



P. O. Box 1862, Morgan Hill, CA 95038
info@mhcommunitygarden.org,
www.mhcommunitygarden.org

Morgan Hill Community Garden Minutes Tuesday, March 22, 2022 6:30 pm Zoom Meeting

Board Members:

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

I. Meeting called to order

6:31 by John Jenkins

II. Approve February Minutes and the March agenda.

John Jenkins, Action Item.

III. Membership/Questions

No membership in attendance for comments.

Membership, Info Item.

IV. Reports

A. Financial Report

Allen Palmer, Action

1. March has been a quiet month, the \$86 refund was John putting something on the credit and then returning it. I show it because it appears as two entries on the bank statement. The usual Porta Potty bill has gone up a few dollars. They said it would. The water bill had a reduction in last month's usage compared to last year. The greatest expense was \$610.09 for 18 wattles about \$34/each (John can speak further on this) and \$76.38 for vinegar which is used to kill the weeds. Kay, Rob and crew handled that job. **Current bank balance: \$23,132**

2. Two plots were sold and filing fees for State \$25 Non-profit was sent in. Allen had to update these forms. Allen mentioned how many forms are necessary for keeping up with the State and Federal Govt.

Motion to accept the report by Joe, second by Alex. Approved unanimously.

B. Oversight Committee

Mary Kellogg, Action Item

1. Mary's report was emailed out as she is out of town: *The Oversight Committee and John looked over the plots to see how our garden is doing. A couple of messages have gone out for all gardeners to take a look at their plots and plot pathways to remove weeds and other plants that should not be growing there. It looks like there is still a lot of work to be done around many plots. Individual reminders can go out if it is not taken care of soon. There had been complaints about one gardener who had many unsightly items in the plot and pathways, as well as plants that needed to be trimmed back. That gardener was contacted and met with. The plot has improved quite a bit and we are continuing to monitor the area. A second email went out to another gardener that needs to keep items inside the plot boundary and remove plants that are growing outside of the wooden plot edge. There has not yet been a reply or work done so we will monitor that to see that the work gets done in March.*

Motion to accept the report accept by Joe, second by Allen. Approved unanimously.

2. The Board further discussed the action that needs to be taken with gardeners who do not willingly comply with garden policies and receive multiple emails regarding garden policy infractions. There are only a couple of repeat problems. The decision was to start sending out eviction notices. One garden plot will receive an eviction notice this month and a second one will be monitored.

C. Work Day Committee

Kay Meyer, Action Item

There have been three days. The last two had 11 people in attendance. We have worked on mounds for native bees, painted numbers for plot numbering signs, applied vinegar on the weeds, and put wood chips and cardboard in the pathways, Still to be done are refurbishing tables and benches. John will get supplies for the refinishing.

Motion to accept the report by Mary M, with a second by Martha. Approved unanimously.

D. Garden Expansion

John Jenkins, Action

John reports that people want a second layer of wattles as the original has shrunk. John got a pallet of them from Home Depot. Most of them are done. John needs to cut rebar and pound it in to hold the wattles. We are now up to bed #110. He is holding off building further beds until there is more demand for plots.

Allen commented that the \$140 for wattle material cost for a garden bed lasts two seasons. Wood is \$250/bed and lasts 10 years. It may be more economical to go with wood in the long run. John pointed out that gravel and wood expansion are very expensive projects.

Allen wants to have a special long-term planning session. Other board members would like to cover it in our standing meetings. We will start discussing and putting together a 5 year plan in the next meeting. We will begin in the next meeting by setting up an outline.

Project Ideas: Contact our Mayor/City Council about asphalt for Fisher road. Come up with proposal of what we want from the city and have a meeting with the City attending.

Motion to accept the report accept by Joe, second by Allen. Approved unanimously.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Native Bee Habitat Project

Joe Elliott, Information Item

Joe is going to start with two bee mounds. Kay's work team mounded up dirt and dug out clay in the south side and put in sandy loam. Joe put in a post and install the bee house. We may not get mason bees because of lack of mud. Leaf cutter bees like the house and have used it for reproduction. These are non-aggressive bees. Joe is going to make more simple bee houses. Joe is going to see if he can buy the mason bee house insert. Joe will clean and sanitize the houses annually. Bamboo drinking straws are also an inexpensive solution. He drilled out a thick wood branch and installed the bamboo straws he bought on Amazon. We can use bamboo canes, too. We could attach the wood branches to the trees with simple installation. Carpenter bees like holes in redwood fencing. Joe is going to use his \$100 for a kit and see how much it costs. He will ideally make 10 kits and bring them to a work day to assemble.

B. Fundraising

John Jenkins, Information Item

1. T-shirts (Mary Mansson)

Fatigue Green and Navy colors were chosen. The price is \$23.00 and gardeners will order off the fundraiser website. Mary will set up the campaign immediately and we will run it through April 16th after Pat's classes. Mary M will make a flyer to put up in the garden and for Pat to hand out.

2. Grant Discussion (description of infrastructure items, advertising, etc).

The City grant for events is not "let" until June or July and is for 2023. We will return to this.

3. Commonwealth Credit Union Charitable Gift (John Jenkins)

CWCU has \$1000 grant available. CWCU has received the proposal but we won't know if we will receive the grant until next month. John applied for the new website but the grant is not for specific project and the money if received can be used for anything.

C. Gravel Pathways Work

We need 100 tons of gravel. Price info: USaveRockery: 3/4 0 with the fines. Gravel \$3400 recycled base - \$5400 new base. Need tip and spread base. Granite Rock in RWC is giving away free base rock but we need a truck that can tip and spread and need to be able to move once the bed is elevated. \$1500/day rental for a truck from 23 Trucking - they could do 4 or 5 loads in a day. Allen Palmer will call Granite Rock. Allen will finish research and send out email to the board and do an email vote.

D. Main Water Valve Shut-off (John Jenkins)

We need to put a brass safety setting so it will turn off at sundown and back at sunrise. We need to find a plumber to get the estimate. Pat made a motion to authorize John up to \$500.

Motion to allow the use of up to \$500 by Pat, second by Allen. Approved unanimously.

VI. New Business

A. Upcoming Classes

Pat Day, Information Item

April 2nd & 9th, 10-11 am: basic gardening class. There will be a different class each day. A reminder was sent out today and publicized on Nextdoor and Visit Morgan Hill events. April 2nd is a workday. Volunteers can get credit for assisting with class set up. Pat has started broccoli plants. He will cover succession planting and watering. It will be held under the gazebo. Kay will clean and set up the benches with the workday crew before the event.

B. Security

Mary Kellogg, Discussion

Tabled for next time.

C. Agenda Items for April 26 Mary Kellogg, Discussion, 5 min.

We will develop an outline of the topics for the 5 year plan, Start discussion of capacity for number of beds

VII. Adjournment 8:25

John Jenkins