

Citrus Preservation Commission – Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City of Redlands Citrus Preservation Commission held on Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at 4:00 pm in the Municipal Utilities and Engineering Department, 35 Cajon Street, Suite 15A, Redlands, are as follows:

Members: Peter Buoye, Chair Bill Oesterlein Andrew Irvin

Rolland Moore Gary McCormick

City Staff: Ashley Johnson Rick Cross John Harrison

Kelsey Gromley Chris Boatman

Farming/Packing Companies: Chuck Hills Daryl Perricone

Guests: Dennis Bell Larry Jacinto Supv. Ramos Gayle Covey

Glen Feenstra Chris Boisseranc

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm.
2. Public Comments: None
3. Approval of Minutes:
 - A. The minutes of July 14, 2015, meeting was approved as written. M/S/P.
4. New Business:
 - A. Packing House Report: Daryl provided the following updates:
 1. The Valencia orange harvest is almost complete and yield is down about 30%.
 2. The FOB price for the last pool should be a respectable \$ 17/ctn.
 3. The Navel oranges are coloring up well. Statewide, a larger crop is expected as compared to last year.
 4. The size of the fruit will be an important factor this year, as certain markets peak on the larger fruit.
 5. The harvest should begin in early December and will likely start with the larger fruit on the younger trees.
 - B. Farming Report- Chuck provided the following updates:
 1. The I-10 grove has been pruned, with the help of RPD cleaning up the debris left by the homeless.
 2. The wells are up and running at the Texas and Palmetto groves.
 3. The Mt. View grove looks to have a large crop this season.
 4. Gibb is being applying at several of the grove locations.
 5. ACP, 2,4-D and Copper treatments should begin in November.
 6. Pre-emergent weed applications will begin in November.
 7. Most of the City groves have received their initial GAP certifications, with the exceptions of the I-10,

Palmetto, and Prospect Park locations.

8. Chuck provided City staff with an estimate to place a cable at the Mt. View grove (\$,2249)

9. The I-10 grove is losing 40-60 bins of fruit to theft.

C. Individual Commissioner Reports:

1. The Lugonia grove is showing increased levels of Phytophthora this year, primarily due to the weather and the mix of old and young trees.

D. Update on the Prospect Park re-planting subcommittee:

1. The commissioners reviewed the letters from Dr. Peggy Mauk, Gerow Smiley, and Southwest Ag Consulting.

2. The commissioners also reviewed the financial figures and the contractor history for this grove.

3. It was M/S/P by the commissioners uphold the recommendation to re-plant the 11 acres of Prospect Park and to ask the City staff to move forward with this recommendation.

E. Dead and dying citrus trees discussion:

1. SB County BOS James Ramos and Gayle Covey were present to gather first hand information on the problems posed by dead and dying citrus groves in and around the City.

2. Supv. Ramos was presented with the pertinent County Ordinance and Food and Agricultural Code sections.

3. Supv. Ramos was also made aware of the approximate cost of \$60,000 a year the City spends to protect the City groves from the ACP.

4. Supv. Ramos stated that he would have his staff look into the current policy with the SB County Agricultural Commissioner's Office for handling these types of complaints.

5. The commissioners expressed their sincere appreciation to Supv. Ramos and his staff for taking time out of their busy schedule to meet personally.

F. CPC Meeting time change discussion:

1. Discussion was tabled to the next meeting.

G. Resignation of Wayne Mishak Discussion:

1. With regret, the commissioners accepted the verbal resignation of Wayne Mishak, while acknowledging all his efforts and expertise the past 6 years.

2. It was recommended to City staff to begin the process to replace Wayne.

5. Old Business:

A. ACP Letter to the HOA's:

1. City staff sent out 4 letters to the HOA's with the most significant concerns.

2. One HOA has contacted the City to state that they have begun treatment for the ACP.

B. Perimeter fencing around certain groves:

1. Due to the issues at the I-10 grove and to assist RPD with controlling the problems brought on by the homeless, it was recommended to City staff that they look into fencing the perimeter of this grove. The motion was seconded and passed by the commissioners.

6. Future agenda items:

A. 5.5 acre parcel on Suunyside

7. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.

8. The Next Meeting date will be November 10, 2015.

Respectfully submitted

Bill Oesterlein
Commission Secretary