

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City of Redlands Citrus Preservation Commission held on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 4:00 pm in the Municipal Utilities and Engineering Department, 35 Cajon Street, Suite 15A, Redlands, are as follows:

Present: Rolland Moore Wayne Mishak Bill Oesterlein

Peter Buoye, Chairman Jack Steward Andrew Irvin

City: Chris Boatman Ashley Johnson Rick Cross

Jon Harrison

Farming/Packing Companies: Chuck Hills Daryl Perricone

Guests: Dennis Bell

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm.
2. Public Comments: None
3. Approval of Minutes:
 - A. The minutes of September 9, 2014, meeting were clarified as follows; City staff confirmed that the HOA would be responsible for providing and paying for the water for any citrus trees that would be planted as part of the project discussed by Pat Mayer at the September meeting.
 - B. The minutes of the November 4, 2014, meeting were not available for review. The approval of the minutes was tabled until the next meeting.
 - C. Farming Report- Chuck Hill provided the following updates:
 1. The well at the University Groves location will need extensive repairs to return the water output to an acceptable level. A estimate of the bill was provided to City staff.
 2. Most of the 2,4-D and ACP sprays are complete.
 3. Harvesting has started on a few of the Navel orange groves.
 4. Work continues on the GAP paperwork required for food safety.
 - D. Packing House Report – Daryl Perricone from CCC provided the following updates:
 1. The local Navel orange has started, with good sizes.
 2. The first pool reports for the Valencia oranges and a check were provided to City staff.
 3. 2014 was a good season for both Valencia and Navel oranges.
 4. F.O.B. prices are strong right now.

E. New Business:

1. Discussion continued from previous meetings on the “re-purposing” on some vacant land around the cemetery. The property is not currently being used by the cemetery and a consultant has been working on alternative uses for the property. One alternative may be to plant the property in citrus. Before any crop would be planted, a viable source of water would need to be identified. Other properties may be better candidates for a citrus planting. Ultimately, the consultant for the cemetery will provide City staff with a recommendation on possible alternative uses for the unused portion of the property.

 2. Discussion continued from previous meetings on the “re-purposing” on some vacant property from a former Christmas tree operation on San Bernardino Avenue. City staff was asked to provide financial figures on the fund balance and the cost to re-plant a portion of the property in citrus should the commission make such a recommendation. Water is easily accessible to the site and the soil type is favorable for citrus. The property may have other potential uses as well, but City staff was encouraged to make a decision on the future of the property sooner than later.

 3. Discussion continued from previous meetings on the need to jump start a program to assist with the ACP spraying for larger properties containing citrus, to augment the spraying already being conducted on city owned citrus properties. A recommendation was made to City staff to send an “informational” letter, with supporting educational materials, to the owners of the HOA properties with citrus trees.

 4. Discussion continued on the re-planting of portions of Prospect Park. It was M/S/P to create a sub-committee to work with the City Council to educate residents in the area of the need to re-plant the groves for productivity purposes. The sub-committee will consist of Peter, Jack, and Chuck.
- F. Possible Agenda Items for the Next Meeting – The following item was suggested as a topic for a future meeting:
- A. A citizen ACP program.
- G. Adjournment to the Next Meeting on January 13, 2015 – The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Bill Oesterlein
Commission Secretary