

## Citrus Preservation Commission – Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City of Redlands Citrus Preservation Commission held on Tuesday, February 10, 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      Andrew Irvin      Bill Oesterlein

Jack Steward      Rolland Moore      Gary McCormick

City Staff: Chris Boatman (Tom)      Ashley Johnson      Rick Cross

Jon Harrison, Liaison      Ben Matlock

Farming/Packing Companies: Chuck Hills      Daryl Perricone

Guests: Dennis Bell      John Blasius (ACP)      Bob Atkins (ACP)      Tina Galindo (CDFA)

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 January 13, 2015, meeting was approved as written.
4. New Business:
  - A. Farming Report- Chuck provided the following updates:
    1. Skirt pruning was currently taking places at several locations.
    2. Due to the dry weather, irrigation has been turned on in many of the groves.
    3. Pre-emergent herbicide applications have begun.
    4. Chuck provided City staff with estimates on a variety of options that were done two years ago in regards to re-planting Prospect Park.
  - B. Packing House Report: Daryl provided the following updates:
    1. The issues at the port are causing delays in the fruit shipments for export.
    2. The F.O.B. prices are down from last year, due in part to the fruit peaking on a different size than the preferred export size.
    3. The export market is starting to return following the Chinese New Year last month.
    4. The Oranges appear to be peaking on a large size this year, which should be good in the

next few months as the market shifts from the smaller fruit to the larger sizes.

- C. Individual commissioner reports: No problems were noted.
- D. Asian Citrus Psyllid presentation:
  - 1. Representatives from the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) were introduced to the commissioners and City staff, including the new grower liaison for San Bernardino County (John Blasius). The statewide ACP Coordinator (Bob Atkins) and the CDFA treatment Coordinator (Tina Galindo) were also present.
  - 2. Commissioner Oesterlein gave a Power Point presentation highlighted past ACP finds relative to the city owned groves, commercial groves, HOA's and private residences. The city could benefit from the statewide treatment program by getting the HOA's with 25 = citrus trees to do their part in treating their citrus trees.
  - 3. It was noted that the HOA's and private residences could help reduce the ACP populations by controlling the ants.
  - 4. A San Bernardino County ACP/HLB Taskforce is expected to hold initial meetings soon.
- E. Update on the CPC subcommittee for the re-planting of Prospect Park:
  - 1. Councilman Harrison gave a brief update on the subcommittee.
  - 2. A public meeting will be held on February 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the Smiley Library to discuss the possible re-planting of the Park.
  - 3. The CPC voiced support for the project to City staff.
- F. Discussion about the non-operational irrigation reservoir located adjacent to Prospect Park:
  - 1. Discussion centered around the best ways to mitigate the problems posed by the old reservoir that used to serve as a water source for irrigating the trees in Prospect Park. The reservoir has not been used for many years and discussion ensued about using some of the proceeds from the sale of the Palmetto grove to solve some of the issues.
  - 2. Issues centered around whether or not the reservoir should be filled in with dirt and re-planted with citrus trees, and if so, who should pay what.
  - 3. It was decided to table the issue until the next meeting.
- G. Discussion about re-planting the 4.6 acre site on Lugonia (previous Soffel Christmas Tree Farm):
  - 1. The CPC was in favor of using funds from the Palmetto sale to re-plant the 4.6 acres on Lugonia that used to be a Christmas Tree Farm.
  - 2. CPC asked City staff to get a bid to rip out the old trees and re-plant the property with citrus trees. It was also suggested that the cost of any fencing be included with the bid.

3. A brief discussion followed on the preferred variety of citrus to plant, the costs of which will also be included in the bid.
- H. Review of the Citrus Planting Memo developed by City staff:
1. The Memo developed by City staff to be used for future new residential development was well received and supported by all commission members. City staff is to be complimented on a well written proposal.
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5. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm.
  6. The Next Meeting date will be March 10, 2015.

Respectfully submitted

Bill Oesterlein  
Commission Secretary