



Morgan Hill Community Garden Minutes Wednesday, July 23, 2025 6:30 pm
LOCATION: MORGAN HILL COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL CENTER
Downtown MH at Monterey and Dunne Avenue Diana Murphy room

Members:

Martha O'Rourke-President 2027	Lynn Kaminski Board Member 2027	Ab-Charles Beecroft Board Member 2026
Mary Williams- Vice Pres. 2027	Cindy Wilde. 2027	Ab-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 Martha O'Rourke

II. Adopt Agenda and June Minutes Martha, Action

Additions- South Valley Fleurs September 10 visit additional agenda item.

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

III. Hearing of Membership (no request) Membership

IV. Reports- Board Member Responsibilities Reporting as needed 6:36

A. Financial Reports Bill Barnhart

Income- \$33

Expenses- Total \$832

\$382 water bill, \$138 Porta Potty, \$72 website maintenance, \$185 rodent control, \$54 special project canvas address banner and cable ties for mounting.

Current Bank Balance \$26,462

Alex made a motion to accept the financial report, second by Lynn. Approved

B. Oversight Report Alex Simpliciano

Garden is thriving. Bindweed with emails sent out #20. Pathway weeds in 53, 54, 78.. Aggressive plants that need trimming will receive an email tomorrow. Repair needed in plot 13 where wood is lifting up. Plot 92 has wooden plank detaching.

C. Work Day Report Martha O'Rourke

16 gardeners have no work hours completed. 24 gardeners have completed all work hours. 38 gardeners have partially completed their hours. (78 total gardeners) There was a discussion on when to plan the next work day. Previous work days were not attended well. Much of the work hours have been completed independently. Our next work day will be in October combined with Pat's class day. Ideas for more independent jobs: Cindy W-watering needed in pollinator garden- Two hours per week.

D. Pollinator Garden Report Cindy Wilde

Watering volunteers are needed which takes about two hours per week, but less time if we have a crew that shares in the watering for the week. More wood chips needs to be spread. Jose installed bee house. There will be a bee house cleaning task once each summer.

E. Equipment Maintenance, Inventory Sally Casas- Absent

F. Liaison to City of MH, grants Mary Williams

A new grant opportunity is coming up starting on August 1. Ideas for grants: Signage for pollinator garden plants using laminator sheets with UV protection. Soil amendments to give away with a class. Irrigation materials for hedge row plants.

G. Mulch, Cardboard, Pathways, Manure Lynn Kaminski

Lots of mulch and cardboard is at the garden and a large pile of manure. Gray fines will come in August. Many work hour opportunities will be available spreading the gray fines.

H. Rodent Control and Plot 52 Repair plans Mary Kellogg

Trapping was successful in plots 21 and 31. Got Gophers was here on Monday, July 21. They will return in two weeks unless we call them with additional problems.

I Board Member Selection, Correspondence Mary Kellogg

It is time to think about the candidates for the November board election. That was mentioned at the Garden Social last Saturday. Open opportunities are Secretary (Mary), Treasurer (Bill), and two regular board positions (Charlie's and Sally's positions are up for election or reelection.) By September members should send

an email to the garden email stating they want to be considered for the positions. We will also send out a notification to all gardeners to reply if they are interested in being considered for a position on the board. For correspondence we have had the usual gopher and oversight emails, verification of work hours completed, agenda and minutes and Garden Social info to the membership. Emails went out notifying all members of the good work some gardeners have come and completed for us at the garden, and a request to do some volunteer work from a nonmember (on agenda below).

J. Marketing & Publicity

Charlie Beecroft-Absent

Internal Facebook QR code (password gardener) announced at Garden Social.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Gardening Classes Additions

Martha

New idea: water usage and using a moisture meter before watering reminder

Tentative Classes Update: Apr 12-Three Sisters Planting, May 10-CalFire grant tree care/trimming, June 28-Pollinator Work & info, July 19 Coffee Social “How Does Your Garden Grow?”, AUGUST- NO Class or work day. Sept 6.-**Sue V will come and talk about tomatoes and other gardening techniques. TBD She will send an email to the garden with details. 3 Sisters follow-up?**, Oct Pat: Fall/Winter garden prep, and Mark/Betty-PVC structure/winter growing, (materials handout, management requirements, information) Nov.-Munch and Mulch (spread chips for winter, winter weed control) Jan/Feb-trimming new trees.

B. MHCG sign at Railroad Ave. Update

Mary K

Both signs were mounted by Dana. The one with the address had to be placed farther down the fence and not at the corner because of fence damage. The original sign is at the corner on the north side. We'll see if the canvas signs hold up through the wind, rain, and sun for a permanent solution.

It was noticed after dark that the new solar light works very well. There is a low light on all of the time after dark, and when you walk by, it brightens up. There was a discussion about if we need light in additional areas, but the board decided against that since we don't garden after dark for safety reasons (Garden Policies) and the lights are just for monitoring intruders.

C. Large & Invasive Plant Restrictions, con't. Mary W

Additional plants were discussed to determine if they are or are not a problem plant like sage. Purple sage could go in the pollinator garden or perhaps a better location would be in the new hedge row on the north side of the garden. Pollinator plants are trimmed by Cindy W. We have an invasive Heavenly Tree, mostly in the field, that needs to be removed.

D. Electronic Registration

Bill, Discussion

Bill says he can accept an electronic form if a gardener scans it and emails it in as a pdf. We will look into revising our registration form for 2026.

VI. New Business

A. Demo plot future ideas

Mary K

Various ideas were discussed- renting out a small plot, keeping one as flowers, having an herb plot for all to use, or to just seed with flowers. Cindy Wilde would like to use one of the eight small plots for native wildflowers. People who need work day hours can volunteer to manage this area in the fall. Mary W says she likes having the plots there. We could put straw over them if no one takes them. Kay has sweet pea seeds that can be planted. Red poppies and potatoes were another possibility.

B. Non-plot owner Work Day Volunteer Request Mary K

A south valley high school resident asked to help out at the garden for community service hours. Bill will look into asking our insurance company about this. We need a process to include them. Perhaps a QR code for signing a waiver electronically. Mary will look for the insurance forms in the binder to scan and send to all board members.

C. Fleurs Visit to MHCG

Martha

The board approved the Fleurs request to visit MHCG on September 10.

VII. Next Meeting Agenda 8/27 agenda

Mary Kellogg

Insurance information for visiting volunteers, missed board meeting verbiage old policy versions, classes for the remainder of the year

