

CITY OF REDLANDS
CITRUS PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting of September 14, 2021
MINUTES

1. Call to order at 4:13 pm - Attendance

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

City Council: Jenna Guzman-Lowery

FCS Staff: Erik Reeves
Zach LaBonte
Kathleen Gorgianni

Farming/Packing companies: John Gless, Al Ruiz, Jim Layes

Guests: Iris Chu, Phil Cortney, Dennis Bell

- 2. Public Comments:** Iris Chu presented comments for small growers to have access to resource contacts for maintaining residential/commercial groves. She suggested City hold lease agreements with private growers to manage small with small groves.

- 3. Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Steward motioned to approve June 8 and July 13 minutes. Commissioner Moore motioned to 2nd.

4. Status Reports

- A. *Packinghouse report:* All crops completed in August 2021. Villa Park presented a report on how each grove is producing since 2017. Valencias look better this year, navels and grapefruit the normal. 50% payment on Valencias (30-35K range advance). Final payment when Valencias done. City should be receiving a check for export as well. Next year will be on pool statement. 2022 predictions have navel and mandarins crops down. Struggles with water. Net profit and loss request will be provided by City Staff. Commissioner Steward predicts that growers in next 10 years will need to produce 40 bins/acre of high quality fruit to survive. Potential export market is impacted by container shortage. Sunkist is looking at charter vessels to offset.
- B. *Farming report by John Gless:* John is meeting in the field weekly with City staff. Fan jets switch on most groves for uniformity. Jacinto will begin suckering. Work on Texas went well. Adding water to Riverwood & Jacinto Memorial groves.
- C. *Facilities & Community Services report:* Skirting, pruned and topped Texas. Completing skirting of 5th Avenue. Some is still left to complete on Lugonia and Granite. Sessum bubblers to fan jets. Summer ACP treatment completed end of August.
- D. *Individual Commissioner Reports:* Overall groves are looking good. Commissioner Steward is walking the groves and commented on the excellent condition of the trees.
- E. *10 year citrus plan:* tabled until Commissioner Oesterlein present to report & review. City believes he is up to date with financial material.

5. Old Business

- A. Continue update and discussion on education material mailer. ACP material should be in next billing cycle. COVID continues to take precedence. QR Code can be added to bills but needs to be outsourced. Commission has asked staff to add verbiage and link to website with recommended

applicator companies (Agriserv) and residential treatment options (Merit). Commissioner Ross to provide City with Master Gardener links (citrusinsider.org, county website, ipm.ucanr.edu).

- B. Continue discussion and possible action on replanting of Lugonia, Texas and Palmetto groves. Palmetto (possible homeless shelter) and Texas (recommend to prune heavily) to be removed from replanting action. Informal quote of \$67K for grinding and replacing 1925 trees. Commission has requested staff for formal bid on grinding and planting Lugonia grove.
- C. Continue discussion and possible action on options for alternate uses for the Olive Avenue grove. Quality of oranges have been poor; labor is expensive as grove has to be done by hand. Commission Moore mentioned that intrinsic values have to also be included in 10-yr Plan.
- D. Continue discussion and possible action on request for proposal for ACP spraying. Table until next meeting
- E. Continue discussion and possible action on the Commission's role in private development applications. Commission to continue to advice City on what will be planted on future developments.
- F. Discussion and possible action on assistance to small private citrus grove owners. City to see possibility of sub-committee to meet for developing plan for citrus preservation.

6. New Business

- A. Discussion and possible action regarding maintaining packing houses in the area.
- B. Discussion and possible action regarding vacant commissioner position. Position filled by Roger Hardy.
- C. Discussion and fencing for California Street Grove. City will revisit when necessary.

7. Possible Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- A. History of packinghouses in area and services/costs offered
- B. Council would like to invite Sandra to provide update on ACP.
- C. Discussion and possible action on assistance to small private citrus grove owners. City to see possibility of sub-committee to meet for developing plan for citrus preservation (planning aspect vs. farming aspect, agritourism, acquiring more City owned citrus groves).

8. 5:59 pm – Adjournment to the August 10, 2021 meeting at Council Chambers

Minutes submitted by City of Redlands staff.