



Morgan Hill Community Garden Agenda Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2026 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
Ab-Mary Williams- Vice Pres.2027	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

6:33 pm Martha O'Rourke

II. Adopt Agenda and February Minutes

Martha

Business License- 15 minutes. Also need to make arrangements for tree trimming class on Saturday, March 7. Charlie made a motion to accept the minutes and agenda, second by Sally. Approved unanimously.

III. Hearing of Membership

Membership - none

IV. Reports- Board Member Responsibilities Reporting as needed

Martha suggested that if anyone wants to change jobs, is can be brought up next month.

A. Financial Reports and 2026 budget

Bill Barnhart

2026 Budget was presented by Bill.

Monthly Report

Income- Gardening Fees: January \$7,578. February \$1, 562

Expenses- Building Supplies \$15, Water Bills (Jan. \$144, Feb. \$152), Porta Potty (Jan. \$179, Feb. \$189), P.O. Box Rental \$216, Rodent Control (Jan. \$185, Feb. \$185)

Total Bank Balance- \$28,031

Mary K made a motion to accept 2025 year end final budget numbers and the new budget for 2026. Second by Charlie. Approved unanimously.

B. Oversight Report

Alex Simpliciano

Alex noted that there are many weeds in the ADA area especially, but all over the garden. We can ask gardeners with weed whackers if they can come to tackle the large weeds. Manny already did that by Railroad Ave. Bill will chop weeds down in plots 11 and 12, but there will still be a lot more to be done after the gardeners left this plot without cleaning it up.

(Mary noted that Dana fixed raised corner of plot 46 which was just taken by the person with plot 45 for a second plot. Plots 27 and 29 with the same problem were also fixed. Mary weeded in vacated plots 28, 29, 45, and 46 and is still working on vacated plot 44. Frances Nance is working on cleaning up vacated plot 34 and the gray pathway around that plot.)

C. Work Day Report

Martha O'Rourke

There was little reply to our email about cleaning up weeding and cleaning up pathways. The March 7 tree trimming class can be a work day and a class. (Discuss below.)

March 7 tree trimming. Mary W will supply the information for Mary K to send out to the membership.

Another March 21 work day has been set to weed around the pollinator garden. 9 am to 11 am. (Beginning of spring!)

April work day. Set at the March meeting.

D. Pollinator Garden Report

Cindy Wilde

Cindy W pruned mostly everything last fall in the pollinator garden. She will do Ceanothus next. She removed some plants that were crowding the flannel bush and got new replacement plants. The pollinator garden is in good shape weed-wise, other than the pathway edges that still need work on the east, west, and south sides. She made a pruning guide and watering guide for the center of the pollinator garden and will do the same for the corners. For this year, we should look at our strategy for watering. Some volunteers did hand watering last year and were great at watering. Another option is irrigation in the pollinator garden in the future. The labeling of plants can happen this year. She will contact the people she had for watering to see if they want to continue with that work day job. The hose in the center garden needs replacing. Alex will take a look at it.

E. Equipment Maintenance, Inventory

Sally Casas

Sally will put up a clip board to see what tools gardeners think we need. Mary K will get three more weed cutter tools and the hedge clippers before the work day. Mary K will look into the items and costs. Cindy suggests getting Felco clippers at Johnson's for use only in the pollinator garden, to be kept in the left shed. Martha moved to approve \$300 for tools, sharpening items, and silicone before the work day. Second by Sally. Approved unanimously.

F. Liaison to City of MH, grants

Mary Williams

Liaison to City of MH, grants:

On February 4th I received an email from Mario Pichardo, MH Environmental Services Administrator. We were informed that the 5 year license to operate the Community Garden expired on December 31st. We were asked if there were any changes requested. I spoke with Mary Kellogg and we discussed requesting a 10 year agreement. Mario checked with Chris Ghione and 5 years is the maximum. After requesting proof of insurance the agreement was sent out on February 11 for signatures.

We received the grant funding from the Rotary Club, "Rotary is pleased to support your purchase of gardening supplies as noted in your application. A check will be mailed to you in the name of the tax entity (Morgan Hill Community Garden) that qualifies as either a 501c 3 or 701 c organization for a tax deduction in the amount of \$335 in the coming weeks. Please note that the following conditions for funding include:

- Participating in a short presentation about your organization and how the funds will be used
- Providing documentation of expenses used for the award; and
- Providing recognition of Rotary's support as noted in your application."

I will present a short presentation on March 25 when they announce the Grant recipients. **Prices have increased so I will need a bit more money for the purchases.**

Community Event Participation: I received a seed ball kit from the Planet Bee foundation. It also came with educational material that I can look through if there is an interest in MH event opportunities. I like the idea of having garden members run the booth but am willing to participate. The Art booth has a theme of outer space so not sure seed balls (bombs) would be suitable. They did send us a cute painted pot activity (a stencil would work well) with educational support on the topic of growing plants in outer space. The seed ball would work for Earth Day.

Let me know what you all decide, I can help with both.

Other:

Tree stewardship: I've been in contact with Marissa from Our City Forest and am looking for a date in early March for tree pruning instruction. I hope to hear back from her this week.

I've done a little **weeding** around the trees nearest to my plot and began weeding the hedgerow shrubs. There is still plenty of weeding to do when I return. Also, the pollinator plants need the seed heads removed down to new growth.

I have cleaned and painted the **owl boxes**. They still need to be straightened and lengthened. I have attached images of owl box poles at my sister's complex as an FYI.

Seed Packet donation: Jillian Schipper for Evergreen Supply donated packets of seeds that expired in 2025. She stated they were still viable for a few more years but she is unable to sell them. They have been labeled and placed in the shed. Lynn also wrote a note on the message board to inform members. (License to be updated. See below.)

Mary Williams:

I'm not sure if you caught the scheduling of tree trimming demonstration on March 7 with Our City Forest.

Also, URJENT grants are opening soon "Proposals submitted must be project-based or supply a material need for technology, resources, or equipment. If material or technology based, the request must be for one-time purchases." If anyone has an idea \$1500.00.

Possible project could be solar. Sally would like to see more lighting in the parking area. The board did not have suggestions for technology type items.

G. Mulch, Cardboard, Pathways, Manure (emailed) Lynn Kaminski

(Lynn will estimate what gray fines are needed for the March meeting if we can tell her from the February meeting how much to order and she will look to obtain the gray fines in April for after the rains stop, per board direction.) This business was postponed to the March meeting while we are weeding. **Possible idea for a grant- cement walkways around ADA area.** The gray and gold fines are not keeping the weeds out and we were discussing what other options we might have. **(Grant idea for Mary W)**

H. Rodent Control and shed codes

Mary Kellogg

A gopher was trapped by the entry door area last month. The shed codes were not changed due to having numerous businesses who have access to the Fisher Avenue area that would need to be notified and we haven't had problems with people entering through the gates who shouldn't. Discussion-
The board agrees to leave the codes as is for now.

I Board Member Selection, Correspondence

Mary Kellogg

We had potential new member correspondence and placement for four new members. One more gardener asked for forms this week. There was correspondence with the City of Morgan Hill regarding the business of updating the license and the documents were signed by Martha and Mary K and then taken over to the City offices. There was communication with gardeners who were late to register or pay fees and several are still outstanding even after numerous contacts where they said they were returning. The 2026 garden plot owner map is updated as people come and go. One gardener took advantage of the \$200 extra fee in lieu of work hours. One gardener vacated two overgrown plots with weedy pathways. Bill will start by using his power hedge clipper to mow down the weeds to control the spread of weed seeds. Another idea is to use other funds for cleaning up problems like this and this business will be postponed to March for the possible use of funds.

J. Marketing & Publicity

Charlie Beecroft

Charlie will put new signs up and on community pages for garden plots. He will advertise that we will be at the AAUW Earth Day event on April 25, or people could tour the garden at our March 21 work day.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Disposal of Unused Items- Postpone to March Martha

B. Pathway surfaces (contained in Lynne's above report) Postpone to March.

Gray fines for existing pathways and discussion of ADA cemented area.

VI. New Business

A. Updated MH Business License

Mary Kellogg

The board reviewed the details of the license that has been signed and approved. It was discussed that we need a garden manager and that will be discussed at the next meeting. For safety, we discussed getting a new first aid kit as ours is very old. If we have a community event or a fund raiser at the garden, we need to notify the City, perhaps by email. The documents says the Fisher Avenue is a public right-of-way and the garden cannot encroach on that road. We discussed asking if the City has the responsibility of repairing the road and getting rid of the chuck holes. We need to stay away from the Olin wells, which are noted on Exhibit C. We have a damaged fence on the Railroad Avenue side and are wondering who needs to be responsible for that repair. We can call the City to get that information. If there is property damage or theft, we need to notify the City. We have notified the Police Department in the past. This document needs to be updated at the end of 2030.

Get an updated first aid kit.

B. Community Event Participation

Mary Kellogg

1. Tree Trimming Class March 7. The board okay'd that work day. We are waiting to hear back from Our City Trees for more details and approval at their end.

2. March 21 Work Day- Community may tour the garden at that time. (9-11 am)

3. April Earth Day at CCC- ("day of" leader needed) Mary K out of town, but can make volunteer arrangements in advance. Sally possibly will be there. Someone will need to bring over tables and a canopy.

4. May 3 Sunday 1-4, City Art at the CCC- (Continue discussion next month)

Art a la carte

C. Work Days, Class Additions 2026

Martha, Action

March 7 class and notification after we hear from Our City Trees.

March 21 first day of spring work day, especially around the perimeter of the pollinator garden.

VII. Next Meeting Agenda 3/25 agenda

Mary K, Discussion

Tasks: weeds/start thistle removal/ fence repair, tool maintenance and sharpening. More disposal of unneeded materials. April 25 AAUW Earth Day participation with an activity for kids, pathway work and more gray fines discussion, future classes, volunteers for community events. Ask Lynne or others about using a truck for transporting the table and canopies. May 3 Art a la carte participation with possibly an activity for kids, Same board jobs as last year or switch it up? Continue discussion of the license document for manager, hazardous waste, Fisher Avenue repair, etc.,

VIII. Adjournment

7:55 Martha O'Rourke