

**MINUTES** of the regular meeting of the City of Redlands Citrus Preservation Commission held on Tuesday, November 13, 2007, at 10:00 AM in the Municipal Utilities Conference Room, 35 Cajon Street, Redlands, are as follows:

**PRESENT:** Michael Huffstutler, Chairperson  
John Gardner  
J. Richard Leonard  
Joe Buoye, Vice Chairperson  
Andrew Irvin  
Gary Branstetter  
Robert Marsel

**EXCUSED:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**COUNCIL LIAISON:** None attending

**STAFF:** Gary Van Dorst, Interim Quality of Life Director  
Todd Housley, Project Manager

**FARMING COMPANIES/  
PACKING HOUSE:** Chuck Hills, Larry Jacinto Farming  
Bill Hardy, Redlands Foothill Groves

**GUESTS:** Laurie Hunt

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM by Chairperson Huffstutler.

**1. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

**A. Staff Liaison and City department restructuring update (Gary Van Dorst):**

Gary Van Dorst introduced himself as the Interim Director of the newly-formed Quality of Life Department. He stated that staff support and management of the Citrus Preservation Commission would now fall under this new, City Department.

Todd Housley has returned as Staff Liaison to the Citrus Preservation Commission after an absence. He stated that he was very happy to be back and thanked Janet Miller for filling in during the last two meetings.

**B. Citrus Market Report (Bill Hardy, Redlands Foothill Groves)**

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Mr. Hardy stated that the crop estimates for the naval industry are out and about 62.5 million boxes are projected for the industry. If this estimate is realized, it would be the third largest naval crop in California history. Of that projection, District One has 84 million cartons (Sunkist packed 31.85 million), District Two has 2 million cartons (Sunkist packed 1.5 million), and District Three has 400,000 cartons packed (Sunkist packed 350,000).

The field estimate for City Grove production is 24,700 field boxes. Sizes are small to medium. Giberilic acid applications will help stretch the supply as far as possible—probably to mid March—which will provide a maximum amount of fruit for the export market.

First grade quotes are \$16.00 for “56s” and larger, \$14.50 on “72s,” \$13.00 on “88s,” \$10.00 on “thirteens,” \$8.50 on 138s,” with remaining fruit not recommended for packing in the domestic market.

Choice quotes are \$10.00 for “56s” and larger and “72s” and larger, \$9.50 for “88s,” \$9.00 for “113s,” \$7.00 for “138s” and \$7.00 for “163s.” Mr. Hardy stated these are “quoted” prices, and they are flexing \$1 to \$2 on the down side.

The City can expect an average fruit size crop. Exports will help to make a good season.

### **C. Update on San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District and Southern California Edison easements at Texas Grove (Todd Housley)**

Todd Housley stated that staff has proceeded with the following allocation of funds in exchange for property:

\$14,500.00 to the Water Fund for a 5,450 square foot easement located inside the Texas Grove Reservoir Facility

\$34,171.00 to the Citrus Fund 6,440 square feet and 2,760 square feet of easements located along San Bernardino Avenue

\$8,000.00 to the Citrus Fund for tree replacement due to construction

The appropriate funds have been deposited and applied to the Citrus Fund.

### **D. Update on indemnity and receipt of funds from Mary Roach Insurance for heat and frost damage to citrus**

A check for \$15,383.00 was received on October 31, 2007 from Mary Roach Insurance, Co for 2007 Navel orange crop insurance indemnity.

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### **E. Discussion and possible action regarding request by Redlands Farming to provide pruning services at the following Groves:**

- Nevada/Palmetto #2 – Ramirez
- Nevada/Palmetto #3 – Daniels
- California/I10
- Texas

Requests for Citrus Preservation Commission Consideration/Action to proceed with additional work at Nevada/Palmetto #2 (Ramirez), Nevada/Palmetto #3 (Daniels), California I10, and Texas Grove were submitted by Pete Marcum of Redlands Farming.

**A motion was made by Mr. Leonard to approve the Requests for Citrus Preservation Commission Consideration/Action for pruning at Nevada/Palmetto #3 (Daniels) for \$1,500.00, California I10 for \$500.00, and Texas Grove for \$1,300.00. Mr. Gardner seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.**

The Commission decided not to proceed with any work at Nevada/Palmetto #2 (Ramirez) at this time.

### **F. Discussion and possible action regarding replacement of white grapefruit at Texas Grove**

The Commission discussed the poor performance of White Grapefruit in recent markets. With demand for this variety at almost zero, the Commission discussed the need to replace the existing White Grapefruit trees at Texas Grove. The total acreage of White Grapefruit at the Texas Grove is approximately four acres. Mr. Hardy, representative of Foothill Groves, concurred with the need to look at a replacement as he sees no future in the market for this variety.

**A motion was made by Mr. Leonard to approve replacement of White Grapefruit trees at Texas Grove with a late naval variety. Mr. Branstetter seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.**

The Commission requested that staff contact the farming contractor regarding the decision, and obtain a price for the removal and replacement of the White Grapefruit trees as directed.

### **G. Discussion and possible action regarding the “Citrus Policy”**

Commissioners asked to continue this item to a future meeting. Todd Housley stated that he would leave the item on future agendas for discussion.

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### **H. Review of current expenditures and cultural farming practice reports from Larry Jacinto Farming and Redlands Farming Company representatives**

Chuck Hills stated that giberilic acid had been sprayed at Fifth Avenue and Prospect Park Groves. University Grove had also been sprayed with Fleabane. Mr. Hills commented on the large fruit size at University. Most of the City's Navels have been sprayed with giberilic acid.

Pete Marcum was unable to attend, but submitted a written report which will be an attachment to these minutes.

The cost of frost control via helicopter was discussed. Mr. Marcum and Mr. Hills had both received pricing from Eric Fraser for frost protection through his helicopter company. Unlike other companies, Mr. Fraser does not charge a stand-by fee and will grant the City farmers "first right of refusal." Mr. Leonard commented on the limitations regarding frost control at City Groves. The consensus among the Commission was in the event of another frost, farmers would be the best individuals to make decisions regarding frost control.

At this time, Mr. Leonard recommended that the City research the possibility of increasing insurance on City Groves due to the limitation of frost control measures. He stated that the deadline for increasing insurance was on November 20<sup>th</sup> and asked the Commission to consider the increase as a late breaking item. With no objection from the Commission, Chairperson Huffstutler stated that the issue could be accomplished administratively by Mr. Housley. Mr. Housley stated that he would research the item and would report the findings to Chairperson Huffstutler before proceeding with the expenditure of additional funds.

## **2. PUBLIC DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS**

Chairperson Huffstutler asked for any public comments. There were no public discussions or comments.

## **3. SCHEDULE POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Chairperson Huffstutler requested an update on the status and costs for the Mountain View Grove / Bixby Land Company.

Mr. Leonard requested that approval of the costs for helicopter frost control be placed on the next agenda. Because of the urgent possibility of frost, Chairperson Huffstutler, with no objections from the Commission, stated that farmers would be the best individuals to make decisions during a frost emergency. It was decided that it would not be prudent to continue the helicopter frost control item on the next agenda in two months.

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Chairperson Huffstutler and Mr. Leonard requested that the Commission consider an increase in frost insurance on City Groves. Again, because of the urgent possibility of frost, and the insurance deadline of November 20, 2007, Chairperson Huffstutler, with no objection from the Commission, directed Todd Housley to research and perform this task administratively.

There were no further requests for agenda items. Todd Housley asked Commissioners to contact him with any agenda requests after the meeting.

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 11:07 AM.

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Todd Housley  
Project Manager