

**CITY OF REDLANDS
CITRUS PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting of April 13, 2021
MINUTES**

1. Call to order at 4:03 pm - Attendance

Present: Michael Day, Chair
Bill Oesterlein
Heather Ross
Rolland Moore

Absent:
Kyle Kenison
Libb Cook
Jack Steward

FCS Staff: Erik Reeves
Joe Bierma
Chris Boatman

Farming/Packing companies: 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:** Two public comments were received about the citrus grove located at 301 West Palm Avenue. An additional comment from a prior meeting was also noted as received. All three comments were read into the record.
- 3. Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the February 9, 2021, and March 9, 2021, meetings were approved as written. M/S/Pass 4-0
- 4. Status Reports**
 - A. *Packinghouse report:* John reported that the market is slow right now, but the prices are solid. Prospects look good for the grapefruit. The 5th Avenue grove fruit looks to good export quality.
 - B. *Farming report by John Gless:* John is meeting in the field weekly with City staff. Skirting and pruning are being done following the harvest. Fertilizer is being applied at the same time as irrigation. There are about 200 dead trees in various groves that need to be replaced.
 - C. *Facilities & Community Services report:* Erik reported that staff are focused on irrigation practices and adapting them to City work schedules. Staff continues to communicate with Larry on other aspects of grove care.
 - D. *Individual Commissioner Reports:* Commissioner reports were deferred this month
 - E. *10 year citrus plan:* The gross packinghouse revenues for the last nine years, summarized by grove and by acre, and expenditures for the first six months of this fiscal year were shared with the Commissioners and City staff. The handout was discussed at length and Mr. Boatman offered his

insights as well. All agreed the handout was a good starting point for future decision making, as long as the data is kept current.

5. Old Business

- A. Staff will check on the status of the memo wording to be placed on the utility bill.
- B. The Texas and Palmetto groves replanting project received no bids. Staff was given the name of a local company by John Gless which might be interested in bidding on the jobs.
- C. After some discussion, it was suggested that the Olive Avenue grove be “given” to another entity to maintain, but that the Commission would pay for the cost of the ACP spraying. The will be decided after a further review of revenue and expenses takes place.
- D. The lone bid for ACP spraying came in very high. Larry Jacinto will continue to spray until another firm is hired.
- E. The City has advertised for two openings on the Commission. The submission deadline is now closed.
- F. The annual report is tentatively scheduled to be given via Zoom at the June 16th City Council meeting by Chairman Day.

6. New Business

- A. Mr. Boatman provided background information on the roles and responsibilities of the Commission. Much of the ensuing discussion focused on the role of the Commission in addressing pending development plans for existing citrus groves on private property. It was decided to table further discussion until the next meeting. It was also decided to add an agenda item to the next meeting addressing the property referenced in public comments received at the last two meetings.
- B. It was recommended unanimously that the City replace the 200 dead citrus trees within the existing groves which were referenced in John’s report.

7. Possible Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- A. Continue update and discussion and possible action on education material mailer
- B. Continue discussion and possible action on replanting of Texas and Palmetto groves
- C. Continue discussion and possible action on options for alternate uses for the Olive Avenue grove
- D. Discussion and possible action on request for proposal for ACP spraying
- E. Discussion and possible action on the Annual Report to the City Council
- F. Discussion and possible action on the Commission’s role in private development applications
- G. Discussion and possible action on the England property at 301 West Palm Avenue
- H. Discussion and possible action on assistance to small private citrus grove owners

8. 5:50 pm – Adjournment to the May 11, 2021 meeting

Minutes submitted by City of Redlands staff.