



P. O. Box 1862, Morgan Hill, CA 95038
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Morgan Hill Community Garden Minutes
Tuesday, March 7, 2023 6:30 pm

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

Members:

Joe Elliott	President 2025	Daniel Armendariz	Board Member 2024
Pat Day	Vice-President 2025	Martha O'Rourke	Board Member 2024
Mary Kellogg	Secretary 2024	Alex Simpliciano	Board Member 2025
Allen Palmer	Treasurer 2024	Rob Holcomb	Board Member 2025

- I. Call Meeting To Order 6:30 pm Joe Elliott, President
II. Adopt Agenda/November Minutes Joe Elliott, Action, 2 min.

Motion to accept the agenda by Daniel, second by Allen. Approved.

Motion to accept the January minutes by Allen, second by Martha. Approved.

III. Hearing of Membership Membership

No members at meeting initially to make comments at the beginning of the meeting. Bill Barnhart was in attendance and spoke regarding gravel pathways and weed abatement.

IV. Reports

A. Financial Reports Allen Palmer, Action

Income from registrations- \$4,158

Expenses: \$400 to Mark and Betty Jones for email account repair (email was hijacked),

Water bill \$110, Portapotty \$247, Post office box \$194, Building supplies \$31

\$ 31,081 in bank account (includes one-time grant project money)

Motion to accept report by Rob, second by Daniel. Approved.

The Inventory for 2022 sent out; we have some items to add, such as power tools, etc. for the meeting at the end of March.

B. Oversight Report Mary Kellogg, Info

There will be no update from the committee until April when gardening should be active.

Mary has been emailing gardeners who were leaving to ask them to clear out their plots.

Motion to accept the report by Pat, second by Allen. Approved.

C. Work Day Report Kay Meyer, Info

Kay was not able to attend tonight. She reported by email that 19 people came to the last work day on February 18th. The sand hills were cleared of weeds.

Martha will have some work days to report for starting in April that will be weeknights, probably 4-7 pm to give gardeners an alternative from the Saturday work days to complete their work.

Joe will also man some of the work days coming up later in the year and set the dates and times.

Motion to accept the report by Daniel, second by Allen. Approved.

D. Committee Reports (emails)

Mary Kellogg, Info

Demonstration Beds-

Cindy and Nick have noted that three demonstration beds are being used by Pat for monthly gardening classes. One bed contains volunteer sweet peas. One bed has a trial of wildflower “bombs.” Three beds are vacant and being prepped for spring planting of milkweed, African blue basil, and other plants to attract pollinators.

Another announcement about the purpose of demonstration beds can go out to the membership for spring planting. If there is no interest, seedlings started in gardening classes can be planted in them to fill the beds.

Composting-

Sarah reports that the new signs about what to put in the compost bins and what not to put in there have helped. Large roots and extra materials like string and plastic material should not be put in the compost bins. She has still found some twine and plastics in with the plant growth.

Facebook-

Michelle requests photos from gardeners that she can post if needed and would like other Facebook ideas from the Board if the board has requests or goals for our Facebook page. She has been including announcing monthly classes, sharing tips, sharing others’ gardening posts. No reply is needed if the Facebook page has what the board desires. (Mary will send an email to garden members requesting that photos be sent to the garden email to be forwarded to Michelle.)

Website (See below.)

Additional conversation:

(At the City meeting that Rob and Allen attended, Chris Ghione said they can give us help with publicity. They can add us to citywide activities posting and our garden on their maps.)

Motion to accept the special committee reports by Allen, second by Pat. Approved.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Garden Email Payment Update

Mary Kellogg, Info

A \$400 payment was made to Mark and Betty Jones for their work on our email site. The site was hijacked by someone outside of the country and shut down. It took a lot of work to reinstate our account.

B. Grant Use

Allen Palmer, Action

Wooden plots 99-102 construction (bring back at the end of March meeting)

Meeting with the City Representative

Allen and Rob reported on their visit with the City employee, Chris Ghione. He suggested that the City can supply some material free that we might need, but it would not be available all at once. This includes street grinding materials. Decomposed granite is another idea that the City has access to for our paths. We would have to have it done in phases. Their paving expert will get back with us soon to explore the possibility. This is ongoing supply for free. Disadvantage- They may not deliver a certain amount at any particular time. This was an amazing meeting with willingness to help. Gold fines might be free also, but not the labor to spread it. There could be ground asphalt to use.

Daniel's report from his Hollister contact-

The base rock option using 64 yards, 2" deep would be \$5,500.

Pea gravel (60 yards) for 10-12,000 square feet would be \$5,000. About \$69 per yard. Materials would be delivered and dumped. Daniel suggests buying our own tractor to do our own spreading. Others suggested we could rent a spreader for the days we needed it.

Allen reported that U-Save Rockery was about \$50 per yard.

Joe notes that we will be waiting to see what Chris from the City offers to us this week. He will look into the rental cost of a tractor.

C. Registration Update

Allen Palmer, Info

There are currently 16 plots available. The discussion was about offering a second plot to current gardeners. Daniel will post flyers at local businesses.

Pat made a motion that Mary send an email about additional plots available for this current year use through January 31, 2024. Requests accepted until April 15, second by Martha. Approved.

VI. New Business

A. Pollinator Garden Salvia

Mary Kellogg, Discussion

It was suggested at a work day that some salvia plants in the four corner sections of the pollinator garden would be a good addition. Pat says we need a committee to take on the project suggested because the plants and the drip system will need regular maintenance. Mary will send out an email looking for a leadership group to take on the management of the pollinator garden. This work applies towards work day work.

B. Garden Property Weed Abatement

Joe Elliott, Action

There was a discussion regarding how to take care of bind weed in the far reaches of the garden, away from the plot areas that we all maintain. Our organic garden is in the garden plot area, but the other 1 1/2 acres that we don't use are weeds. Current organic sprays won't kill these weeds. Rob adds that Butterfield wall, the railroad, and the Butterfield roadway are sprayed by the City. Allen suggests we should spray the areas far out, with something like glyphosate.

Pat made a motion that glyphosate be used to kill the bindweed as it is found in the open field part of the property, second by Allen. Daniel comments that we are an organic garden. Bill notes that the chemical is being used all around us and we have such a large acreage that we don't use now compared to the old garden that was contained within the garden fence boundary.

Motion by Pat, second by Allen. 7 ayes, 1 opposed. Approved.

Motion by Pat to amend the above motion to include that the chemical be used according to the manufacturer's instruction on the label with appropriate PPE, use on non windy days, etc.

7 ayes, 1 opposed. Approved.

C. Social Event Planning

Pat Day, Action

Postponed to the meeting at the end of March.

VII. Next Meeting Agenda.

Mary K

Request from Sarah Miller for pollinator donations program as in her email. Earth Day Celebration participation with plant starts, registration updates, pollinator garden email replies, demonstration bed email replies, Inventory 2023

VIII. Adjournment

7:55 Joe Elliott, Action Item