



P. O. Box 1862, Morgan Hill, CA 95038  
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Morgan Hill Community Garden Minutes (tentative)  
Tuesday, August 30, 2022 6:30 pm

**LOCATION: MORGAN HILL COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL CENTER**  
**Downtown at Monterey and Dunne Avenue in the Madrone Room.**

**Members:**

John Jenkins	President 2023	Pat Day	Board Member. 2023
Mary Mansson	Vice-President 2023	Joe Elliott	Board Member 2023
Allen Palmer	Treasurer 2024	Daniel Armendariz	Board Member 2024
Mary Kellogg	Secretary 2024	Alex Simpliciano	Board Member 2023
		Martha O'Rourke	Board Member 2024

I. Call Meeting To Order 6:30 pm John Jenkins, President, 5 min.  
John said thanks for coming and welcomed our guests. There was no July meeting, but we will catch up today in August. This is John's last Board meeting! He is leaving Morgan Hill on Sept. 8 and moving to Sacramento and then eventually to Oregon. The Board presented John with a beautiful engraved bowl from Etsy made in Switzerland for his service to our garden for so many years. Thanks to Mary M. for finding that! It was beautiful.

II. Adopt Agenda/June Minutes John Jenkins, Action  
Motion to approve by Allen, second by Martha. Approved as written.

III. Hearing of Membership Membership  
*Several members were in attendance, but no comments were offered at this time.*

**IV. Reports**

A. Financial Report Allen Palmer, Action

Income: July- \$86 gardening fee. August- none.

Expenses: July and August- Building supplies \$19.07, water bill \$275.18, PortaPotty \$225.15, Insurance \$1150 for the year, August water \$357 (very high!), Meeting Room for next year 2023- \$220. \$205 miscellaneous garden supplies materials. Balance \$20,689.

Motion to accept the report by Mary M, second by Mary K Approved unanimously.

NOTES: **Water bill** this month- Allen went to City to verify numbers which were very high this last month. Someone talked about a leak on main line- puddling on our side of the meter, but we don't believe we had a leak causing this amount of water use. We need control over the amount of water we are using at this point and will be exploring our options.

**SCC Grant** for \$5,000. We were notified we were going to get that grant, but we have not received it yet. Allen called the County for info. It can only be used for website update, hosting gardening classes, and replacing gravel in main pathways. We are limited to these three items. John could reach out for an exception if we revise our choice of pathway materials and choose to use wood chips instead, etc. We could appeal to the county for wood purchase for plot building classes.

**Water use notice to gardeners:** The amount of water use is significant. Pat thinks year to year is less overall. We will put out a notice in email and post at the garden to not water unless you know your plants need water. We could buy some more water moisture meters.

B. Oversight Report Mary Kellogg, Info

Two gardeners were contacted regarding a plant that was invasive and noxious. They removed those plants. One gardener has an untended plot, but has not been able to garden for 6 months due to doctor's orders. She is looking into if she can continue with the plot, or if possibly she needs an ADA plot. Now, as in each summer, plants are starting grow large. They are starting to hang over plot edges and into pathways.. An email will go out regarding tending

and trimming your plants and also to start fall planting. A white board notice can go up also.

Motion to approve by Joe, with a second by Allen. Approved unanimously.

C. Work Day Report

Kay Meyer, Info

At the last work day we had 18 people who came!

Gardeners with all work day time completed- 47 gardeners.

Gardeners with one work day completed (2 hours) -14 gardeners

Gardeners who have not done any work day time completed- 4 members.

Plots will not be renewed for gardeners who don't complete work day time.

Motion to accept by Allen, with a second by Alex. Approved unanimously.

## V. Unfinished Business

A. Rebuilding of Wattle Beds

Allen Palmer, Action

(Building materials purchasing, building timeline, fall/winter planting for wattle gardeners, etc.)

Allen proposes to hold off of replacing wattle plots with wood. We can move people to available plots in the original area since some gardeners are leaving and there might be enough existing space for current gardeners. The newest water area that we have not built has a shut off that we can turn off if we don't need to add plots at this time which could save us some water. Pat agrees with Allen's proposed plan. Daniel suggests using the winter time to build some wooden plots for a potential wait list we might have in spring.

Daniel made a motion to hold off on building most of the plots, with a second by Mary K, Approved unanimously.

We will look into moving the wattle people to the original garden plot area. First we will find out who is returning, etc. Allen and Mary K will work together to contact these gardeners. A reminder needs to go out to all gardeners regarding year-round gardening. Removing summer plants and fall planting should start soon.

B. Short and long term planning session

Allen Palmer

We are starting at #6 on the projects lists (Items #1-5 were done at the June meeting and are in the minutes from June.)

#6 John's proposal is that we get a proposal from Cindy Day and Nick Benevento of what their project is and what they need. (Some materials can come out of the grant- teaching demonstration beds) Mary K will send them both an email asking for a proposal and what they need. They can send us information before the September Board meeting or if they want to start earlier they can send an email proposal and we can approve it amongst the board to start earlier.

Motion by Daniel to send out the email. Approved unanimously.

7. Rodent control ... Gopher and Ground squirrels. Find a volunteer to trap rodents. Kay will take care of pest control.

8. Who is responsible to maintain plots? Gardeners are responsible for maintaining their physical box with approval of board appointee (oversight committee)

9. A recommendation was made to construct a storage place for the gardeners to store tomato cages and other large materials by this fall to keep the garden looking good year-round. Joe Elliot will take charge of organizing the storage area. He will pick a spot. We have a chain link fence. a double gate, and perhaps cement the posts in. There could be a wood chip base to keep weeds from growing up into materials. Slats could be placed in the chain link fence to make the chain link fencing look better. Joe will come up with a dollar amount to report back to us at the September meeting.

10. Pollinator garden. We need to maintain the middle part that has the native plants (water once a month and dead head as needed. This job will be done on workdays. We need to reconsider the design of the additional 8 circle areas by building boxes around them or use the existing wattles (by fall) to raise the soil level, amending the soil in the circles and getting it ready for planting next spring. We have three pollinator garden volunteered to watering. We will leave it as is for now until next year.

11. Organize and clean stuff (wheelbarrows ...) at the east side of garden by fall of 2022. (This task can go along with storage area work)

12. Review membership and registration process. Allen and Mary K. are working on this process. Cindy Thomas signed up to help out with this. In November we can ask Cindy to join our conversations about registration.

13. List of requests for the city of MH: Fix parking lot asphalt, possible grants for cameras and solar panels with batteries. During the Winter 2022 and Spring 2023 we intended to replace all wattles with wood (9 plots) but we determined that some of those beds are not needed at this time, We would like to extend the lease with a longer term with the City.

Allen adds wood chips between plot are needed before the rain comes so we don't have a muddy mess. People with unfinished work days will be assigned to that task by Kay.

## VI. New Business

A. Nominations needed for November election Mary Kellogg, Information  
Mary K will send out ballot notice emails in September.

1. Expiring terms: President and Vice-President: John and Mary M  
Regular Board Members: Pat Day, Joe Elliott, Alex Simpliciano.

Mary K will contact those existing Board members to see if they want to be included on the ballot for the November election.

2. Notice to membership of open positions in early September: Officer openings are President and Vice President. We can have 4-9 members on the Board, so we can request names of those gardeners who want to be on the ballot for President, VP, or regular positions. Regular positions will be filled from the voting ranking to not exceed 9 Board total Board members. Ballot statements from candidates will be due early in October.

B. New Website Pat Day, Discussion

Our contract for our existing website renews 9/1/2022. We will act on this now.

Mark and Betty can transfer our current website info tomorrow to retain the existing information. (Our email service is paid for upfront and not due at this time.)

Pat made a motion that we approve Mark and Betty's Jones' proposal to host our website effective immediately at an amount to initially not exceed \$500. Second by Daniel second. (Allen prefers billing and writing a check for the services ) Allen will keep track of the expenses and pay expenses with the grant money. Approved unanimously.

Mark and Betty have seen other community garden websites. They will be able to send us a link by this weekend. What's on there now will be included, and then they can add new content. A photo gallery can be added with some photos from our Facebook. The minutes, agendas, classes, and other info will be posted on there. They might need a Board contact person. That will be Mary K.

## VII. Next Meeting Agenda Sept 27 6:30 Mary K

1. Discuss Garden Policies changes for 2023-2024, including possibility of investigation of a drip pilot test. Board will email suggestions to Mary Kellogg to include other possible revisions to the Garden Policies. 2. November election discussion. 3. Website update 4. Review of plots 99-110, status of members with work days due, long/short term projects tasks progress.

## VIII. Adjournment regular meeting 8:00 John Jenkins, Action Item