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**Morgan Hill Community Garden Minutes Tuesday, May 28, 2024. 6:30 pm**  
**LOCATION: MORGAN HILL COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL CENTER**  
**Downtown at Monterey and Dunne Avenue in the Diana Room.**

Members:

Joe Elliott President 2025

AB-Pat Day Vice-President 2025

Mary Kellogg Secretary 2026

Allen Palmer Treasurer 2026

Daniel Armendariz Board Member 2026.

Martha O'Rourke Board Member 2025.

Alex Simpliciano Board Member 2025

Rob Holcomb Board Member 2025

Sally Casas Board Member 2026

I. Call Meeting To Order

6:30 pm Joe Elliott, President

II. Adopt Agenda/March Minutes

Joe Elliott, Action

Postpone artichoke discussion to June when Pat returns, move up Recycling & Garbage after financial report because Allen has to leave after the report.

Motion to accept the above by Allen, second by Sally. Approved.

III. Hearing of Membership

Membership

Sue Villanueva commented on gold fines and when pulling weeds the gold fines come up.

IV. Reports- Board Member Responsibilities Reporting as needed 6:38, 25 minutes

A. Financial Reports

Allen Palmer

Income: \$0

Expenditures: Water Bill \$164, Porta-Potty Rental (3 months) \$395. Total \$559. Insurance bill will be coming in a month or two. Bank gave Allen a credit card and Joe has the debit card.

Total expenses Year-to-Date: \$3,081. Total budget for the year: \$10,235

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

Alex sent the board an email with what he observed. One flower that might not be allowed, various plots with weed growth.

C. Work Day Report, Pollinator Garden

Martha O'Rourke

27 gardeners have completed their work hours, 22 have started but not completed yet, 7 no work hours yet. 27 don't have regular clean up because they have other garden duties. We will contact those with no hours in June or July to alert them that hours need to be completed by the work day in September.

D. Demonstration Beds

Pat Day

Pat thanked Jenny Redfern for taking over the May class while he was on vacation. Jenny's notes:

On May 4, I taught 11 attendees the history of the "3 sisters" and used their help to create the mounds and plant seedlings and seeds in a 3 sisters garden in bed 6. I was happy to have those 11 gardeners stick it out in spite of the cold rain - they were dedicated and as enthusiastic as one can be in that weather. I had already prepped bed 6 by removing weeds and adding chicken manure. First I outlined the history of the plants as they were cultivated by South American peoples over thousands of years, and then we went hands-on with the planting.

We planted 3 hills by different methods: one hill with seedlings for both corn and beans, one hill with corn seedlings and bean seeds, and one hill with seeds for both corn and beans. The dent corn is for drying and grinding into corn meal and the beans are a mix including Rattlesnake dried beans. The squash will be Jack-o-lantern small pumpkins for pies and carving.

I'll attach the class handout and a couple of photos to show the progress. Dried corn and beans and ripe pumpkins will be ready to pick late in the fall. I intend to make signs to explain bed 6.

Jenny R. Redfern, UCCE Master Gardener since 2013

E. Equipment Maintenance, Inventory

Sally Casas

Sally is thinking of how to organize the shed. Joe has shelf material and saws and might be able to help out in building more shelving in the main gardening shed. Daniel suggested some wheelbarrows can be left out to make more room in the shed. Joe suggests getting hooks on Amazon.

#### F. Liaison to City of MH, grants

Joe Elliott

The City of Morgan Hill came and mowed down the large weeds in the field. The grant we wrote from USDA was denied, but they will do one or two more this year that we can try for. One question is how much produce is produced (value) so we will ask gardeners to be collecting that information for the next grant writing.

#### G. Mulch, Pathways, Composting

Rob Holcomb

The compost bins are not in use yet. He says gate has been unlatched when he was there a couple of times. Joe has a new kind of lock to use.

#### H. Rodent Control, Soil

Daniel Armendariz

Daniel says there are still many pests and some gardeners want us to bring back Got Gophers. He has filled some holes. He has a request to purchase some items to bring up later in the meeting. He has been studying how to manage the pests, but we have a large area that is hard to manage.

#### I. Board Member Selection, Correspondence

Mary Kellogg

An email was sent out and signs posted at the garden that we are looking for a new board member to appoint who can manage marketing and publicity. Communication was forwarded between pest control people and three gardeners regarding possible pests in their plots. Work days were announced by email and with signs at the garden for May and June. Gardeners who did independent work for their hours emailed the garden email and their information was forwarded to Martha. Individual emails went out requesting work from gardeners who had not completed any work days. The plot owners who will be finishing the plot number block painting and mounting have been coordinated and the person who is doing the painting of the blocks has them to work on for now. Communication was facilitated between pollinator garden helpers via the garden email. Three emails were sent to gardeners about weeds in their plots. One has completed the work and another will attend to that in a week when she returns from vacation. We are still waiting for the third to come to the garden. Gardening classes have been announced via email and notices posted at the garden. Communication was sent out to the board regarding clay tiles that were dumped in our recycling cart. The tiles are gone at this time, thanks to board member Daniel Armendariz. Information was gathered from the gardeners who were involved with the homeless intruder and the Morgan Hill Police Department was notified. They gave us directions as to how to handle this if it happened in the future and all gardeners were notified via email. (There has been no sight of this problem after those two incidents.) Gardeners were notified about the big gate being left open a couple of times recently. Gardener email addresses were verified and updated in our Outlook. Two new interested people were provided information about MHCG, but they have not yet sent in their requests for plots. One current gardener took a third plot. Arrangements have been made with a previous gardener who is dismantling his garden beds at home to bring his good soil to our garden and it is being placed in the three newest beds. There is also a pile of the soil at the east side of the garden. Current information was sent to Betty to post on our website and to Michelle to do the same for Facebook. We have a gardener, Kristie Ashley, who has completed some work day time, but she also has volunteered to trim our oak trees at the appropriate times of the year.

#### J. VACANT: Marketing & Publicity- None

Motion to accept the reports by Rob, second by Martha. Approved.

### V. Unfinished Business

#### A. Garden Year Dates & Planning

Joe Elliott

##### 1. Open house on September 14

Sue Villanueva

Sue Villanueva passed out a handout with her thoughts for the Open House. The proposed budget again is \$125. Perhaps we can invite people from non-profits in the area to visit our garden. Having a drawing gets people's attention. More demonstrations are needed to add to our schedule. She suggests we bring samples of what we grow to share. She has a list of people to contact to spread the word about our Open House. Mary will send an email to gardeners telling them to save the date for the September Open House and to reply to the garden email to volunteer and submit ideas for the event and activities.

Rob made a motion to have a budget for Open House not to exceed \$200. Daniel said we should only approve the requested amount of \$125.00. Martha thinks costs might have gone up and we should do the \$200. 7 yes, 1 abstain. Approved.

### B. Pest Control Next Steps

Joe Elliott, Action

Daniel is submitting a request for \$101.00 for a nontoxic treatment (baking soda and cake mix), 2 gopher hawk trap (\$26 each) for in ground trapping. We have some traps in the shed. We have to change the methods because the pests adjust their behavior to what we have been doing. Got Gophers got 8 gophers in a month. Now we would be charged \$50 per animal. Martha suggests comparing new methods with us doing our own trapping to the previous results to see what method works the best.

Mary made a motion for \$101 for Daniel to get pest control items. Second by Rob. Approved.

### C. Wood Chips, Mulch, Soil, Cardboard, Manure

Rob & Kay, Action

Rob will work on getting cardboard this month. Sally asked about putting salt in the gray pathways so weeds won't sprout, or a spray of water and salt. Rob suggests doing a demonstration area to see if it works. There is a sprayer at the garden. Rob suggests trying it on the bindweed. Sally will forward the email on to the board about this. There are good pathway mulch piles by small shed and the parking area outside.

### D. Security

Sally Casas, Discussion

Sally wants to know if there is a way to get the information out about security at the garden. She commented on the thefts and then the intruder. Daniel suggests more "no trespassing" signs. Perhaps we need several more signs on the Railroad Ave fence. Sue V suggests being more careful and just not go over late, etc. Daniel suggests a fence with a no trespassing sign.

Mary made a motion that we buy 4 more signs (bilingual). Joe will contact the City to get free signs first.

### E. Grant Discussion

Joe Elliott, Discussion

We did not get the first USDA grant, but there will be some more coming up from various organizations that give grants. First we register our garden farm with USDA and we can get access to a lot of support. We must grow \$1,000 worth of produce per year which we do by far, but we don't have it for sale, just the value. Joe will find out more details and participant responsibilities.

## VI. New Business

### ~~A. Demonstration Bed Budget (postpone to June)~~

Allen, Discussion & Action

### ~~B. Garbage and Recycling (postpone to June meeting)~~

Allen Palmer, Discuss

Allen complains that our recycling cart always has garbage and plants in it. The load is always contaminated. Daniel cleaned out the clay tiles that were dumped there. He is not making a motion tonight, but wants us to think about gardeners taking everything home for disposal that they bring. (Next month discussion agenda.)

### C. Artichoke Plants (previous Garden Policies) 7:53 Mary, Discussion, 5 min.

Postpone to the June meeting for Pat's input on previous garden policies regarding artichoke pruning.

Mary noted that in going through old Garden Policy documents, it was noted that their previously were stipulations regarding artichoke plants. When they were allowed before, they had to be "coppiced" or cut down to the base every October. She noted that when a gardener left the garden without removing their artichoke plant this year, it was a big job to remove the plant and the large stems. Artichoke plants generally grown too large for our plots and extend over the plot edge when not cut back each year. The board will discussed this in June.

## VII. Next Meeting Agenda 6/25

7:58 Mary K, 2 min.

Garbage and Recycling, Demonstration Bed Budget, Artichoke plants, grant information,

## VIII. Adjournment

7:51 Joe Elliott, Action Item

Joe announced that he might be moving to San Jose.