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Morgan Hill Community Garden Minutes TENTATIVE
Tuesday, September 26, 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	Ab- Martha O'Rourke	Board Member 2024
Mary Kellogg	Secretary 2024	Ab- Alex Simpliciano	Board Member 2025
Allen Palmer	Treasurer 2024	Rob Holcomb	Board Member 2025
		Kay Meyer	Board Member 2024

I. Call Meeting To Order/announcements 6:30 pm Joe Elliott, President

II. Adopt Current Agenda/Previous Minutes Joe Elliott, Action

*Items moved up on agenda for a board member who will leave early.

Motion to accept agenda and minutes by Allen, second by Pat. Approved unanimously.

III. Hearing of Membership Membership (*None*)

IV. Reports

A. Financial Reports Allen Palmer, Action

Total balance- \$22,898. Income: \$0

Expenditures: PortaPotty \$247. Water \$300. Insurance \$162. New email address for Zelle payments \$132. Total: \$841.

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

*B. Number of Plots 2024 Allen Palmer, Action

Allen suggested we allow gardeners to have more than one plot. Mary was concerned that there is the potential for much more interest in the garden with all of the current and future residential growth. Daniel recalled giving up a plot when we had a large wait list in 2019 and suggested that it should be understood that the third plot could be given up in the future if we start having a wait list again. Pat suggests that the Garden Policies is a living document and can be changed in the future if the need arises. Rob suggested that the third plot could be renewable annually depending on the wait list. Joe suggests that there potentially could be room for 38 more plots in the future if funding can be secured and a building crew.

Allen made a motion to allow gardeners to have more than one plot, up to 3 plots. Current gardeners with multiple plots may keep the plot they now have. In the future, the open plots go first to those on the waiting list, then to current gardeners who want additional plots. Kay seconded the motion. Ayes-4, No- 3. Motion passed.

*C. Zelle Payments 2024 Allen Palmer, Action

We can do Zelle with our banking set-up. It is set up with a new garden email for Zelle. Mary Kellogg and Allen Palmer will receive an email when a transaction comes in. (Porta Potty will also do email payment only now.) Mary and Allen will work to revise the registration forms to allow online payment. Paper registration is still mailed in to have a physical registration copy with current information, but payment can be made by Zelle. The advantage is that some people do not want to use checks.

Mary made a motion to accept Zelle payments, second by Pat. Ayes-6. Abstain-1. Motion passed.

*D. Garden Year Dates

Allen Palmer, Discussion

Our financial year is January 1- December 31. Registration January 1-January 31. Mary will send out registration forms mid-December and are due January 31st each year. We will continue this discussion of the gardening year dates at the October meeting.

E. Oversight Report

Mary Kellogg, Info

One gardener was contacted to trim overgrowing plants back to her plot edge. Currently, there are numbers plots where plants are starting to extend beyond the plot edge and old plants are starting to be in need of composting. The board had a discussion about MHCG being a year-round garden with either winter crops or cover crop planted and maintained throughout the winter. The board directed Mary to send out a reminder email to trim current plants to plot edge and out of the pathways and to start fall/winter gardening in the next month. Pat will include on the Oct. 14 class a "composting in plot or compost bins" second. If individual plots are not trimmed and replanted by mid-October, letters will be mailed out to those garden plot holders around October 28. Daniel made a motion to accept the report, with a second by Pat. Approved unanimously.

F. Work Day Report

Kay Meyer, Info

The last work day was on Saturday and 5 gardeners came. Two that haven't finish work days are leaving the garden. 1 person has no work hours. There was a discussion of additional possible work that ADA gardeners could complete. One gardener couldn't complete theirs on time due to a medical emergency, but will be making arrangements to do the work. All others are done. Daniel noted this is the best year in many years in having gardeners getting the hours completed. A motion to accept the report was made by Mary, second by Rob. Approved unanimously.

V. Unfinished Business

A. 6-1-2024 Open House Plans

Sue Villanueva, Discussion

Sue wanted information from the board regarding publicity. To start, the board requested invitations to the City and council members specifically, the City of MH weekly email, Morgan Hill Life, Gilroy Dispatch. Sally suggested MHUSD Carmen Garcia superintendent. (On April 22 Earth Day event we can put our flyers out.) The June 1 date is set for 10-2. Sue wants to make sign boards. It would cost about \$50 to make 6-8 boards.

Rob made a motion to spend up to \$100 for Sue's sign boards, with a second by Daniel.

Approved unanimously. Pat made a motion to not exceed \$100 for other promotional materials, second by Kay. Approved unanimously.

Sue is the coordinator and will be the organizer for the activities with volunteers arriving on time as scheduled. She will call the volunteers and make all of the arrangements. In May an email will go out. Sue can send any questions to Joe for board discussion and he will get it on the agenda. Daniel will donate 2 cases of water the event. Sue wants 3 children's activities next year.

B. Projects

1. Pathway Update

Rob Holcomb, Discussion

The gravel is a little loose still and there are some gray fines to spread still. Kay said those two who are finishing up their work day hours can do that work in the next couple of weeks. The gravel firms up well with water. The newly compacted ADA area was hard today. It might need to be swept. Some compacting was done from the ADA gate to the back ADA plots.

C. City Events Participation

Joe Elliott, Action

The City's tree planting offer at the garden (Clean Air Week) is scheduled for Friday, October 6. Four Western Red Bud trees will be planted to replace some trees that died due to gopher problems and will be on our drip system. This time we will plant with wire netting to keep gophers away from the tree roots. We could use an irrigation volunteer and/or committee to make sure it continues to work properly. An ADA work day option could be to water trees from a hose if needed for the first year since most of the plots are right next to the ADA beds. The Fischer Road side of the drip is not working but don't need that irrigation now that the existing trees are large enough and are drought tolerant. The Railroad Avenue side is working. (There is one controller for both sides.)

VI. New Business

A. Purchase of winter cover crop.

Pat Day, Action

Since we are going to discuss winter gardens and cover crop at the next class, the board discussed purchasing cover crop seed for winter for gardeners to use, which is ordered from a seed company and not available locally. Mary made a motion for Pat to order 20 pounds of cover crop seed to use in classes and for gardeners to use in their own plots not to exceed \$100, with a second by Rob. Approved unanimously.

B. Composting at MHCG

Pat Day, Discussion

Kay has a contact for a gardener who do composting with our other current volunteer. Joe and Kay will get a key available in the regular shed for him. Mary will email the volunteers with the information so the composting can continue as we ramp up for summer to fall composting needs.

C. Garden Policies Document

Mary Kellogg, Discussion

The plot fees will remain the same for 2024. The work hours requirement is six hours. Plot allotment is now up to 3 plots per plot holder(s). The calendar year dates will be discussed in October. Payment can be made by Zelle for those who wish to use it, but paper registration forms still need to be mailed in. Additional information will be included to differential between trellises and arbors and not creating a structure that could create shade on neighboring plots. Additional information on the bulletin board to send an email to the garden if there is a hostile interaction at the garden, specifically intruders who are not garden members. These changes will be voted on at the October meeting. The bylaws stay the same with only the date (year) change.

D. 2024 Election Update

Mary K, Discussion

We had one member reply to our email/white board message requesting names to be on the 2024 ballot by the deadline. We have one current board member who is not running again. We have the same number of gardeners wishing to be on the board-9 as currently have . That is the maximum number of members we can have on the board. Two current members want to be on the ballot to continue as regular board members. Mary and Allen can continue and secretary and treasurer. Since we did not have additional members contesting any of the board positions, we could do as we did last time and not have a ballot election. The slate of officers will be presented at the October meeting and it will be determined if we need an election or not at that time.

VII. Next Meeting Agenda October 24

Mary K,

Regular reports, Garden Policies changes to approve, announce election slate of officers, further discussion of gardening year dates, potentially new registration documents to review, fall composting update, cover crop update, new City trees (thank you note?), continue with Open House plans.

VIII. Adjournment

8:16 Joe Elliott, Action Item