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**Morgan Hill Community Garden Minutes TENTATIVE 4-23-2024. 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      AB-Alex Simpliciano Board Member 2025  
Allen Palmer Treasurer 2026

I. Call Meeting To Order      6:30 pm Joe Elliott, President, 2 min.

II. Adopt Agenda/February Minutes      Joe Elliott, Action

Motion to accept by Rob, second by Sally. Approved.

III. Hearing of Membership      6:34 Membership, 4 minutes

*None*

IV. Reports- Board Member Responsibilities Reporting as needed

A. Financial Reports      Allen Palmer

One bill this month of \$132 for water. Waiting for PortaPotty next bill date and bill for Got Gophers.

5 more plots were rented for in come of \$875. Insurance yearly bill to come soon.

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

Not able to attend tonight.

C. Work Day Report, Pollinator Garden      Martha O'Rourke

Max hours of volunteer time is 342 hours based on current registration. 25 volunteered this month of April. 18 have completed all hours already. We need to start pulling weeds earlier than April next year and can weed whack before the weeds flower next year. We can add more cardboard and mulch to kill weeds next year. (Sheet mulching) A reminder email to gardeners can go out to not to let people into garden who are not members. Nice View Landscaping Company can bring wood chips, not others. Crushed granite still needs to be added in bare areas.

D. Demonstration Beds      Pat Day

Pat says the demonstration plot have Cindy's sweet peas blooming and wildflowers. Nick has fava beans Dana has strawberries for classes. One demonstration plot is open if a gardener want to try a gardening technique and share the crop with monthly class members. Jenny Redfern will do three sisters planting for the May class and on June 1 Sue Villanueva will do tomatoes.

E. Equipment Maintenance, Inventory      Sally Casas

Sally is working on the inventory.

F. Liaison to City of MH      Joe Elliott

Joe wrote support letter to the City for their grant writing. The City wants to partner with groups for making grants. Joe will get a schedule from Chris for the City mowing schedule. He submitted a grant request for \$5600 and will know in May. This project will be repeated two more times this year. Daniel suggests a grant to bring electricity to MHCG which would be a good grant request because the cost is too high for MHCG to fund. In some grants it is asked who is the grant helping. Joe suggested it isn't just the gardeners, but also the extended families and community with Reach Out at Saint Catherine and others. When the harvests are in a survey can go to the garden membership gathering information about the number of people who received crops through sharing, their ethnicity, if veterans, etc. We

can also survey gardeners during registration for efficient information gathering. For now, a draft email can go out.

#### G. Mulch, Pathways, Composting

Rob Holcomb

Mulch is soft from the rains. Weeds are overtaking the garden and mowing in the large areas is needed. The pathways are improving with work days. The composting bins are full and will be screwed shut until the existing mulch is processed and a committee of composters is determined.

#### H. Rodent Control, Soil

Daniel Armendariz

Daniel says there are fewer gophers now. Daniel will fill existing holes. We only used Got Gophers for clean out initially. An ultrasonic method is not good for some people. An electric system is an option, but will only scare the gophers to another plot instead of killing them.

Allen wants to know if we should maintain Got Gophers for \$250 a month instead of having the company come back for \$1000 to restart at a later date. There are lots of gophers beyond our plot area to deter. Last month we paid \$750 for clean out and \$220 per month. The discussion was about if we should continue Got Gophers. We could continue 2-3 months more. Allen thinks we need a line item for gophers in the budget because it is ongoing. Daniel suggests having money available for traps, etc. Martha says we should continue Got Gophers so we don't have problems in people's plots. At the May meeting Daniel can submit a request for purchases for his soil and pest committee. Sally wonders if gardeners could help with filling holes at work days.

#### I. Board Member Selection, Correspondence

Mary Kellogg

Mary reviewed the video clips from the camera monitoring the sheds at night. There were two individuals who were in the garden in from about midnight to 2 am various times who on one clip were filmed walking away with our second wood chipper. About a week later the person rode by on his bike and it appeared that he was carrying a long-handled tool. A report was submitted online to the MHPD and they are monitoring that issue. Also on the video clips were various pests like cats, raccoons, rabbits, and coyotes. Also, Mary has been contacting numerous people who have inquired about garden paths and 11 people have been placed in plots most recently, being either new people or 3 existing gardeners who have taken an additional plot. We are awaiting replies from two to four people who recently were sent out emails offering plots. Also, Mary communicated with gardeners about the AAUW Earth Day celebration getting volunteers to work our booth and prepared a display of garden photos to put up at the booth to attract potential new gardeners from the people walking by our booth. The March minutes and the April agenda were sent to the board members about a week and a half before this meeting and then the final version went out to all gardeners a week before this meeting. All gardeners were notified about the upcoming Garden work days numerous times and Mary communicated by email with Martha about gardeners who emailed the garden email who completed work day time independently and people who worked at the Earth Day booth. Information from the garden email was passed on to the Pest Control committee group from gardeners complaining about gophers in their plots and notifying a couple of gardeners who needed to clear out some overgrown plants so the Got Gopher guy could monitor pests in the plots better.

#### J. VACANT BOARD POSITION/COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON: Marketing & Publicity

We can talk to gardener members about being a board member and monitoring marketing efforts. Mary can send email out requesting someone to be appointed as a board member and be responsible for that area.

Motion to accept above reports by Mary, second by Allen. Approved

V. Unfinished Business

A. Garden Year Dates

Joe Elliott, Action

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

About 20 people were curious enough about gardening outside of their homes to take flyers from our booth. We received one email that evening asking for information about getting a plot (not sure if it was someone from the Earth Day Celebration). Sabrina's improved table display helped make our table more eye-catching.

***2. August 4 Explore Steam Fair at the CCC 3:30-7:30 pm  
(South Valley Science and Engineering Initiative)***

MHCG was approached about participating at this fair at the CCC where we would have a hands-on activity for participants that day.

3. MHCG open house on September 14 at our garden site.

4. Schedule of next work days for May and tasks. Martha will email dates to Mary to send out to gardeners.

B. Grants Update

Joe Elliott, Discussion

Joe will continue to submit grants beyond the ones mentioned in the above reports.

C. Wood Chips, Mulch, Soil, Cardboard, Manure Rob & Kay, Action

Rob will bring cardboard. A grant could request 24 yards of compost.

VI. New Business

A. Demonstration Bed Budget

Allen, Action

Postpone to next month

VII. Next Meeting Agenda 5/28

Mary K

Committee reports (timing? 40 min.), Marketing and Publicity for Open House, Open House planning, continued work day schedule updates, Demonstration bed budget, Pat will not be here.

VIII. Adjournment

7:40 Joe Elliott, Action Item