this year. Younger, thicker skin fruit doesn't seem to have it.

B. *Farming report by John Gless:* John is meeting in the field weekly with City staff. Haven't needed to water because of rain that came in. Spray & Moves (HLB) when Villa Park wants fruit. Fertilizer end of Feb/beginning of March. Focus this month is to change sprinkler heads to a consistent head in each block.

C. *Facilities & Community Services report:* Working hard on consistency of spray heads. Finished picking Gateway. Jacinto is skirting. Next is West Riverview. Suckers on 5th Ave grove.

i. Replanting of Lugonia Grove to go to Feb 15th City Council meeting. \$200K for grinding and replanting of 2200 trees (approximately \$45/tree).

ii. Update on access to Olive Grove. Chain fence installed across access road.

D. *Individual Commissioner Reports:* Commissioner Steward provided report that the Jacinto Memorial trees don't look healthy. Need to break up ground for water?

E. *10 year citrus plan:* Tabled until Commissioner Oesterlein available.

5. PRESENTATION

A. Presentation from Redlands Packing House (General Manager Manuel Martinez). Same location since 1942 in business since 1924. Need half million field boxes to stay in the black. Estimated 350-400,000 to pack out and stay in business.

6. Old Business

A. *Discussion and possible action regarding packinghouses in the Redlands area:* Commission requested like Net return/field box information for City Grove information. What are house averages and payment to growers?

Per Commissioner Moore: Kasey Hawes interest was in saving citrus in Redlands and for smaller growers to maintain citrus in Redlands. Need local packinghouse and for fruit to economically be picked from trees. Packinghouse is part of citrus heritage.

- B. *Review of Citrus Division Fund balance:* Staff provided the FY 2020-21 year end unaudited fund report as well as the fund report as of November 30, 2021. Director Boatman provided information on reports that were historically provided to the Commission. These included detailed expense/revenue reports by grove. It was explained to the Commission that these detailed reports required a significant amount of staff time to prepare. The Commission agreed that it was acceptable to receive these detailed reports once a year in the fall to provide for end of year audited reports. The monthly fund reports will continue to be provided to the Commission at the regular meetings.

7. New Business

- A. *Discussion and possible action regarding purpose of Citrus Preservation Commission:* Commissioners reviewed the documents including the Redlands Municipal Code and Resolutions related to Citrus Preservation Policy and Commission Rules. No further action taken by Commission.
- B. *Discussion and possible action regarding creation of a subcommittee for items related to private commercial groves:* No action taken by Commission.

8. Possible Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- A. Continued discussion of packinghouses in Redlands
- B. Commissioners requested information on replacement of City Council liaison. Staff informed the Commission that no notice of a change has been provided.
- C. Request to invite Farm Bureau Executive Director Maggie O'Neill to make presentation meeting
- D. Request for San Bernardino ACP task force new AG Commissioner (Angela) to give update (grower list for citrus)

9. 6:01 pm – Adjournment to the Regular Meeting of February 8, 2022 meeting