



Morgan Hill Community Garden Minutes Wed., March. 26, 2025 6:30 pm
LOCATION: MORGAN HILL COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL CENTER
Downtown at Monterey and Dunne Avenue Diana Murphy room

Members:

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

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

Charles Beecroft Board Member 2026
Ab-Sally Casas Board Member 2026

I. Call Meeting To Order

6:30 pm Martha O'Rourke

II. Adopt Agenda and February Minutes

Martha, Action

Addition of clarification of city residences of non-Morgan Hill gardeners in VI. B.

Motion to accept agenda and minutes by Charlie, second by Alex. Approved unanimously.

III. Hearing of Membership

Membership

Daniel Armendariz noted he doesn't want items stored in the area next to his plot. He sees a problem with 3" space being unusable in plot. He doesn't like the agreement Line- some must give up some individuality. He thinks a cover over a garden should be allowed. MHCG should look into getting solar or something to feel safe after dark.

IV. Reports- Board Member Responsibilities Reporting as needed

Board members will make a report of their activities for the month for the board's information.

A. Financial Reports

Absent- Bill Barnhart

B. Oversight Report

Alex Sempliciano

Alex replaced garden hose holders today. He sent some photos and plot number info for some needed weeding.

C. Work Day Report/ Pollinator Garden

Martha O'Rourke/Cindy Wilde

On April 12 there will be a 9 am class and a weeding work day after that. Weeding will be in the front entrance. Mary W will contact the City about street side weeding. Cindy wants to spread mulch in the pollinator garden on April 12. Wheelbarrow workers and use of redwood fine chips is needed We could put on the white board tasks to do if you need independent work. Cindy suggests a tool outside the shed for easy access. Mary W suggests a yearly work day calendar. The entire pollinator garden is weeded for now. The drip system needs a timer and connector to the drip system. The committee will hand water for now.

D. Demonstration Beds (see on agenda below)

(Martha or no report)

E. Equipment Maintenance, Inventory

Sally Casas- Absent

F. Liaison to City of MH, grants

Mary Williams

Mary W communicated with Marissa at Our City Forest and various gardeners about their ideas. She put in an application to Xerces Society for the hedge row plants.

G. Mulch, Cardboard, Pathways, Manure

Lynn Kaminski

Lynn looked up gray fines. She found someone in Hollister (\$75 cubic square yard, but will deliver for free.)

Local sources were much more expensive. More fines are needed for the back of sheds and around the garden.

H. Rodent Control and Plot Repair

Mary Kellogg

Got Gophers has been catching one or two gophers each time they come out now (twice a month).

Gophers are being trapped with no poison and removed from our property by Got Gophers.

I. Board Member Selection, Correspondence

Mary Kellogg

We have had a number of inquiries about joining our garden, so there has been correspondence between them, me, Bill, Martha, and Mary W. An email was sent out to all people who previously requested plot information but didn't register. Several replied and registered, but if others are not heard from they will be considered not interested anymore and deleted from our email. We received an email from Leadership Morgan Hill. A representative will be coming out soon to look at their past project that was completed in 2020 to see if

any maintenance is needed, which includes the gazebo, tables and benches, children's fence, bench, and walkway, and the mural. There have been reminders from the Oversight Committee to numerous gardeners to come out and weed in their plots and in the pathways around their plots with a repeat email when not completed. Many gardeners have come and done some good work. Those that have needed plot repair have been communicated with and work has begun by Dana and Mary Kellogg. (Plots 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, so far). Some gardeners with special talents have been communicated with for special work day tasks, like creating the new sign at the street entrance, website and Facebook updates, IT help with garden email. Board meeting notification and new year 2025 information and reminders went out.

J. Marketing & Publicity

Charlie Beecroft

Charlie advertised the upcoming class MH Facebook, Morgan Hill events page, NextDoor ad, non garden members will be here.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Continuation of gardening classes/demo beds

Martha

Tentative: Apr- Three Sisters Planting, May-tree care and trimming?, June-Ask Sue V if she can do tomatoes, July-, Aug.-City's induction cooking van, Sept.-Share dishes Oct.- Fall garden maintenance, other?

Still to discuss- Demo Bed Use (April agenda)

B. Our City Forest CalFire- tree grant

Mary W., Action

OCF will have a crew to dig holes, advertised on EventBrite to MH, 3 people per tree. 28 trees. Gardeners are excited we are getting trees. Some wanted fruit trees, but we will not be planting and caring for fruit, and there was a concern about watering. Option- water bags (\$8 for a 20 gallon bag, 100 foot hose less than \$70 dollars..) Existing trees have drip. A concern is where is the water source. Mary W will ask Chris Ghione if the City has water piping info. Charlie will look at the drip system to determine if that could be used as an easier option.

C. Irrigation at garden and health of trees

Bill Absent-Discussion/Action

D. Design MHCG sign with address by street

Mary K

Info- Name, address, email address, Facebook, website info, QR code (Alex) image on it, 3 X 4 feet size. The garden name and address should be largest. (Info for Jeanie Frangos who is considering working on this.)

E. Gray/gold fines cost

Lynn, Action

(Discussed earlier in the meeting)

VI. New Business

A. Xerces grant

Mary W

The grant was submitted by Mary W and we will hear from them soon.

B. Garden Policies- non Morgan Hill residents

Mary Kellogg

We had a request from a San Jose resident for a plot because they were having a hard time getting in touch with San Jose Community Gardens. It was noted that the San Jose gardens might be full. Our Garden Policies state that priority will be given to Morgan Hill residents and we asked the City of Morgan Hill for permission to include San Martin and Gilroy people on a year-to-year basis if we do not have a wait list of Morgan Hill residents because they do not have community gardens in their cities. Mary W will ask Chris Ghione if MHUSD school district area or San Jose residents are okay to include with the same restrictions, allowing Morgan Hill residents in when the garden is full and having gardeners from other cities give up their plots.

VII. Next Meeting Agenda 4/23 agenda

Mary Kellogg

Open House June or July, September BBQ celebration, tree grant info in Mary W's report (maybe May), Unfinished action item for gray fines and water drip tubing and supplies.

VIII. Adjournment

8:02 Martha O'Rourke, Action Item