

Citrus Preservation Commission – Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City of Redlands Citrus Preservation Commission held on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, 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 Steward Kyle Kenison
Lib Cook Rolland Moore (excused absence)

City Staff: Jocelynn Santa Cruz Erik Reeves
Toni Momberger

Farming/Packing Companies: Chuck Hills Roy Bettencourt

Guests: Dennis Bell Pam Miller, PhD

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:04 pm by Chairman Day.
2. Public Comments: None
3. Introduction of new City Manager: Postponed
4. Approval of Minutes:
 - A. The minutes of the January 14, 2020, meeting was approved as written. M/S/P.
5. Status Reports:
 - A. Packing House Report – Roy provided the following updates:
 1. Roy provided a handout on the status of the Navel harvest to date; portions of three groves remain to be harvested.
 2. The Navel orange market is slow right now.
 - B. Farming Report- Chuck provided the following updates:
 1. The remaining Navel groves were gibbed so the fruit should hold a while longer.
 2. The late Navels will likely be harvested in May.
 3. Irrigation is ongoing; all pre-emergent weed work and fertilization is complete.
 4. The annual tumbleweed issue has arisen again at University grove.
 5. Four of the City groves are impacted by the HLB quarantine.

C. Quality of Life Staff Report –Erik provided the following updates:

1. Only one company bid on the RFP for re-planting several of the groves; the bid will likely be formally rejected at an upcoming Council meeting and the project will need to be re-bid again.
2. The compliance agreements for the groves affected by the HLB quarantine will need to go to the Council for review and signature.
3. The City will host the next ACP TF meeting on March 5th, from 10 am to noon.

D. Individual Commissioner Reports:

1. Jack commented that the groves look to be well maintained, though the fruit is small this year.

E. 10 Year Citrus Plan:

1. City staff needs to update the prior spreadsheets to reflect the revenue and expenditures for 2018 and 2019 before an in-depth discussion can be held.

6. 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. Re-planting Texas and Palmetto groves:

1. See 5, C, 1 above.

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

1. City staff is waiting for delivery of the printed material from NST; staff is also working on nailing down a price for inserting the two handouts.
2. In order to get the fliers in the mail in time for the Spring citrus flush, **a motion was made to authorize staff to proceed with mailing the fliers with the next available utility billing and expense the costs, not to exceed \$500, to the Grove fund. M/S/P 5-0.**
3. City staff will add a link to the CPC page for more detailed information for homeowners and growers regarding ACP treatment options.

D. Planting at Palmetto, east of the landfill:

1. Erik discussed concerns that Chris and staff had with the prior recommendation from the Commission and asked that the recommendation be revised.

2. **The CPC recommends that City staff approve leasing the vacant property referred to as the “landfill/wastewater treatment” site to the CPC with similar terms as used in the prior lease to the previous farming tenant dated xx/xx/xxxx. The lease would be to allow for the planting, farming, irrigation and maintenance improvements needed to sustain the farming of citrus trees on the property for the longest term possible, but not less than 25 years. M/S/P, 5-0.**

7. New Business:

A. 2018/19 grove analysis:

1. See 5, E, 1 above.

B. Replanting underperforming groves:

1. See 5, E, 1 above.

C. Annual Commission report to Council:

1. A draft summary of accomplishments for 2019 will be reviewed at the next meeting.

D. HLB update:

1. See 6, C, 1-3 above.

8. Future agenda items for consideration:

1. Discussion and consideration for replanting the lower 11 acres at Prospect Park.

2. Update on the Bid process for Texas and Palmetto groves.

3. Review updated financial spreadsheets, adding 2018/19 data from VPOA.

4. Discussion and possible action on replanting under-performing groves.

5. Discussion and possible action on mailing educational materials with utility bills.

9. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

10. The Next Meeting date will be March 10, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Oesterlein
Commission Secretary