

Citrus Preservation Commission – Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City of Redlands Citrus Preservation Commission held on Tuesday, May 10, 2016, 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 Andrew Irvin Peter Buoye Bob Crim

Rolland Moore Jack Steward Michael Day

City Staff: Ashley Johnson Jon Harrison Rick Cross

Aaron Evans

Farming/Packing Companies: Chuck Hills Roy Bettencourt

Guests: Dennis Bell Pamela Miller

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Chairman Buoye.
2. Public Comments: None
3. Approval of Minutes:
 - A. The minutes of March 8, 2016, meeting was approved as written. M/S/P.
4. New Business:
 - A. Packing House Report – Roy provided the following updates:
 1. See attached handout for more details on harvest status by grove.
 2. In summary, the harvest of the Grapefruit is completed. The Navels should be finished next week. There are 6 or 7 blocks of Valencias still left to harvest. The smaller sized fruit are bringing a good price and export demand is high.
 - B. Farming Report- Chuck provided the following updates:
 1. With the ACP area-wide treatment under way, crews are busy.
 2. Irrigation is in full swing at all locations.
 3. Pruning will begin soon on the 5th Ave grove.
 4. Chuck has been working successfully with City Code Enforcement staff to cite small grove owners who have failed to treat for ACP.

5. The 5th Ave grove sustained vehicle damage to a few trees.

6. Chuck expressed his concerns with the difficulties spraying around schools due to increased regulatory pressures.

5. Old Business:

A. Discussion of possible land acquisitions:

1. A detailed discussion was held to discuss the possibility of planting 10-12 acres of property near the Cemetery . The grading costs were considered, as well as, the costs for planning and re-locating waterlines. Additionally, the water source from the existing well and the availability of the land for the next 30 + years was discussed. After reviewing each of these items, the Commissioners did not think the cumulative high costs were enough to recommend to the City to consider this site for planting at this time. It was decided to reconsider the site in another year or so.

2. Other areas will continue to be evaluated as they are brought forward.

B. Individual Commissioner's Reports:

1. Peter and Chuck noted the increase in snails and gophers at the 5th Ave grove.

2. Ashley provided an updated map of the city owned groves and helped with the assignments of each grove location to a commissioner. The assignments will be detailed in a separate message.

C. New Commissioners:

1. Peter welcomed the two new commissioners, Michael Day and Bob Crim. Both gave a brief introduction about themselves.

6. Future agenda items for consideration:

A. Andrew suggested we invite Tracy Khan, UCR Citrus Collection Coordinator, to a future meeting.

B. City staff was asked to present an updated status on the finances for the groves.

C. City staff was asked for an update on the Riverview expansion.

7. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:06 pm.

8. The Next Meeting date will be June 14, 2016.

Respectfully submitted

Bill Oesterlein
Commission Secretary