



Morgan Hill Community Garden Minutes Tue., September 24, 2024. 6:30 pm
LOCATION: MORGAN HILL COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL CENTER
Downtown at Monterey and Dunne Avenue in the Madrone Room.

Members: Vacant- President
Pat Day Vice-President 2025
Mary Kellogg Secretary 2026
ab-Bill Barnhart Treasurer 2026

ab-Martha O'Rourke Board Member 2025 Charles Beecroft Board Member 2026
ab-Alex Simpliciano Board Member 2025 Sally Casas Board Member 2026

I. Call Meeting To Order

6:32 pm Pat Day

II. Adopt Agenda/August Minutes

Pat Day, Action

Motion to accept agenda by Sally, second by Charlie. Passed

Motion to accept August minutes by Charlie, second by Sally. Passed

III. Announce passing of board member Rob Holcomb

Pat Day, Info

Rob passed award a couple of weeks ago. The family wants to have a small memorial at the garden. Sue V mentioned that he was so involved and a great board member. Mary noted that he had a wealth of knowledge and contributed many ideas to the garden.

IV. Hearing of Membership

Membership

Sue V mentioned that a wheelchair is still getting stuck in the gold fines pathways. She will try laying cardboard for now. She wanted to put a write up and photo about Mike Cox in the bulletin board. A Pop up from the Fleurs garden was used at our event. Henry Coe needs to use our pop up canopies and sharing and helping nonprofits would be beneficial to all. Daniel A thinks 18x30 tiles could work in the gold fines pathways. He suggested that gardeners could wear a color-coded name tags to identify people at garden. He is in favor of having a ballot vote.

V. Reports- Board Member Responsibilities Reporting as needed

A. Financial Reports (absent this month)

Bill Barnhart (out of town)

The financial report will be presented when Bill returns and in October at our next meeting as our new Treasurer, Bill Barnhart, is out of town until the end of September. He has a bill for office supplies.

B. Oversight Report

Alex Simpliciano (absent)

C. Work Day Report, Pollinator Garden

Martha O'Rourke (absent)

D. Demonstration Beds-

Pat Day

Harvesting potatoes will be a topic at the October 5 class, 10 am.

E. Equipment Maintenance, Inventory

Sally Casas

Sally worked on the shed theft report and damage to the main sheds and on the east side. She notified the police about the opening in the property boundary and let them know our City contact person is Chris. The officer interviewed gardeners who were witnesses. Shed hasps have been repaired with new locks. She was appreciative of Charlie who helped with the aftermath. Sally shared the inventory with him. Mary suggested that possibly we leave all tools at home and stop using locks to make it obvious we don't have anything important. (They did not want any of our tools or wheelbarrows.) Sally can come back to the board with suggestions from Chris and the police department. The new shelves in the gardening shed should be here in November and gardeners can help with the restructuring and cleaning out of the shed. Pat observed that there was some theft of vegetables- a watermelon and a loofah vegetable from the demonstration plot. Mary will send out a reminder that gardeners can only touch vegetables in their own plot and not other people's produce. Pat suggests greeting people at the garden to build more community so we know everyone better.

F. Liaison to City of MH, grants

Vacant

G. Mulch, Pathways, Composting

Vacant

Mary reported that Nick Benevento wants info about having his friend come and spread the piles of mulch at the garden like he did last year at a cost of \$600. Mary will contact Nick and ask his friend if he can come and how much he would charge this year.

H. Rodent Control

Mary Kellogg

Alfredo came last Thursday and found 3 dead gophers in plots 18, 59, and over by the little shed. He found a couple of flags out in the field that perhaps someone threw out there instead of leaving them alone in the plot. That could mean that their trap is still under the group in that plot. I told him I would send out a reminder to leave all flags and traps alone. The squirrel bait has not been touched much in the last two weeks meaning that the squirrel population is down. One plot had droppings of a larger animal, perhaps a cat or a raccoon, not gopher or squirrel. We do have rabbits running around which can be the pest nibbling at our zucchini. He suggested keeping up the service, because if we let up the pests will just return.

I. Board Member Selection, Correspondence

Mary Kellogg

Meeting dates- Tuesday, September 24; Preschool room; Wednesday, October 23, Diana Murphy Room; Wednesday, November 20, Poppy Jasper Room. 2025 meeting dates will be set for Wednesdays to arrange meeting room dates with the CCC.

Board candidate statements were received by the deadline from Martha O'Rourke for President (workday coordinator chairperson, City liaison), Mary Williams for VP (grant writing) Alex Simpliciano for regular position (Oversight), Lynn Kaminski for regular position (compost, manure, soil, mulch connections), and Cindy Wilde for a regular board position (pollinator garden chairperson). Numerous emails were sent out and received regarding new garden plot interest, pest control, work day hours needing to be completed, Open House communication, board volunteer interest, possible grant information, and Saturday class announcement.

Mary will send out candidate statements to the board in preparation for presenting the officer slate at the October meeting.

J. Marketing & Publicity

Charlie Beecroft

Charlie would like to set up an internal Facebook page for the garden, Only for members of the garden. Gardening tips, ideas, but not for people outside of the garden membership. Charlie would set it up. Mary will send out an email asking gardeners to sign up for the internal Facebook page with the info from Charlie.

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Open House Sept. 14 Review

Sue Villanueva

Pat thanked Sue for organizing the Open House. Sue noted that things went well. There were plant donations from Cal Color for kids' planting activity, and Booksmart printing of signs. There were various activities throughout the garden. Alex and Charlie were exceptional helpers with canopy and sign set up, vegetable grilling, etc. The pollinator garden table and seed saving tables were very popular. Five or six people got seeds to take and plant. We had more people participating and next year perhaps there will be more members participating, borrowing of items from other non-profits. Alex's grilling of vegetables was greatly appreciated.

Changes Sue would like to see would be to have just water, and no tea. A more definite work schedule with times and a sign in sheet. She would like to have gardener contact information to make that easier, perhaps putting that on the registration form. Publicity with more online methods, like Mamabear, and our own internal Facebook. Our event was a bit affected by the untimely death of three people in our community. Mike Cox, Marty Cheek, and Rich Firato. Allen suggested having a drawing for a free bed for a new member, but we didn't do that this year. Charlie suggests we write an article for the newspaper and then put our announcement in there. (Morgan Hill Times, Life) Sally suggests some members donate one thing that has to do with gardening (gloves, etc.) and have a drawing. Pat suggests changing the time to 9-1 and Mary W suggests food sharing.

B. Garden Policies/Bylaws revisions

Pat Day

A description of the residence requirements is being presented to vote on. There are a few previous revisions that were discussed previously. The Bylaws and Garden Policies with all of the changes will be voted on at the October meeting. New wording- A garden member will be 18 or older with priority to MH Residents. Mary made a motion to pass Pat's proposed new language for who can have a plot and MHCG to include those who are not Morgan Hill residents if space is available for MH residents and it will be on annual basis. Second by Sally. Passed

VII. New Business

A. Cover Crop Purchase for winter

Mary Kellogg

In years past, we have often purchased a supply of quality cover crop for gardeners to use to keep their plots covered for the winter. Mary made a motion to purchase an adequate quantity of seed to make it easy for gardeners to follow through with keeping their soil planted. Postpone till October.

B. Internal Facebook communication

Charlie Beecroft

C. Disposal of wire and lumber at MHCG

Mary Kellogg

We have various piles of wire and wood in the back east side of the garden. Some of the wire is shaped for tomato cages and many gardeners have those cages and keep them in their plots year-round. One pile of flat 8x8 inch square wire could be disposed of to a person who has use of that material. There are also various piles of lumber and rolled up fencing material that we have never used. Mary suggested we allow someone who needs some of that excess clutter to remove it from our lot. The board agreed that the pile is getting bigger and that would be fine.

D. Scout Project suggestions (cancel- no reply)

Mary Kellogg

E. Beehive at MHCG

Sally Casas

Sally did not get hold of the lady with the beehive. She will continue to do some research. She will report back in October. Pat suggested that planting African blue basil and sunflowers for bees is very effective and there are many bees with those plants.

F. Demo plot to MHUSD for community.

Sally Casas

service hours- Sally will work on that for October. 40 hours of community service.

VIII. Next Meeting Agenda 10/23 agenda

Mary Kellogg

Presentation of 2025-2027 slate of officers, Final 2025 Bylaws and Garden Policies revisions, bees, community service high school seniors, cover crop purchase (Agenda first meeting of new year- Open house/ Open house date)

IX. Adjournment at 8pm

Pat Day