

Citrus Preservation Commission – Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City of Redlands Citrus Preservation Commission held on Tuesday, November 12, 2019, 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 Michael Day Kyle Kenison Heather Ross
Jack Steward Rolland Moore Lib Cook

City Staff: Jocelynn Santa Cruz Erik Reeves Zach LaBonte
Toni Momberger

Farming/Packing Companies: Chuck Hills

Guests: Dennis Bell Pam Miller, PhD

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:01 pm by Chairman Day.
2. Public Comments: None
3. Approval of Minutes:
 - A. The minutes of the October 8, 2019, meeting was approved as written. M/S/P.
4. Status Reports:
 - A. Packing House Report – No PH rep.
 1. VPOA did provide a summary of the 2018/19 harvest.
 2. 80% of the Navels were packed out.
 3. 67% of the Valencia's were not harvested; Fruit was too small to market.
 4. Only 67% of the GF were packed out; It was a disappointing year.
 - B. Farming Report- Chuck provided the following updates:
 1. Most of the activities are focused on weeds, snail bait, and irrigating.
 2. The Winter sprays will be applied once the weather cools down a bit.
 3. The GAP inspection was completed today without any issues.
 - C. Quality of Life Staff Report –Erik and Zach provided the following updates:

1. Plans are finished for the irrigation lines at the I-10 and proposed Wastewater treatment sites, but still pending for Palmetto and Texas.

2. Because the plans are behind schedule, it will not be possible to order trees for a Spring 2020 plant, but may be ready for Fall 2020.

D. Individual Commissioner Reports:

1. Jack commented that the farm manager is doing all they said they would do, and the groves look great. Several of the groves have been hedged/topped. Cooler weather is needed to color up the fruit.

E. 10 Year Citrus Plan:

1. It is recommended that City staff continue to update the expense/revenue reports that were generated for past years on a regular and ongoing basis.

2. It is also recommended that the City incorporate the yearly Citrus forecasts from USDA into the 10-year plan.

5. New Business:

A. Re-planting the lower 11 acres at Prospect Park:

1. The item was postponed another month so that Chris could be present.

B. Possible planting near the landfill/wastewater site:

1. The site is actually two parcels; City staff has finished mapping the boundaries of the site.

2. The City Attorney is recommending against planting at this site, since the property is part of the Enterprise Fund. Any revenue from the site would not likely go to the General Fund or the Citrus Fund, despite the property being previously farmed.

3. After much discussion, it was recommended that the Chair speak directly with Chris and bring the item back next month for further debate.

C. Discussion and update on staff report to City Council on ordering citrus trees:

1. Covered above in the QOL presentation.

E. Discussion and possible action on ACP education for residents:

1. A handout from UC was distributed to the group; It consisted of a one-page summary of the ACP problem and was printed in English and Spanish.

2. City staff presented the costs to "stuff" the mailer into the utility bills.

3. Heather was going to contact NST about producing the necessary copies of the insert.

6. Future agenda items for consideration:
 1. Discussion and consideration for replanting the lower 11 acres at Prospect Park.
 2. Discussion and consideration for replanting Palmetto east of the landfill.
 3. Discussion about the Foothill Growers PH.

7. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 pm.

8. The Next Meeting date will be December 11, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Oesterlein
Commission Secretary