

Citrus Preservation Commission – Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City of Redlands Citrus Preservation Commission held on Tuesday, February 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 Jack Steward
Rolland Moore

City Staff: Rick Cross Jon Harrison Andy

Farming/Packing Companies: Chuck Hills

Guests: Dennis Bell

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:07 pm by Chairman Buoye.
2. Public Comments: None
3. Approval of Minutes:
 - A. The minutes of the February 14, 2017 meeting was approved as written. M/S/P.
4. Status Reports:
 - A. Packing House Report – Roy provided the following updates via email:
 1. A few loads of Navels remain to be harvested from the Prospect Park, Lugonia, and Olive groves, with the last fruit at Prospect being picked this week.
 - B. Farming Report- Chuck provided the following updates:
 1. A real nice bloom is just around the corner.
 2. Crews have been working on re-plants and skirting.
 3. With the warmer weather and the rains tapering off, regular irrigation practices should return soon.
 - C. Individual Commissioner’s Reports:
 1. No issues were mentioned.

D. 10 year Citrus Plan:

1. Considerable discussion ensued about the merits and content of a "Business Plan" for use by the Commission and the City Council. It was decided that such a plan should be put into written form and discussed at the Commission meetings on a regular basis and revised as needed.

2. The plan should include the following details, at a minimum: Age and productivity of the grove; Costs associated with replacing wells, filters, pumps, irrigation systems, and other items outside of normal maintenance.

3. The plan should contain a section for each grove location and should prioritize the need for re-planting, as well as identify other factors, such as soil type, fencing needs, varietal differences, or any special export requirements (skirting, chemical treatments, etc.)

4. In addition, the plan should make reference to the need to establish a reserve balance to cover future high cost expenditures and the use of other capital funds to augment the budget when expenditures exceed the yearly budgeted amounts.

5. Lastly, the Commission recommends that City staff move forward with a recommendation to the City Council to seek approval for fencing the two new groves (West Redlands Gateway and West Riverview), as well as, the proposed DP HOA grove.

5. Old Business:

A. Vacant Commission Seat:

1. The opening will be filled through the normal selection process.

B. Planting Subcommittee Update:

1. A revised draft copy of the guidelines was distributed for comment. A few changes will be made to the document and it will be brought next meeting for another consideration.

6. New Business:

A. Update on new ACP Quarantine Regulations:

1. The March 1st deadline for enforcement of the new ACP quarantine regulations has been suspended indefinitely by the Director with the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

2. Growers, haulers, and packing houses have been asked to voluntarily comply with the spirit

of the regulations until actual enforcement begins.

B. Texas Grove Non-Potable Water Update:

1. The City has received only one bid to tie in the non-potable water source to the grove. The City will continue to solicit additional bids.

7. Possible Agenda Items for the Next Meeting:

A. Planting Subcommittee Guidelines

B. Tumbleweed Issues

8. Adjournment at 5:21 pm to the Next Meeting, April 11, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Oesterlein
Commission Secretary