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Morgan Hill Community Garden Minutes MONDAY, August 23, 2021 **6:30 pm**
LOCATION: MORGAN HILL COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL CENTER located downtown at Monterey and Dunne Ave.

Board Members:

John Jenkins	President 2023	Pat Day	Board Member. 2023
Mary Mansson	Vice-President 2023	Ab-Joe Elliott	Board Member 2023
Linda Sears	Treasurer 2022	Daniel Armendariz	Board Member 2022
Mary Kellogg	Secretary 2022	Allen Palmer	Board Member 2022
		Ab-Alex SImpliciano	Board Member 2023

- I. Call Meeting To Order 6:30 pm John Jenkins, President.
- II. Adopt Agenda and July Minutes John Jenkins, Action Item
Pat moved to adopt at the agenda and minutes, second by Allen, Approved.
- III. Hearing of Membership/Questions Membership Info Item
Sabrina and Teresa will speak later in the meeting.
- IV. Reports
- A. Financial Report Linda Sears, Information Item
Beginning Balance \$16,235.44 Ending Balance. \$15,232.38
Income: Plot rental of \$52.50 (prorated amount)
Expenses: Insurance \$230.00, CCC Room Rental through November \$72.00, Garden Supplies \$251.98 (Home Depot \$32.41, John Jenkins for 2 squirrel traps \$115.56 and \$104.01 cover crop seed) City of Morgan Hill Water for June and July \$250.79 x 2. Water use for July 2021 was 59 units and water use for last year July 2020 was 96 units. The Porta-Potty company has changed ownership and is now United and not NorCal. Linda will watch the bill for the our contracted NorCal discount. It should be \$193. Correction to Linda's Garden Plot update- All plots are rented. #99 is in the expansion garden. September 28, 2021 is the next meeting. Pat commented that we are in good shape with our budget this year and could end under budget. Allen thanked Linda for a good report.
Motion to approve by Mary M, second by Daniel. Approved.
- B. Oversight Committee Mary Kellogg, Information Item
Some general messages went out about trimming and maintaining plots and for the most part gardeners responded and fixed up their plots without receiving an Oversight notice. Six plot holders did receive notes about invasive weeds to remove, items in the walkway, or plants to cut back and trim. Most responded within a few days and corrected the problem. We are still finding some items in the recycling cart that do not belong there. It could be just one or two gardeners because the items are the same each time for the most part (food soiled plastic bags and latex gloves). Daniel donated the tall table for the Gazebo area. (Member comment: Sabrina interacts with ADA people and knows some of their needs due to circumstances such as back injuries. She recommends putting some Recology carts at the back of the shed for easier access.) Kay noted that we have extra carts that can be used for the ADA area.
Motion by Linda to approve report, second by Pat. Approved.
- C. Work Day Committee Kay Meyer, Information Item
Nine plot holders need to complete two hours still. Five plot holders still need to complete all four work hours. If work hours are not completed by November, they will receive an email from MHCG stating their plots won't be renewed for 2022 unless completed by December 31, 2021. Pat says people can

spread mulch to keep weeds down. Pat suggests using a front end loader to spread mulch and control the weeds. He will talk to Kay and Pat later about those details.

Motion by Pat to accept the report, second by Allen. Approved.

D. Garden Expansion

John Jenkins, Information Item

The new gardeners who have planted have gotten off to a good start. What is needed is to get more soil to add to blood meal and chicken manure. Can we get it free or do we have to buy it? We need an organic mix. John is not sure of the quality of City soil and doesn't know where it comes from when soil is removed from various areas. The garden supply money has some funds left. We would need 2 yards per bed, 10 yards total. The ADA area needs additional soil for the deep beds. Daniel agrees that we need to add some soil for new gardeners. He says Hollister Rockery may have a better price. John will call on that. Linda will go back and see what budget section the Sakata seed donation is located in. The City handled the Expansion money, but that has already been spent. Allen wants to know if the City can buy soil for us and get a better deal but John said no. We can fill new beds and the ADA beds half way with Garden soil and ask gardeners to add their other amendments and soils.

Motion to approve report by Mary K, second by Allen. Approved.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Plant Clipping Disposal

John Jenkins, Discussion

Plant disposal goes into compost bins, in-plot composting, or other methods if there is too much at the end of the summer growing season. The compost started to fill up with bug infested kale plants. Pat's class encouraged people to compost in place in the plot. John is still getting wire, rocks, other garbage in compost bin. Gardeners need to remove those items from their plants before putting into the compost. There are some tall plants this year, that grew tall unexpectedly, such as tall sunflowers. A message will go out at the beginning of the growing season next year asking gardeners to make garden plans considering the height of the plants. One or two here and there are okay, but a row in a plot of tall plants impacts the garden neighbor's need for sunlight. We will discourage mammoth sunflowers. The heads are very large and a lot of work for the composter to break apart into a reasonable size. Gardeners will be asked to be aware of varieties and height limit. Sunflower disposal- Please put in compost bins 1 and 2 and not our green yard waste cart due to the size of the plants.

B. Drought and Watering

John Jenkins, Discussion

We are doing well with our water use in comparison to last year. New gardeners don't have experience in how much to water and are being educated. Tomato plants need very little water once established and more gardeners are using the moisture meters that are located on the shed door to see if their plant really needs water at all on that day. New water nozzles will have water shut-off lever.

C. Grant Update. (tabled-no new info by SCC)

John Jenkins, Discussion

VI. New Business

A. Garden Policies 2022

Mary Kellogg, Discussion

Items to discuss and vote on for the 2022 Garden Policy revision at the September meeting:

- 1) Addition of gardening hours- *sunrise to sunset*. Watering- *omit reference to water timers*.
- 2) Revocation of plot due to Oversight notifications- *A gardener who receives three notices is subject to revocation of gardening privileges by the Morgan Hill Community Garden Board. (No reference to time frame, just 3 total as a member of MHCG)*
- 3) Limit of 10 lower-rate gardening fees (**approved already at the May 25, 2021 meeting**):
 - a) Opens up verification beyond PG&E CARE program- *Proof that the garden member qualifies for PG&E California Rates for Energy Program (CARE) or FERA program, low-income housing program, or other verified low-income program. The qualification document is required initially and with each subsequent yearly renewal.*
 - b) Cap low-income rates to 10 beds per year wording- *There is a limit of (10) reduced-fee plots available at any time maintain the amount needed to balance the MHCG budget.*
- 4) Gardening fee increase- There will be further discussion next month (September), but it was suggested by Allen and Pat to have a yearly dollar amount or percentage amount to cover yearly increases in costs. This would be instead of having a large increase in one year as we did last time.

5) Prorated fee schedule: *Gardeners who register after April 30 will pay a prorated gardening fee on a quarterly schedule set by the Treasurer of the Board. The rates will be rounded off to a reasonable dollar amount. (February-April 100%, May-July 75%, August-October 50%, November-January 25%)*

6) Recology area- *Please put bindweed or weeds with seeds in the gray garbage carts.*

7) Gardening fee refunds- Garden plots have been abandoned with a lot of work to get them ready for the next gardener. Plot fee refunds will not be given unless the plot is ready for the next gardener. *II. Plot Allocation, Registration and Fees. 15. Annual gardening fees are non-refundable unless the garden is re-rented to a new gardener. If the garden plot is re-rented, the refund can be prorated from the date of re-rental on a quarterly schedule set by the Treasurer of the Board. To be eligible for a refund, the original gardener needs to clear out the plot, leave it with 2" of necessary top soil, add mulch to the pathway, and leave the plot fully ready for the next gardener.*

8) Plot allocation limitation. We are currently still filling our beds with wait list people and do not have extra built beds for multiple plot allocation. We will not make a change to the Garden Policies at this time and will see how registration goes for 2022 before we bring it up again.

9) Prohibited Plants (**already approved at the May 25, 2021 meeting**)

IV. Gardening Guidelines. C. 1. Plot holders may grow vegetables, herbs, flowers, and fruits in their plot that are not toxic, illegal, noxious, or invasive. Plants that cannot be grown include, but are not limited to poison hemlock, poison oak, morning glory (bindweed), stinging nettles, marijuana, woody perennials, bamboo, ice plant, grapevines, and other plants as determined by the MHCG Board. Spreading plants such as mint, oregano, dill, some spreading berries and cactus need to be planted in a solid bottom pot. Plants that consume large amounts of water are not permitted.

10) ADA verification. We will leave the wording as is without any verification statement.

B. ADA area projects

John Jenkins, Discussion

More details for this item will be tabled to the September meeting. For now, we will start with putting some Recology carts in ADA area next to the ADA gate for easier access. Next month we can discuss completing the ADA area tool cabinet, and other ideas from ADA area gardeners.

C. November 2021 Election

John Jenkins, Discussion

Before the September meeting Mary K will send out an email asking plot holders for volunteers to be on the ballot. They will reply with a short statement about their reasons or qualifications for wanting to be on the Board. At the October meeting we will announce the slate of officers for the ballot, and on November 16 we will have our Election meeting. Voting options are: send in an email ballot, drop off a ballot in the suggestion box, or bring a ballot to the November meeting on the day of the election. Ballots need to have the plot number on the back to ensure only one vote per plot holder. Care will be taken by multiple people who tally votes to not identify a voter to a particular ballot selection.

D. Agenda Items for September

Mary Kellogg, Discussion

Reports, Drought and Watering, Approve Garden Policies 2022/ possible fee increase, ADA area project progress, November Election, grant update, possible small business scholarships for a fundraiser.

E. Membership Comments:

Teresa commented that using the moisture meter has helped her a lot in knowing how much to water. She will touch up the mural soon. For a fundraiser she can hold art classes at the garden and donate the funds to the garden. She volunteers to make tortillas for a BBQ (after COVID). She thanked the garden members for their patience and with helping her learn how to garden. She thanked the garden volunteers for their hard work. She would like to see a collection of foods and recipes by garden members. Sabrina commented that she listens to other ADA members and has information about their needs. She commented that not all disabled people use the DMV placard for verification. Sabrina can offer ideas as we go forward with how to improve the ADA area. (Board discussion during the Garden Policies Revision agenda item was to not require that verification in the future.)

VII. Adjournment

8:25 John Jenkins, Action Item