

Citrus Preservation Commission – Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City of Redlands Citrus Preservation Commission held on Tuesday, January 12, 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 Wayne Mishak Bill Oesterlein
Jack Steward Rolland Moore Gary McCormick

City Staff: Chris Boatman Ashley Johnson Rick Cross
Jon Harrison, Liaison Ben Matlock

Farming/Packing Companies: Chuck Hills

Guests: Dennis Bell

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm.
2. Public Comments: None
3. Approval of Minutes:
 - A. The minutes of December 9, 2014, meeting was approved, with the following addition; Gary McCormick was added to the sub-committee formed in regards to the re-planting of trees in Prospect Park.
4. Old Business:
 - A. Farming Report- Chuck Hill provided the following updates:
 1. several trees were damaged at Memorial Park due to a car accident.
 2. The well at University Grove has been repaired and is ready for testing.
 3. The dumping of trash in certain groves continues to be a problem.
 4. The issue with tumbleweeds continues on properties near many of the groves. City staff will look into the issue with Fire.
 5. Concerns were expressed with ornamental plantings and hedges near the commercial citrus plantings and the damage from over watering. City staff will address the issues with Planning. Possible solutions include educating staff and using more drought tolerant plants.

B. Packing House Report: Daryl was not available, so Chuck provided a quick update:

1. The Mt. View grove is doing very well, with strong growth and good fruit size.
2. Fruit size and prices are looking good at present.

5. New Business:

A. Field conditions: All the groves look to be in good shape. The leaking valve at one location has been repaired. Some of the groves are close to harvest. The GAP process is ongoing.

B. Council actions: The City Council took action on two commission items at the January 6, 2015 meeting. The Council supported the formation of a sub-committee to address the re-planting of citrus trees at Prospect Park and the distribution of an informational packet to address ACP concerns at residences and other "commercial" properties. It was suggested that several people with the ACP area wide treatment program be invited to speak at the next meeting. The contact names will be provided to City staff.

C. San Bernardino Ave property: Discussion continued on the possibility of using the property for a new citrus planting. There are no issues with fund ownership of the property. A brief discussion was held as to which variety to plant. City staff will collect cost estimates to bring back to the commission for further discussion. Ultimately, the City Council will determine the most acceptable use of the property.

D. Pioneer Development: A brief discussion was held regarding a project presented by Pat Meyer several months ago. There was some discrepancy with the acreage figures presented during that meeting. It now appears that the project will involve multiple phases, which ultimately could result in the addition of approximately 20 acres of new citrus trees. Initially, the planted acres would be around 8 acres. A short discussion was held to discuss possible varieties to plant.

6. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

7. The Next Meeting date will be February 10, 2015.

Respectfully submitted

Bill Oesterlein
Commission Secretary