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Morgan Hill Community Garden Minutes Tuesday, June 25, 2024. 6:30 pm
LOCATION: MORGAN HILL COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL CENTER
Downtown at Monterey and Dunne Avenue in the Madrone Room.

Members:

Ab-Joe Elliott President 2025
Pat Day Vice-President 2025
Mary Kellogg Secretary 2026
Allen Palmer Treasurer 2026

Daniel Armendariz Board Member 2026. Ab- Rob Holcomb Board Member 2025
Martha O'Rourke Board Member 2025. Sally Casas Board Member 2026
Alex Simpliciano Board Member 2025

I. Call Meeting To Order

6:30 pm Pat Day, Vice President

II. Adopt Agenda/May Minutes

Pat Day, Action, 2 min.

Motion to accept the agenda by Allen, second by Sally. Passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the May minutes by Allen, second by Alex. Passed unanimously.

III. Hearing of Membership

Membership

Kay will talk to 5A regarding ground squirrels at that point in the agenda..

IV. Reports- Board Member Responsibilities Reporting as needed

A. Financial Reports

Allen Palmer

Income- \$94.00 gardening fees. (2 more garden fees to come soon) We currently have about \$1000 more than expected with the new garden plots given out.

Expenditures: Water Bill \$227, Porta Potty \$132.

Balance \$27,597

Sally said the porta potty should be cleaned just before the Open House. She asks if it could be cleaned a bit more often through the summer. Allen will call and check for information.

Pat suggests we act on porta-potty now. Daniel made a motion that Allen look into making the clean out more often through September as needed. Second by Mary. Approved unanimously.

Pat suggests the board members check out the porta-potty from time to time and let Allen know if there are problems and not wait for a board meeting.

B. Oversight Report

Alex Simpliciano

Alex has noticed that the garden hose nozzles are not working properly and wonders how to fix or repair those as needed. Pat says there is a fund for that and it is okay for Alex to fix/replace them. He notes that the big gate lock sticks sometimes. Allen will bring out some Silicone spray. Alex has the authority to fix items and submit a receipt to Allen. Kay says there might be one or two hoses in the shed. There are no nozzles. Joe found that brass nozzles are more durable and don't break, to be purchased at Amazon. Alex will talk to Joe.

C. Work Day Report, Pollinator Garden

Martha O'Rourke

Only six gardeners haven't reported doing any work days. 20 gardeners have started and need to finish. 56 gardeners have completed all work hours. Martha will do a work day on July 7, 9am-noon. Mary will send out a notice. Martha says that there are questions on native plants/non-native plants in the pollinator garden. We have a pollinator garden, but the plant type was not necessarily specified. The poppies are drying out and need to be cleared out now. Pat thinks the pollinator garden was a mess last year and we need to work to keep it looking good. Martha will contact Bill (pollinator garden chairperson) for the planting plan and bring it to the board. (Drought resistant and not necessarily native only). We can put a new label and call it drought resistant or just remove the sign. Martha will get back to Bill and find out what the plan is and bring it back to the board. Pat says it is a pollinator garden and not a native plant garden. Mary will contact the volunteers to let them know a plan will be in place soon for volunteer directions. Allen made a motion that we allow Martha to

develop and implement a plan and to spend up to \$200 to buy supplies for the pollinator garden. Second by Sally. Martha read the list of plants that are coming in October from the grant Mary Williams wrote for the MHCG. Passed unanimously.

D. Demonstration Beds/ Education

Pat Day

All demo beds being worked with 5 different people. Education- Classes are on the first Saturday of the month. We have been doing this for two years now. Sally has some yams that can be given out at the next class.

E. Equipment Maintenance, Inventory

Sally Casas

Joe will be bringing some supplies to update the shed. She will help Alex with the hoses.

F. Liaison to City of MH, grants

Joe Elliott

Chris Ghione with the City gave Joe a contact for getting three or four more “No Trespassing” signs. We will decide where to put them once he knows how many he will have. These are the plants we will receive in October from the grant Mary Williams wrote.

Garden - Central Coast

Anaphalis margaritacea (Pearly everlasting)

Asclepias californica (California milkweed)

Asclepias fascicularis (Narrowleaf milkweed)

Diplacus aurancus (Sticky monkeyflower)

Eriogonum fasciculatum (California buckwheat)

Monardella villosa (Coyotemint)

Penstemon heterophyllus (Foothill pernstemon)

Phacelia californica (California phacelia)

Stipa pulchra (Purple needlegrass)

Symphotrichum chilense (Pacific aster)

Solidago veluna ssp. californica (California Goldenrod)

TOTAL 36

G. Mulch, Pathways, Composting

Rob Holcomb (ab)

There is new horse manure. Mary suggests we need more gray fines. Allen suggests we have concrete pavers in the pathway for the gold fines area. We postponed this discussion on the gold fines pathways to the July meeting when Rob is in attendance.

H. Rodent Control, Soil

Daniel Armendariz

Rodents continue to be a problem- at least 25-30 pests. Daniel tried baking soda and cornmeal. He is watching to see what happens. Kay comments- this won't work in the wild. Kay called got gophers. For squirrels they use a bait that only kills small rodents. The big birds won't die from that amount of bait. They have to come out and see the holes and tunnels to give us an estimate. Two other chemicals kill the ground squirrels, but that will affect the birds that eat them so it is unsafe. The City fumigates at City parks. Daniel says it is a big, overwhelming issue and we need to get control of this. Allen asked if we paid the cost, when will the problem return. Kay says it would be the next fall when they return and thinks it will more more like \$750. to have Got Gophers come out for squirrels.

1) Mary made a motion that we call Got Gophers to come and survey the garden for the squirrel activity and to give us an estimate of the cost to start getting the squirrels under control and to let us know when the problem is likely to reoccur. Kay will make the call. Sally seconded the motion. Motion passed, one abstention.

2) Daniel made a motion to allow up to \$1000 toward rodent control and Kay will make the arrangements with Got Gophers. Kay will ask them to put bait stations outside of the garden plots. Second by Martha. Approved unanimously.

I. Board Member Selection, Correspondence

Mary Kellogg

The email notification that we are looking for an additional board member was printed and posted at the gates. There has been no reply as yet. There was communication with two gardeners who have taken charge of clearing out the four of the vacant plots for their work day time. Angel Agosto cleared plots 71 and 73 which are on either side of him. Allie Lopez took care of plots 45 and 46. The plants have been removed and Mary put cardboard over the pathway between plots 45 and 46. The next step will be to put wood chips spread over the cardboard. There has been email communication with 3 gardeners who continue to have problems with gopher and squirrel pests that need trapping. We are aware of a couple of more problem areas in addition to those.

Three gardeners replied to our open plots email and each has taken on an additional plot. One gardener of two plots gave up her plots because of not having time for gardening and her 90 year old father who originally was doing a lot of gardening was not coming over very much to do work. Three gardeners replied to help out with the Open House and their information was passed on to Sue. (Mary Williams, Chelsea Chambers, Tamara Bell) Board meeting information was sent out to all with a few extra messages about using water carefully, work day time still needed by some gardeners and extra weeding needed by all, gardener attendance and help needed for the Open House, and the first notice that we will be looking for plot owners to report to us on the value of the crops they produce for grant writing information.

J. VACANT: Marketing & Publicity

V. Unfinished Business

A. Pest Control Next Steps

(Discussed above)

Mary Kellogg, Discussion

B. Security Update- signs to post

Joe, Discussion

Postpone to July.

C. Next Grants Discussion

Joe, Discussion

Postpone to July

VI. New Business

A. Demonstration Bed Budget

Allen, Action

People have been working on those plots. Last year the board approved \$50 per bed. Daniel made a motion that for 2024 calendar year we allow \$40 per demo plot for maintaining each bed. Cover crop can be used during the winter months. Second by Mary. Allen says no, because he wants receipts obtained by Cindy to be paid, and not per bed, paid under "Special projects" 4 yes, 2 no motion passed.

B. Garbage and Recycling

Allen, Discussion/Action

Allen notes that the recycling cart misuse is a problem. Mary made a motion to eliminate using the blue recycling cart and just have two gray garbage carts at the fence by the big gate. Second by Allen. Approved unanimously.

VII. Next Meeting Agenda 7/23

Pat Day

artichoke plants, weeds in gold fines areas, pest control update, security update,

Pat will be out of town.

VIII. Adjournment

8:15 Pat Day