



Morgan Hill Community Garden Minutes Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2025 6:30 pm
LOCATION: MORGAN HILL COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL CENTER
Downtown at Monterey and Dunne Avenue Madrone room

Members:

Martha O'Rourke-President 2027
Mary Williams- Vice Pres. 2027
Mary Kellogg Secretary 2026
Bill Barnhart Treasurer 2026

Lynn Kaminski Board Member 2027
Cindy Wilde. 2027
Alex Simpliciano Board Member 2027

Charles Beecroft Board Member 2026
Sally Casas Board Member 2026

I. Call Meeting To Order

6:30 pm Martha O'Rourke

II. Adopt Agenda and November Minutes

Martha, Action

Motion to accept agenda by Charlie, second by Bill. Passed unanimously.

Motion to accept minutes by Lynn, second Alex. Passed unanimously.

III. Hearing of Membership

Membership

Daniel Armendariz noticed that there were changes to not have the compost bin use. He offered to participate but doesn't want to manage it. He suggests the members cut branches down to 10 inches. His second thought was to make changes to the item processes as far as discussion and passing items. He wants to remove chemicals for pest control at the garden and suggests revisiting some decisions.

IV. Reports- Board Member Responsibilities Reporting as needed

A. Financial Reports

Bill Barnhart

*2025 year budget update

\$8,000 income so far from registration, usually \$11,000. \$2400 for rodent control this year.

Proposed budget- special projects can pay for plot repair issue

Motion to accept proposed budget by Mary, second by Charlie. Approved unanimously.

* 2025 Registration- 6 registrations outstanding, 10 reduced price plots in use. 18 open plots.

(5 potential new gardeners to send in registration soon)

*Current Financial report

Income- plot rentals in Jan. and Feb. \$8,263

Expenses- water \$145, PortaPotty \$138, Post office box for the year \$210, Rodent Control \$185

B. Oversight Report

Alex Simpliciano

Alex looked over plots after the rain and found lots of weeds, particularly in a couple of areas. A wheelbarrow in the back had been left out and collected water. He dumped it to not have mosquitoes and will move it. Plots with hoops broke down after the rain and needed tending by gardeners.

C. Work Day Report

Martha O'Rourke

Work day tasks were discussed, perhaps with a BBQ. Martha will set a schedule and Mary K will send it out.

Pollinator Garden

Cindy Wilde

Cindy said weeds have been managed over the last couple of years in the pollinator garden and there are fewer weeds this year. Pruning was done last fall. They were watering new plants planted in fall. Her question is if the ag cloth with drip system is functional and hasn't seen the drip system work. Specific plants that need water will be watered by hand or fix drip system. She suggests to water the perimeter area with a soaker hose but keep the center tree from getting too much water. Bill will help with drip system investigation. The new growth will need care. Pollinator garden committee has been contacted and invited to help out.

D. Demonstration Beds (see on agenda below) (Martha or no report)

E. Equipment Maintenance, Inventory

Sally Casas

No report. She is looking for assistance in organizing the second shed.

F. Liaison to City of MH, grants

Mary Williams

*The Our City Forest representative visited MHCG and prepared a free tree planting plan, mostly around the perimeter of the property. Drought tolerant trees would be provided with this grant and some can change to specifically native trees. OCF would spend 3 years to steward the trees with staking and pruning and will give classes on sustaining the trees. An idea was to use the green bags surrounding the tree for water drip. The project is free of charge for us.

*CalFire grant. Valley Verde 6 week classes on growing a variety of plants from different cultures. The project starts in October.

*Xeres has another grant- Pick up plants in October. MHCG would provide the care for these plants. (Xeres provided the new plants in the pollinator garden.)

Mary K made a motion that Mary W work on go forward with the Our City Forest grant details and commit to the map and receiving the trees. Second by Cindy. Approved.

G. Mulch, Cardboard, Pathways, Manure

Lynn Kaminski

Lynn has acquired more mulch and cardboard recently. She will continue to get the above materials as needed. We don't accept palm, eucalyptus, and ivy. We will need mulch in the pollinator garden on our next work day.

H. Rodent Control

Mary Kellogg

No gopher or squirrel activity was apparent on Thursday, February 20 and for the month before that. On Saturday, February 22, gopher mounds appeared. Got Gophers came out on Monday and put traps in plots 16 and 17. They want to know right away when gophers are spotted. The warmer weather and new plant growth are probably bringing them out.

I. Board Member Selection, Correspondence

Mary Kellogg

There has been correspondence regarding new interest in the garden (3 requests for plots in the past 2 days) and some communication with several gardeners about maintenance work that needed to be done in their plots. 2025 kick off newsletter ideas was sent to the board and you can reply to the email with your ideas. We are due for a gate and shed code change, but the board decided to wait until 2026 registration.

J. Marketing & Publicity

Charlie Beecroft

Charlie has put MHCG flyers out in various new locations, including Jamba Juice. He added info on Next Door, MH Facebook and in the City's MH announcements. He hopes to have MH Times print a story about MHCG. Frances has done publicity work and will help him out.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Plot Repair Schedule/workers/materials

Alex

Items to purchase: 5' vise, 2 x 4 lumber, screws, stakes, corner braces

We can use a lower cost clamp \$18, metal pole if needed \$27, screws, and \$100 for braces.

Bill made a motion to spend up to \$300 for plot repair supplies, second by Lynn. Approved.

B. Continuation of gardening classes/demo beds

Martha

Ideas for classes starting in April: Three Sisters Planting (Jenny, City's induction cooking van (perhaps in the summer with garden vegetables (August), oak tree trimming class with grant organization, Our City forest grant tree planting in April or May. More classes needed.

C. Gardening year dates

Mary K

The board decided to leave the gardening year dates as February 1-January 31. There will be no changes to the gardening year arrangements.

VI. New Business

A. Irrigation at garden and health of trees

Martha

Bill looked at irrigation system and it appears that it isn't working. Bill suggests we hand water, or research using water bags.

B. Design MHCG sign with address by street

Mary Kellogg

A sign is needed at the front of the garden possibly near the walnut tree to help people find our address better. (Garden name, email address, street address, website and Facebooks addresses) We will put it on the March agenda and possibly have it in place for an Open House in 2025.

~~C. Initial plans for entire garden property~~ ~~Sally Casas~~

Sally had to leave early, but we took initial steps to work on more of the property with the tree grant above.

VII. Next Meeting Agenda 3/26 agenda

Mary Kellogg

New tree grant progress from CalFire (plant in April or May), upcoming Xerces grant, Valley Verde grant for classes for fall or the following spring, gray fines cost and gold fines from Lynn, MHCG sign

VIII. Adjournment 8:06

Martha O'Rourke