



Morgan Hill Community Garden Minutes Wednesday, May 28, 2025 6:30 pm
LOCATION: MORGAN HILL COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL CENTER
Downtown MH at Monterey and Dunne Avenue Diana Murphy room

Members:

Ab-Martha O'Rourke-President 2027 Lynn Kaminski Board Member 2027 Charles Beecroft Board Member 2026
Mary Williams- Vice Pres. 2027 Ab- Cindy Wilde. 2027 Sally Casas Board Member 2026
Mary Kellogg Secretary 2026 Alex Simpliciano Board Member 2027
Bill Barnhart Treasurer 2026

I. Call Meeting To Order

6:30 pm Mary Williams

II. Adopt Agenda and April Minutes

Mary W, Action

Charlie made a motion to adopt the agenda and the April minutes, with a second by Bill. Approved.

III. Hearing of Membership

Membership

Sherrie Wren wanted to address on Fiscal year and prorated fees when it comes up on the agenda.

Aju Kuriakose suggested registration be electronic. This has been added to the June agenda for discussion.

Surjit Singh communicated to a board member that he thought bougainvillea would be a good additions to the garden, but the board discussed that it is not a native plant to California. He also suggested a bee hive, which has been discussed several times over the years, but no bee keeper has wanted to come to our garden and manage the bees, and our garden is too windy and hot for a good honey bee environment. We have encouraged native bee structures.

IV. Reports- Board Member Responsibilities Reporting as needed

A. Financial Reports

Bill Barnhart

Income- \$325.00. Expenses- water \$210, Porta Potty \$138, Rodent Control \$360, Special Projects \$263
Current Bank Balance \$28,981

Mary made a motion to increase the Porta Potty cleaning to twice a month for the summer, with a second by Sally. Approved.

B. Oversight Report

Alex Simpliciano

Alex send an email with oversight infractions. Two concerns- One plot has Rosemary (a woody plant), and one plot has a trellis which needs to be inside the plot more. Next year perhaps it can be move to within plot. New policies discussion for the June agenda- no rosemary and no artichokes due to either being woody or growing too large to remove easily. Bill will take down old MH Community Garden sign. Leadership Morgan Hill should be taking down the mural with the sun damage.

C. Work Day Report No report

Martha O'Rourke- AB

D. Pollinator Garden Report No report

Cindy Wilde AB

E. Demonstration Beds No report

Martha O'Rourke

F. Equipment Maintenance, Inventory

Sally Casas

Kay volunteered to help Sally with the left shed clean up and Sally will contact her when she returns from vacation. Bill complimented Sally on the cleanup of the right shed. Sherrie has access to a laminating machine for signs about returning tools correctly.

G. Liaison to City of MH, grants

Mary Williams

15/24 trees from Our City Trees have been planted. There are 8 more to plant. Charlie did the irrigation system to the trees. Two trees are stressed. The Live Oak is fine, but Red Bud is not. She suggested making Bee Planet seed balls as an activity at a BBQ. Xerces hedge row plant grant is now available. She is looking at several other grants with various application deadlines.

H. Mulch, Cardboard, Pathways, Manure

Lynn Kaminski

Lynn says the gray fines were delivered and have all been used in the pathways. The ADA area needs pavers and not gravel to be useful for wheelchairs. The gold fines are not sturdy enough with the animals and weeds that

undermine the integrity of the soil. We would have to schedule that as a budget item for the future if we decide to do that project.

I. Rodent Control and Plot Repair

Mary Kellogg

Got Gophers has come several times and caught gophers and set more traps. Currently there are traps in 17, 32, 47 and 69. Plots 29, 40, and 92 have been repaired in April and May. The plots with the most plot damage have been fixed at this time. Other plots with minor issues are next.

J. ~~Board Member Selection~~, Correspondence

Mary Kellogg

There has been correspondence with potential new gardeners, Got Gophers with several gopher reports, and a problem with five bait boxes being damaged during City of MH weeding, Oversight Committee notifications went to several gardeners, website and Facebook updates to Betty and Michelle, AAUW Earth Day and Our City Trees volunteer coordination, and communication between gardeners and Master Gardeners for assistance.

K. Marketing & Publicity

Charlie Beecroft

Charlie mentioned distributing new flyers at the AAUW Earth Day booth. The MH Times came at the tree planting for garden information and is doing an article sometime in the future about the garden. We will distribute some more flyers, but not too many since we are down to only a few open plots. He will look into making the Internal Facebook easier to log into and having it be more of a tool for gardeners to share information.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Gardening classes

Mary K

Tentative Classes Update: Apr 12- Jenny: Three Sisters Planting, May 10-CalFire grant tree care & trimming, June and July- possible City food truck for induction cooking and pollinator plant class with the dates to be determined. Aug.-Garden party/share foods, September- "Three Sisters" planting progress, Oct Pat: Fall/Winter garden prep, Mark and Betty- PCV structure and winter growing, Last Year- Munch and Mulch (spread chips for winter). Other ideas discussed are using other Master Gardeners from our garden or the Master Gardener organization, using the Native Plant Society CNPS (Palo Alto). Sally will contact the City of Morgan Hill for the City truck availability. Bill was okay with doing a class on pollinator garden plants and will contact Cindy Wilde about that.

B. MHCG sign posting by street on bollards

Mary K

We had been discussing building a new sign at the street entrance of the garden to make it easier for visitors to find our location from the street. We used a canvas sign at the AAUW Earth Day Fair that has our name, but not our physical address. It was discussed through email that we could try to use the canvas sign and mount it to the yellow bollard posts by the walnut tree at the entrance to the garden. The board discussed getting a second canvas sign and mounting them on both sides of the fence at the corner near Railroad Avenue. We should request the type with slits for wind to pass through. Mary will contact Kay when she returns to discuss the cost, vendor, and sign details and get information for the June or July meeting.

C. Gray/gold fines purchase and use

Lynn, Action

The original gray fines were purchased and spread. Lynn requests money for purchase of another load of gray fines to work more on our unfinished pathways project. Charlie make a motion to approve the purchase of gray fines in the amount of \$490, with a second by Sally. Approved.

D. Solar lighting update

Lynn

Bill and Charlie reported that the light we were looking into is not available at Home Depot. Lynn will pick it up at Costco.

E. Tree Planting

Mary W

The soil is too hard for us to work with to plant the remaining trees. Mary K made a motion to approve \$200 to rent an auger to do the remaining work with damage coverage, with a second Charlie. Approved.

VI. New Business

A. Pro-rate fees revision, Fiscal year dates

Mary W

Bill suggests we do half-year prorated amounts for new gardeners instead of quarterly. Jan 31 to May 31 would be 100% yearly cost, June 1-Dec 31 would be 50% yearly cost. The fiscal and gardening year will be the same-

January 1 to December 31. Due will still need to be paid by January 31 each year. The motion was made to change the rate percentages and the gardening year dates by Bill, with a second by Charlie. Approved.

B. Garden Donation of a Moisture Meter

Alex has an extra moisture meter at home to donate to the garden so that our gardeners can use it to help conserve water and to water only when the meter says the plants need it.

Mary W made a motion to approve the donation to be placed in the shed, with a second by Sally. Approved.

VII. Next Meeting Agenda 6/25 agenda

Mary Kellogg

Electronic registration, additional woody plant and artichoke restrictions, schedule of classes, MHCG sign for the fence, planting of remaining 9 trees, grant suggestion ideas for future grants, water usage as a class.

VIII. Adjournment

8:00 Mary Williams