

Citrus Preservation Commission – Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City of Redlands Citrus Preservation Commission held on Tuesday, January 9, 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 Peter Buoye Libbern Cook

Jack Steward Rolland Moore Michael Day

City Staff: Zach LaBonte Jocelynn Santa Cruz Erik Reeves

Farming/Packing Companies: Chuck Hills

Guests: Dennis Bell

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm by Chairman Buoye.
2. Public Comments: None
3. Approval of Minutes:
 - A. The minutes of the December 11, 2018, meeting was approved as written, with the following correction: Agenda Item 4, A, should have read “packed”, not “picked”. M/S/P.
4. Status Reports:
 - A. Packing House Report – Chuck provided the following updates, in absence of a PH representative:
 1. VPOA plans to pick 4-5 loads of fruit this week to determine if the sizing is good enough to harvest.
 2. 88’s and larger are bringing a good price right now on the Navels.
 3. There is a lot of small fruit this year on the trees; Most of the larger Navels have already been harvested.
 4. Erik commented that VPOA has been asked to have a representative at each meeting: He will follow up on their absence at today’s meeting.
 - B. Farming Report- Chuck provided the following updates:
 1. The pre-emergent spraying is finished and they have spread the Calcium fert.
 2. Crews will be striping the small fruit off the trees at the two newest plantings.

3. Trash is being picked up out of several groves; The tumbleweeds are becoming an annual issue again; Lastly, there were no issues with the recent cold temps.

C. Quality of Life Staff Report – Zach and Erik provided the following updates:

1. The most recent pack out summaries and invoices were distributed to Commissioners.
2. Jacinto Farming was the only bidder for the Grove management RFP; The proposal is good for one year, with a two, one-year renewal options. The bid will be going to the City Council for approval next week.
3. The CSD groves associated with the 4 new housing tracts should help benefit the Grove fund in the coming years as the revenue from the groves goes directly to the fund, while the CSD pays most of the costs of maintaining the groves.
4. SCE has finished the tower construction work at the Mt. View location. There was minor damage to the irrigation system, but that should be fixed soon.
5. City Code Enforcement staff will be sending out letters to property owners contributing to the tumbleweed problems.
6. KB Homes is widening the road at the Lugonia location and is expected to remove between one and three rows of trees.

D. Individual Commissioner Reports:

1. The 5th Ave grove has seen an increase in weeds; It should be treated with a pre-emergent spray soon.
2. The Jacinto Memorial will need to be thinned again in the next year; The trees were double planted, and they have already been pruned twice in the last four years

E. 10 Year Citrus Plan:

1. After looking at the revenue and expense of each of the groves for the last seven years, along with some of the productivity data, it was suggested that a more in-depth discussion be held at the next meeting to review the data in more detail.
2. The summary data will be emailed to each of the Commissioners for review.

5. Old Business:

A. Presentation of Grove Analysis Summary:

1. Since Chris could not attend the meeting, he asked that staff postpone the discussion until the next meeting.

6. New Business: None

7. Future agenda items for consideration:

1. Discussion and consideration for replanting several underperforming City groves.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.

9. The Next Meeting date will be February 12, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Oesterlein
Commission Secretary