

Citrus Preservation Commission – Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City of Redlands Citrus Preservation Commission held on Tuesday, March 13, 2018, at 4:00 pm in the Municipal Utilities and Engineering Department Conference Room, 35 Cajon Street, Suite 15-A, Redlands, are as follows:

<u>Members:</u>	Bill Oesterlein	Peter Buoye	Libbern Cook
	Jack Steward	Michael Day	
<u>City Staff:</u>	Chris Boatman	Zach LaBonte	Roman Yanke
	Tim Sullivan	Andy Ortiz	Erik Reeves

Farming/Packing Companies: None

Guests: Dennis Bell Matt Daugherty

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:01 pm by Chairman Buoye.
2. Public Comments: None
3. Approval of Minutes:
 - A. The minutes of the February 13, 2017, meeting was approved as written. M/S/P.
4. Status Reports:
 - A. Packing House Report – None:
 - B. Farming Report- None:
 1. Peter noted that Chuck has stopped irrigating for now due to expected rains later this week.
 2. Peter noted that he would talk to Roy about having Prospect Park picked asap.
 - C. Individual Commissioner Reports:
 1. It was noted that the 5th Ave grove needs to be harvested asap.
 2. Peter noted that laborers to harvest citrus on a timely basis is getting harder to find.
 - D. 10 Year Citrus Plan:

1. Several draft components of the plan were distributed that discussed at length.
2. When all the documents are complete, it is anticipated the plan will be updated on a continual basis and that it will help the commission and the City make sound decisions for best management practices for each of the groves on an individual basis.
3. Some of the necessary paperwork for the pack out statements from the packing house and expenditure data from the City are still outstanding. Once the is obtained all components will be completed and the draft plan will be brought back to the group again for discussion.

5. Old Business:

- A. Item deleted.

6. New Business:

A. Discussion on Annual Report to the City Council:

1. Peter asked that each commissioner consider accomplishments from the commission from 2017 and that those comments be discussed at the April meeting, in anticipation of an annual report back to the City Council at a May meeting.

B. Citrus Fencing:

1. Postponed until next meeting.

C. Discussion on Creating Sub-Committee to work with NRCS and IERCD:

1. Postponed until next meeting.

D. Discussion pertaining to proposed moratorium on citrus plantings:

1. Chris provided background information on a suggestion from a council member who is proposing a moratorium on all future citrus plantings within the City.

2. Matt Daugherty, UCR Entomologist, provided his perspective on the latest findings on ACP and HLB in the Southern California area. His comments were met with skepticism from one of the Commissioners.

3. There was considerable discussion after the background from Chris and Matt. The legality of a full moratorium on private plantings was even discussed, but Chris wanted to wait on an opinion from the City Attorney until after a motion was made.

4. Chris suggested that the Commission form a sub-committee to prepare a draft ordinance on the inner workings of a moratorium.

5. After much discussion, **a motion was made to reject the idea of a moratorium on any citrus planting and that the City Council adopt the recommendations outlined in the**

Commission's Citrus Planning Guidelines that were developed last year. The motion was M/S/P by a 5-0 vote.

E. Discussion regarding Grove fund budget:

1. Chris provided the commission a cash flow analysis of the 2017/18 Grove fund account.

2. Due to the sale of the current packing house, payments for the 2017/18 season have been months behind. In addition, the last two citrus seasons have not been as profitable as previous years. Also, several large, unexpected expenses have needed to be paid (well repairs and replanting at Lugonia). As a result, the Grove fund account is in the hole.

3. After much discussion, **a motion was made to ask the City to transfer \$186,000 from the Palmetto (Conservation/Easement Component) Funds to the Grove Fund to cover the cash flow shortage in the 2017/18 budget. The motion was M/S/P by a 5-0 vote.**

7. Future agenda items for consideration:

1. Items 6B and 6C from above.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 pm.

9. The Next Meeting date will be April 10, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Oesterlein
Commission Secretary