

## Citrus Preservation Commission – Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City of Redlands Citrus Preservation Commission held on Tuesday, February 14, 2017, 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 Peter Buoye Jack Steward

Rolland Moore Bob Crim Michael Day

City Staff: Rick Cross Jon Harrison Martin Lemon

Farming/Packing Companies: Roy Bettencourt Chuck Hills

Guests: Dennis Bell

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:04 pm by Chairman Buoye.
2. Public Comments: None
3. Approval of Minutes:
  - A. The minutes of the January 10, 2017 meeting was approved as written. M/S/P.
4. Status Reports:
  - A. Packing House Report – Roy provided the following updates:
    1. Approx. 15 loads of Navels still remain to be picked.
    2. The export price is currently about \$2.00 box more than domestic. The demand for domestic fruit has been good.
    3. This season's yield and prices should be better than last year.
  - B. Farming Report- Chuck provided the following updates:
    1. No much fruit has been harvested since last month, but the fruit looks good.
    2. Weed control activities are slow due to access issues into the groves.
    3. Chuck questioned the need for additional Copper sprays. Export fruit would need to be treated to meet Country specific requirements. It was decided that the extra cost would probably not be worth it because the domestic demand and prices would more than offset the spray costs.
    4. Due to all the rain this season, the bloom should be great with all the deep watering.

C. Individual Commissioner's Reports:

1. Issues with the homeless encampments at the I-10 location were noted. City staff and Redlands PD plan to visit the site tomorrow.

5. Old Business:

A. Project update on the Best property:

1. A contract has been signed with Jacinto Farming to plant the grove this spring.

B. Planting Subcommittee Update:

1. A handout was distributed and suggested edits were discussed. The edits will be made and the document will be brought back next month for re-consideration.

2. The Commission made a recommendation that the City Council re-visit the policy on planting citrus in the General Plan. M/S/P.

3. The Commission suggested that the City consider block plantings of citrus instead of strip/spot plantings, and that citrus not be used for landscaping.

C. Annual Report on List of Commission Accomplishments:

1. A handout was distributed that listed the 2016 accomplishments of the Commission. A short discussion ensued and Peter agreed to present the list at the March 7<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.

6. New Business:

A. Discussion on Commissioner Irvin's Absence:

1. The Commission discussed a letter submitted by Commissioner Irvin asking for a 3-6 month absence. After discussing the matter and weighing the many issues facing the Commission in the coming months, it was decided to thank Andrew for his 12 years of service on the CPC and to ask him to formally resign from the Commission so a replacement could be appointed.

B. Formal Naming of the West Riverview and Best Groves:

1. After discussion and input from many members, it was decided that the Best property would be referred to as the West Redlands Gateway grove and that the West Riverview property would be referred to as the West Riverview grove.

C. List of Recommended Groves for Fencing:

1. After much discussion, it was decided that the following groves should be considered for fencing based on a first and second priority:

Primary: West Redlands Gateway and West Riverview groves

Secondary: Lugonia and the Diversified Pacific HOA groves

D. Discussion of a 10 Year Citrus Plan:

1. After much discussion it was decided to keep this topic on future agenda's so that the group could focus on the primary goals of protecting as many groves as possible, while maximizing their productivity.

2. The Commission has focused on trying to reach the 200 acre goal established by the City, but the costs to buy new land and develop new citrus plantings is very expensive.

3. It was decided that a better goal might be to replant as many old trees as possible, thus increasing the productivity of the existing groves.

4. It was also suggested that the City and the CPC focus on future developments and easements as a way to increase acreage instead of buying new virgin land.

5. It was decided that any future grove acquisition strategy would need to focus on sustainability versus adding new acreage and the costs associated with both.

E. Santa Ana River Trail Adjacent to the West Riverview Grove:

1. City staff distributed a map showing the trail routes adjacent to the proposed West Riverview grove.

7. Possible Agenda Items for the Next Meeting:

A. Vacant Commissioner slot

B. Update on new ACP quarantine regulations

8. Adjournment at 5:25 pm to the Next Meeting, March 14, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Oesterlein

Commission Secretary