



Morgan Hill Community Garden Minutes Wednesday, Oct. 22, 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 Ab- 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 6:32 pm Martha O'Rourke

II. Adopt Agenda and September Minutes Martha O'Rourke

Motion to approve by Sally, second by Bill. Approved.

III. Hearing of Membership None Membership

IV. Reports- Board Member Responsibilities Reporting as needed

A. Financial Reports Bill Barnhart

Income- \$0. Expenses- water \$299, PortaPotty \$179, Rodent Control \$185, Insurance \$536

Total Bank Balance- \$23,169

Motion to accept by Mary K, second by Charlie. Approved

B. Oversight Committee Report Alex Simpliciano

Plot #58 has a Palmetto palm to remove. Plot #66 has weeds and other plants to trim. Plots 23-25 are overgrown and need clear pathways. Plots 96-97 are overgrown and need clear pathways. Next year the board needs to address bowing and warping wood in plots ADA 5 and 7, and in plot 92. Cardboard and mulch is needed in the center pathways behind the compost bins, between plots 48 and 32. The pollinator garden needs a hose hanger or mount.

C. Work Day Report Martha O'Rourke

A Work Day is scheduled this Saturday for hedge row plants. Bill needs a map of people leaving the garden and those who have not completed work hours and will not be offered registration forms in November. There are three people who have no work hours and who have not responded to emails. At this point they will not be offered registration for 2026. There are several who also need work hours, but have responded to work in the garden now and/or attend the October 25 hedge row planting work day. Three people who owed hours will not be registering for next year.

D. Pollinator Garden Report (no report) Cindy Wilde AB

E. Equipment Maintenance, Inventory Sally Casas

Sally will pick up clippers at Home Depot in November. Mary W will take care of that instead with the buckets she will be picking up for Saturday. Sally will ask Agustin about cutting bottom stems of her sage plant or transplant into the pollinator garden. Mary W will take a look at it also.

F. Liaison to City of MH, grants Mary Williams

On Oct 31 Mary will find out if we got a Rotary grant for labels for the pollinator garden. She picks up hedge row plants tomorrow (Thursday). She will plant the coyote bush first to start the planting row. She suggests purchasing a battery operated saw for the shed for future wooden plot repair. It was discussed that next year the garden could purchase the items needed for plot repair, but store it at a garden maintenance volunteer's home and not in our shed. New shed codes and gate codes will be done for January 1, 2026. Gardeners will receive the information by email.

G. Mulch, Cardboard, Pathways, Manure Lynn Kaminski- AB

Mary K commented that we need to get more gray fines for next year after the rains stop to finish up our pathway work. Mary W commented that we need to start Star Thistle weeding in the field in February to get it under control.

H. Rodent Control

Mary Kellogg

A gopher was caught in plot 87 and in the southeast side gray fines pathway. A new trap was placed in plot 83. Nick Benevento repaired his plot by replacing one wood side of his plot this month with help by Betty Jones.

I. Board Member Selection, Correspondence

Mary Kellogg

No replies from other garden members were received to be considered for the MHCG board selection in November. The existing board is being presented as the slate of officers for 2026 and 2027 as was mentioned at the board meeting last month.

Work day notices and calls went out to the five remaining gardeners who have not completed work hours. Two have done independent work to complete hours or will attend the October 25 hedge row planting. Two have not replied about the work and it is possible that they may not receive 2026 registration items.

Six gardeners replied that they will not be returning in 2026. One was due to health issues. Two moved out of the area. One did not have time for the gardening. One more was not interested in gardening at this time anymore. One gardener will be traveling extensively.

Mary Kellogg made a motion to offer a \$200 fee in lieu work hours per registration in addition to their \$125 per plot registration fee with a trial period for 2026. Second by Bill. Approved.

J. Marketing & Publicity

Charlie Beecroft

Charlie had the idea for having family gifts- The Gift of Gardening for December registration. That could be offered to the community to give a garden plot to someone.

V. Unfinished Business

A. 2026 MHCG Bylaws and Garden Policies Approval Mary K

The 2026 Bylaws and Garden Policies were sent out to the board and previously discussed and approved with each change at previous meetings.

Mary K made a motion to approve the bylaws and garden policies document changes effective 2026 that was discussed at the September meeting. Second by Sally. Approved

B. Insurance Procedures Form for Visiting Helpers Bill

The regular registration helper page will be used for nonmembers to help at the garden. They will sign a form and it will be placed in the file cabinet in the shed.

C. The slate of proposed officers presented last month was to be approved by the board. Martha made a motion to approve the slate of officers, second by Charlie. Approved.

VI. New Business

A. Disposal of Unused Items

Mary K

Thanks to Joe Elliott for taking a truck load of our wire items away. Recology recycling does not take these items. San Martin transfer station should take it. We heard from Recology that it would be an \$85 load. We think it is possible that a gardener's donated dump voucher could be used for a free load. This will be taken care of perhaps in the spring.

VII. Next Meeting Agenda February 25, 2026

Mary K

Gray fines purchase, registration update, classes and work day planning, disposal of old materials

VIII. Adjournment

Martha O'Rourke