

CITY OF REDLANDS
CITRUS PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting of February 19, 2025
MINUTES

1. Call to order at 4:02 Attendance

Present: Michael Day Roger Hardy
Thomas Lanza Heather Ross
John Smith Janet Ward
Rollie Moore

Guests: Dennis Bell

City Staff Staff: Zack Labonte, Kathleen Giorgianni, ACM Chris Boatman, FCS Director
Tabatha Crocker, Senior Manager Don Crow

2. Public Comments: Dennis Bell observed theft of oranges from Prospect Grove

3. Approval of Minutes: Jan 14th minutes moved, seconded and accepted.

4. Status Reports

A Packing house report: Al Ruiz: University Grove picked. Some normal theft of oranges from Prospect Park, due to be picked this month. Market for citrus appears good. Lots of drops from weather and a lot of small fruit this year.

B. Staff Report (Zack Labonte) Wet weather provides a break on watering, working on split irrigation lines. Skirting Memorial and Riverview. Resignation causes one vacancy in field team.

C. Commissioners Reports: Commissioner Ward concerns about tree vines in the Olive Orchard were addressed. Commissioner Ross asked if recent decisions about water shares affected the city groves. Asst City Manager Chris Boatman described the recent sale of some water shares and indicated it did not affect city grove operations. Commissioner Hardy suggested more formal conduct of the meeting including having the chair recognize members or public before speaking to facilitate accurate minute taking and avoiding cross talk.

Michael Day described his annual presentation to the City Council.

Don Crow provided Brown Act reminders. Anything discussed among more than three members needs to be agendaized.

5. Old Business:

A. .5 Year Report: Commissioner Ross reminded the chair that we were promised the five-year report requested at the last two meetings. The Chair had the report and read it. Hardy asked that all commissioners get the report. Don Crow said he would send it to all commissioners.

6. New Business

A. Discussion of role and mission of the Citrus Commission.

Questions were raised about whether the scope of the CPC was limited to the operation, acquisition and abandonment of city owned citrus groves or does CPC have an implicit goal to preserve the citrus heritage of the City in recommending policies or measures that would accomplish that goal.

Assistant City Manager Boatman indicated that if the Commission thought it reasonable that its scope be expanded, it could and should make recommendations the council to do so. Commissioner Hardy volunteered to draft a definition of scope to be reviewed at the next meeting. Boatman urged CPC to pass general ideas for change to city staff before drafting a formal proposal. Day inquired as to whether the CPC could establish an opportunity for public to ask questions/make suggestions regarding citrus preservation. Boatman urged members to bring ideas for consideration.

Motion made, seconded and approved to continue the discussion of clarification of the CPC scope/mission.

Motion made, seconded and approved to get the five-year packing house report on the Feb agenda.

Meeting adjourn 5:06