



P. O. Box 1862, Morgan Hill, CA 95038
info@mhcommunitygarden.org,
www.mhcommunitygarden.org

**Morgan Hill Community Garden Tentative Minutes
Tuesday, March 26, 2024. 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 2026. Rob Holcomb Board Member 2025
Pat Day Vice-President 2025 Martha O'Rourke Board Member 2024. Sally Casas Board Member 2026
Mary Kellogg Secretary 2026 Alex Simpliciano Board Member 2025
AB-Allen Palmer Treasurer 2026

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

II. Adopt Agenda/February Minutes Joe Elliott, Action

Motion to adopt the agenda and minutes by Pat, second by Martha. Approved.

III. Hearing of Membership Membership

Daniel is concerned about some rules he thinks are not being "organic." Concerned about rodent control. It was noted that any chemical would be used outside of the garden plot area if we needed to control pests in that way.

IV. Reports- Board Member Reporting

A. Financial Reports Allen Palmer, Action

B. Oversight Report (transition to Alex info) Alex Simpliciano, Info

Alex has checked the garden twice. He saw lots of weeds growing especially in the 90's and 40's plot areas. He will check mid-April for garden members to get to the garden. If not, notices will go out by the garden email.

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

C. Work Day Report Martha O'Rourke, Info

Martha's plan is to get rid of weeds first, then work on vacant beds and other projects. Mary will send work day info to gardeners by email. Every Saturday in April, 10-2 except for April 20 because of the Earth Day booth at the CCC then the work day will be Sunday, April 21. On the class day on April 6 it will be after class, 11-3. A Thursday evening work day will be April 18, 5-7 pm. Reminder: Six hours of work day time per person is the MINIMUM per year.

Motion to accept the report by Mary, second by Alex. Approved.

D. Pathways Rob Holcomb, Info

Rob reported that is is very weedy! Mary will contact Manny Hurtado to ask him to weed whack large weeds around little shed and also inside plots 99, 101, and 102. We can then put cardboard on top to prevent new weed growth.

Motion to approve by Alex, second by Sally, Approved.

E. Other committee updates, if needed Board Members, Info

*Daniel suggests we add "Soil" to Rodent Control committee.6-1-1. Approved.

*Sally will create an Inventory for each shed. Mary will forward the old inventory list to Sally.

Daniel made a motion to accept the report, second by Alex, Approved.

*Rob will do compost bins.

*Daniel- Rodent Control/Soil.

*Joe- liaison to the City- MHCG supports the City's grant request to EPA.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Garden Year Dates Joe Elliott, Action

1. AAUW Earth Day Celebration, **4/20**, 10-3, CCC.

Mary will ask MHCG gardeners to sign up for our booth.

2. MHCG Open house on September 14

B. Gophers/Pests/Deer

Joe Elliott, Discussion/Action

Joe stated that we had a quote from "Got Gophers" for \$1,000 for 4 weeks to try and get control of the pests. It would be \$275 per month after that. The Board discussed trying to manage it with traps, by getting 2 dozen more traps. Kay recommends a certain trap that she could buy herself and pilot those traps. Squirrels are bigger and need bigger traps way underground. Poison harms that squirrel, but not birds that eats the squirrels, etc. We would look into it before we got to that point. Gophers are damaging the soil.

Pat makes a motion to hire "Got Gophers" for one month to not exceed \$1200, second by Rob. We can learn from the experts to take over what they have done after that time period. Mary will send out a general notice to gardeners that there might be disruption to soil in plots as the gopher holes are found. 0-8-0. Motion not passed.

Pat made a new motion for Got Gophers to trap gophers and moles to not to exceed \$1200.

Mary second. 7-0-1. Approved.

C. Grants Update

Joe Elliott, Discussion

Joe noted that the Santa Clara County grant is a request for a grant to be spent later in the year. He can ask for money to fund plots for low-income and foster populations in the City of Morgan Hill and to be funded at the regular plot rate. Joe will submit that grant request.

Daniel made a motion for Joe to write this SCC grant, with a second from Sally. Joe will send out his proposal to board members to approve his proposal by March 31. Approved.

VI. New Business

A. Garden Policies Changes

Mary, Discussion

1. There are 5 scholarship plots per year. (Allotments all currently in use).

2. The current policy states that berries should be planted in closed-bottom containers. Some berries fall into that category, but strawberries will be removed from that requirement as they are easier to remove when needed.

B. Demonstration Bed Budget

Allen, Action

Postpone to next month.

C. Chips, Mulch, Soil, Cardboard, Manure

Mary Kellogg, Discussion

Mary noted that the garden is in need of the above supplies. Kay will call Holly at the horse farm to get manure. We are still looking for good soil at a reasonable cost. Rob can look into good wood chips for pathways and cardboard.

D. Additional plot notice availability to gardeners

Allen Palmer, Discussion

Delay until April mtg. The board discussed that this notification won't go out until May.

VII. Next Meeting Agenda 4/23

Mary K, Discussion

*List board member names w/ area of responsibility on the agenda with a 20 minute time slot for all reports with no vote needed for each report unless we take specific additional action.

*Demonstration bed budget, *grants

VIII. Adjournment

8:24 Joe Elliott, Action Item