

**CITY OF REDLANDS
CITRUS PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting of February 9, 2021
MINUTES**

1. Call to order at 4:00 pm - Attendance

Present: Michael Day, Chair
Bill Oesterlein
Heather Ross

Absent:
Kyle Kenison
Libb Cook
Jack Steward
Rolland Moore

FCS Staff: Erik Reeves
Zach Labonte
Jocelynn Santa Cruz

Farming/Packing companies: Jim Layes
John Gless

Guests: none

This was conducted as a hybrid teleconference meeting in the Facilities & Community Services Department, Civic Center 35 Cajon Street, Redlands, California.

In compliance with public health recommendations to limit public gatherings during the Covid-19 pandemic and acting as the City of Redlands Emergency Services Director, City Manager Charles M. Duggan Jr., directed meetings of the City of Redlands be closed to the public until further notice or until the current local State of Emergency has been lifted. Public comments, up to 250 words and received by 5:00 P.M. the day before the meeting, were read aloud by the Commission Chair.

2. Public Comments: No public comments were received by 5:00 P.M. the day before the meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the January 12, 2021, meeting could not be approved due to the lack of a quorum. The item will be placed on the March agenda.

4. Status Reports

A. *Packinghouse report:* Jim Layes reported that 46% of the Navels have been picked. Smaller size fruit is moving well with prices being ok but trending downward. The export market is slow, with larger size fruit primarily going to Japan. Late Navels have been gibbed. The harvest should start in late March.

B. *Farming report by John Gless:* Irrigation is occurring in the sandy soiled groves. Weed and gopher control work is ongoing. Pre-emergent has been applied to all but two groves. Skirting and brush cutting is ongoing.

C. *Facilities & Community Services report:* Erik and Zach reported that two employees – one in-house – have been hired to help with grove management. Training with irrigation and repairs to system is ongoing.

D. *Individual Commissioner Reports:* A motorhome parked in the Olive Avenue grove was mentioned.

E. *10 year citrus plan:* There was no report for this item.

5. Old Business

A. Staff reported that the flyer was mailed out last week and it should arrive with the February or March utility bills.

- B. The Texas and Palmetto groves replanting update will be tabled until the March meeting.
- C. It was noted that older growers consider the Olive Avenue grove "historic". Mr. Boatman stated that he would direct staff to make a recommendation to Council if an alternate use was determined by the Commission.
- D. The scope of work for the RFP for ACP spraying is done and the bid should go out soon.
- E. The low bidder for the Mountain View grove thinning project backed out. The second lowest bidder was \$55,000 higher. Staff will be advertising the RFP again.

6. New Business

- A. Mr. Boatman stated that the City has no policy in regard to commission members not attending the meetings and no policy to replace them.
- B. The Annual Report to the City Council is due in May, via letter or Zoom.

7. Possible Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- A. Appointment of City Council Liaison to the Commission

8. 5:10 pm – Adjournment to the March 9, 2021 meeting

Minutes submitted by City of Redlands staff.