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Morgan Hill Community Garden Agenda Tuesday, May 24, 2022
6:00 Q & A Session with Chris Ghione from City of MH. 6:30 Regular Meeting

LOCATION: MORGAN HILL COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL CENTER
Downtown at Monterey and Dunne Avenue in the Madrone Room.

Members:

John Jenkins	President 2023	Pat Day	Board Member. 2023
Mary Mansson	Vice-President 2023	Ab-Joe Elliott	Board Member 2023
Allen Palmer	Treasurer 2024	Daniel Armendariz	Board Member 2024
Mary Kellogg	Secretary 2024	Alex Smpliciano	Board Member 2023
		Martha O'Rourke	Board Member 2024

****Special Session with City 6:00 John Jenkins, Discussion/Action**

There was a question and answer session with the City of Morgan Hill regarding garden issues and projects. Chris Ghione-

Lease information: Currently we have a 5 year lease with City (or license). The City is open to renewing or extending it soon. A longer term is okay and we might event have that already with our Open Space Authority documents. City of Morgan Hill responsibility to us: They gave us the property to garden on. The City can help us with grants (letters of support and with giving us contacts for grant opportunities. We need large weed-whacking and tractor work done which is a larger job than we can handle. Chris notes this is not a likely grant opportunity. We have wanted to reduce out water pipe size to help reduce out water bill. Our water pipe source is too large (2" line to meter) and we can't drop down to 1". That is too expensive of a job and it would take years to recoup that cost from lower water fees. Our large weedy area is a fire hazard. Chris will go back to the City and see if there is an opportunity to do weed abatement (fire hazard). The road coming into the garden needs repair and perhaps we can get City help when other such work is being done in the area. There might be a grant opportunity for building the back roadway. We more likely might get money for a for new road than for road repair. We will put gravel pathway on our list of garden job priorities. There could be many Community Garden grant opportunities. The City uses grindings which is not as good as our gravel. A new road should last a long time if it is resealed regularly. Recycled rubber is sometimes used. We need to weed about 1 1/2 acres. It needs mowing once or twice a year. Chris will look at the schedule to see if that can be handled with other parks maintenance since our garden under the Pubic Services division, in the parks category. We will put together a list of jobs that need to be done around the garden and they can help look for grants, perhaps with matching funds by City or Garden. Morgan Hill has fewer City staff per capita than other cities in the county. We are the least taxed city in county due to election tax measures not passing so we have limited staff and services options. The City's budget priority is public safety. The new fire station where the old garden was will be built in 2023/2024. The City pays our garbage bill. We are a park. They have access to grant opportunities. We need to make a project list with him, expand our lease to 99 years to go along with the Open Space Authority agreement. We plan to contact OSA for grant possibilities for maintenance, with City contacts.

Regular Meeting Agenda

I. Call Meeting To Order 6:33 pm John Jenkins, President

II. Adopt Agenda/April Minutes John Jenkins, Action

A motion to adopt the agenda and to approve the April minutes was made by Daniel, with a second by Allen. Approved unanimously.

III. Hearing of Membership/Questions Membership, Info Item
No members in attendance. Kay will talk on gravel item.

IV. Reports

A. Financial Report

Allen Palmer, Action

Income: \$500 a grant from CommonWealth, \$345 plot fees for 4 new gardeners @ \$86.25 (3/4 of the year price), \$806 T-shirt fundraiser. Thanks to Mary Mansson for her wonderful fundraising idea.

Outgoing: \$158 Plot refunds (1 gardener left us and one new gardener overpaid) \$46.55 for Building and gardening supplies-locks and stakes. Water bill- \$147.81 (60% less water usage than this month last year.

Current balance \$23,999.41

Mary M made a motion to accept the report, with a second by Pat . Approved unanimously.

B. Oversight Committee

Mary Kellogg, Action Item

Eight gardeners were talked to personally or received a reminder email regarding minor violations to fix up and most took care of the issue immediately. One gardener received an Oversight #1 email because the plot has not been tended for a while and has not been replanted for the new season. The gardener also received a phone call when there wasn't a reply, since sometimes our emails wind up in junk mail. Almost all gardeners have taken care of the issues promptly. The Oversight Committee has been trying to be consistent with asking all gardeners to follow the same guidelines so there isn't any confusion about how policies need to be followed and so it doesn't look like some gardeners are being allowed to get by without following the policies as intended in the Garden Policies. Most often the issues are with leaving personal items and work materials in the walkways and with not trimming plants enough, allowing the plants to grow over the plot edge boundaries. The garden looks good now.

John noted that there are still plots around the garden with mint (invasive plant) that has not been placed in pots. He suggests that maybe we can acquire some pots.

Allen made to approve the report by Allen, with a second by Daniel. Approved unanimously.

C. Work Day Committee

Kay Meyer, Action Item

13 people attended the last work day last workday. A lot of weeding was completed and the garden appearance improved a lot. The tables and benches were refinished by Luis Lopez. People can continue to remove weeds for summer work hours. Mary Kellogg noted that a thank you email went out for the above work and gave all gardeners the work day information for June, July, and September so gardeners can plan appropriately to get their four hours completed by September.

30 gardeners have completed all required work days, 18 have completed one work day, 20 gardeners have completed none of their work day requirements.

Next jobs: wood chip pathways. Weeds in pollinator garden, plot numbers, sign for bee habitats.

Motion to approve report by Allen, second by Mary M. Approved unanimously.

V. Unfinished Business- Joe not able to attend meeting (tabled)

A. Native Bee Habitat Project Joe Elliott, Action Item

B. Grants

John Jenkins

Santa Clara County grant- \$5,000. COVID money.

John identified that we could use \$2,000 towards website update, \$1000 for Pat's classes (maybe wood plot building class with materials, etc), perhaps \$2000 for the purchase of pathway gravel, as well as some other items. We will get it in June or July. John needs to find out what kind on reporting needs to be done and how they will monitor the spending. Allen will keep those receipts in a file. Perhaps some of the money can be put towards a shut off valve on our water meter.

C. Gravel Pathways Work

Palmer/Armendariz Disc/Action

Daniel says we should wait to see if Chris gets City workers to help with some of our maintenance materials and tasks. We will ask Chris for solution to some these garden problems. Allen will call the City of SJ gardens about their method of maintenance. Pat says wood chips and leaves are natural and we can fairly easily spread that if we choose that over gravel. We will check our Garden Policies to see if the membership is responsible for the pathways.

E. Transition President

Mary Mansson, Discussion

John has been writing out instructions for future people to take over the various garden jobs he has done and his contacts . He will be giving Mary K and Mary M the documents. Some info needed: grants, compost, soils, plot builder. Mary M asks if anyone wants to be president starting in July when John leaves. No one on the board volunteered but felt that someone would come forward when we are closer to that time. Our garden might need to be run with the help of more garden membership committees: Compost committee, expertise on plants and pests, grant writers. We can share this info with gardeners at June get-together.

The VP can be president until the November election or until Feb 1, 2023. We will prioritize the most important jobs and ask for committees and helpers to take on tasks as needed..

F. Garden use. No rules will be adjusted for this topic.

VI. New Business

A. Five-year Plan

John Jenkins, Discussion

We have space for 30 more wattle plots, but we discussed that we might not have the volunteer staff to maintain this. Allen wants a special meeting for starting these plans. We discussed the idea of having an orchard area in pollinator garden. The original blueprints are in the file in the equipment shed for reference. Some of the big tasks on our list are repairs, replacing current beds, wattles use, purpose of the remainder of the land, the City's role, pollinator garden committee and planning, road repair, webpage update, etc. Kay will manage the pollinator garden and get work days helpers to complete the weeding, removal of poppy plants, and more wood chips. Board members are to email Allen with our areas of concern for the June meeting and we will restrict the meeting to the 5-year plan topic, aside from minutes and financial report.

B. June MHCG Social

Mary Kellogg, Discussion

We are due for a get-together, We can discuss future garden plans, have a meet and greet, bring your own picnic lunch, sign up charts for special committees, chart of gardener special talents to share, etc. June 11, 11:00.

C. Additional item- plot 100 to Girl Scouts for this year.

Since this plot is not in use next to the Scouts, Allen suggests that we help them prepare this soil and plant something easy like melons. Allen requests \$250 to rebuild that plot with wood during our Bed-making class made possible with the grant and help them with the gardening instruction.

Daniel made the motion to approve, Pat second. Approved unanimously.

When the time comes, we will send out an email asking for garden members to help with the building of future beds. Joe can pick up the wood with his truck (offered by John). We might need some hardware. The Girl Scouts could add soil and put in melon plants. The leaders can receive gardening instructions for the group.

C. Agenda Items for June

John Jenkins, Discussion

Special meeting to just Approve the minutes and Financial report, and to discuss our 5-year plan

VII. Adjournment regular meeting 8:00 John Jenkins