

Citrus Preservation Commission – Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City of Redlands Citrus Preservation Commission held on Tuesday, January 14, 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 Stewart Kyle Kenison
Lib Cook Rolland Moore Heather Ross

City Staff: Jocelynn Santa Cruz Erik Reeves Zach LaBonte
Toni Momberger

Farming/Packing Companies: Chuck Hills Roy Bettencourt

Guests: Dennis Bell Thomas Guamen

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm by Chairman Day.
2. Public Comments: None
3. Approval of Minutes:
 - A. The minutes of the December 10, 2019, meeting was approved as written. M/S/P.
4. Status Reports:
 - A. Packing House Report – Roy provided the following updates:
 1. VPOA starting harvesting the early Navels.
 2. The sizes are running on the small size (88's – 113's).
 3. The FOB prices are running \$10-12 per carton right now.
 4. Roy provided a handout on the 2018/19 pack out figures.
 - B. Farming Report- Chuck provided the following updates:
 1. The outlook for a good return on the Navels is not looking good right now; Bin prices are low.
 2. Chuck expressed concern that the market is moving away from Valencia's; He suggested that the CPC look at re-planting certain groves with late season Navels.
 3. The fertilization and pre-emergent sprays are complete.

C. Quality of Life Staff Report –Erik, Zach and Tim provided the following updates:

1. The irrigation lines at the Gateway grove have been relocated due to the ongoing rail project.
2. The hedges have been removed from the University grove location.
3. The bids are out for re-planting Texas and Palmetto and they are due back by the end of the month.
4. There are early discussions about adding a cell tower in the grove near the landfill.

D. Individual Commissioner Reports:

1. Jack commented that the fruit color is improving, but still slow; Fruit sizes are still small.
2. Kyle commented that fruit picking is slow as the groves need to be treated for ACP prior to harvest.

E. 10 Year Citrus Plan:

1. City staff was asked to update the financial spreadsheets with the 2018/19 data just provided by VPOA and bring the issue back for discussion at the February meeting.

5. 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 4, C, 3 above.

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

1. Heather provided samples of the variety of outreach materials available thru the PR firm (NST) for the citrus community.
2. City staff will check on the costs to insert two “1/3” flyers.

D. Planting at Palmetto, east of the landfill:

1. The topic will be discussed at the City Council meeting on February 18, 2020.

6. New Business: None

7. 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.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:51 pm.

9. The Next Meeting date will be February 11, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Oesterlein
Commission Secretary