



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

Morgan Hill Community Garden Minutes Tuesday, September 28, 2021 6:30 pm
LOCATION: MORGAN HILL COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL CENTER
Monterey and Dunne Ave.-Madrone Room. (Held outside because the building was locked up)

Board Members:

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

I. Call Meeting To Order 6:34 pm John Jenkins, President.

II. Adopt Agenda and August Minutes John Jenkins, Action Item

New Business change to postpone the fundraising item.

Motion to approve by Allen and second by Joe. Approved unanimously.

III. Hearing of Membership/Questions Membership Info Item

No comments from the membership.

IV. Reports

A. Financial Report Linda Sears, Info Item

Aug 24-Sep 28 Beginning Balance: \$15,232.38 Ending Balance: \$16,208.26

Income: 2 pro-rated rentals \$105, SCC Donation \$2,000, Home Depot Refund \$4.33

Total of \$2,109.33

Expenses: Insurance \$116.57, PortaPotty 3 months due to change of company \$580.95, Office Supplies (Walmart checks) \$14.27, Garden Supplies Home Depot \$176.29, Water Bill \$245.37 (Water usage: Aug 2020 85 units, Aug 2021 57 units)

Comments: Shrinking water usage is great. SCC donation of \$2000 added to garden general fund. We are within our budget. Linda will check to see if the CCC will be open to have a meeting room for the next two months.

Motion to approve by Pat, Daniel. Approved unanimously.

B. Oversight Committee Mary Kellogg, Info Item

The garden is transitioning from summer to fall. Gardeners are starting to remove summer plants, but have some late tomatoes and zucchini still ripening. We have contacted one gardener about not tending the plot or harvesting many of the vegetables and that gardener has made the commitment to replant in October and stay on top of the gardening. Another gardener who has not tended their plot recently has decided to give up the plot and will clean it out for the next gardeners in October. A third gardener has cut back the plants to the plot edge. John says garden looks great and tidy. Motion to approve by Mary, second by Linda. Approved unanimously.

C. Work Day Committee Kay Meyer, Info Item

Four gardeners have completed no work days, but one is leaving the garden and two are doing work on their own as arranged with Kay. Just one gardener has not responded or completed any work days. Three gardeners need one more work day. There will be a work day this Friday morning 9:30-11:30. There will be mulch to spread and various other tasks. Kay will give John the names of the gardeners who have not completed their work time.

Motion to approve by Joe, second by Allen. Approved unanimously.

D. Garden Expansion

John Jenkins, Info

Plots #99-107 in the expansion area are done. Soil was donated for free. John will put in a new hose riser/ spicket between 99 and 100.

Motion to approve by Pat, second by Linda. Approved unanimously.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Fee Schedule 2022

John Jenkins, Discussion

Allen made a motion to raise the fees by \$10.00 to \$115.00 per 100 sq. foot plot per year since everything goes up yearly. We are just balancing our budget with our current income. Second by Pat. Discussion: Daniel is against mandatory annual increases if it isn't a shortfall yet. He is opposed to the fee increase unless it is warranted. John says part of it is donations inflating our budget. Alex says we need to get ahead of the game with inflation. Allen explained that costs in each item in our budget will probably increase next year and Linda says water costs will probably increase.

The vote was taken and the fee increase was approved unanimously.

B. Garden Policies/Bylaws 2022

Mary Kellogg, Action

The Garden Bylaws remain the same with the only change being changing to 2022. With the addition of the fee increase, the rest of the Garden Policies were approved as discussed and voted on at previous meetings.

Here are the changes:

- 1) 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) Wait list to be managed by representatives from the Board.
- 4) Lower rate scholarship program-
 - 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) There is a limit of (10) reduced-fee plots available at any time maintain the amount needed to balance the MHCG budget.
- 5) Gardening fee increase- Gardening fees for 2022 will be \$115.00 per 100 square foot plot.
- 6) 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. Rates are rounded off to a reasonable dollar amount. (Feb-April 100%, May-July 75%, Aug-October 50%, November- January 25%)
- 7) Recology area- Please put bindweed or weeds with seeds in the gray garbage carts.
- 8) Gardening fee refunds-

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 pro-rated 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.

9) 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.

10) Prohibited Plants

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.

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

Pat made a motion to approve the 2022 Garden Policies and Bylaws as stated in the email, and second by Allen. Approved unanimously.

C. Grant Update

John Jenkins, Discussion

\$2000 was sent to our account by Santa Clara County. The agreement is that we spend the money within 30 days. The money goes toward what is in the grant. Some items in the grant were: solar motion sensor on the sheds. 4 new wheelbarrows since ours are worn out, a storage shed for the back area for wire storage and to have supplies closer at the other end of the expansion garden, more hoses. We keep all original receipts and invoices for 7 years to show proof of expenditures if asked for. Pat said well done. John and Linda will keep a record for this grant in a separate category for easy reference. A second grant is possible from Sakata Seeds. There are no specifications, so perhaps we will write a grant for \$1000. John suggests using some for scholarship fund in our budget to offset the scholarship costs. It would be a budget category that could add to by other organizations.

D. Drought and Watering

John Jenkins, Discussion

John says our gardeners are doing good job of conserving water.

E. ADA area projects

John Jenkins, Discussion

A gray garbage cart has been placed next to the Porta Potty so ADA gardeners won't have to walk across the gravel area. Plots 1-8 will be encouraged to mulch in place in their plots so they don't have to transport clippings to the yard waste carts or the compost bins. If needed in the future, Kay suggested ADA plots (and no others) be allowed to toss green yard waste in the weeded area to the west side of their plots. She would spread the cuttings over weeds or move the piles to the compost bins 1 and 2. There isn't much recycling, so a cart is not needed at this time. Helping ADA gardeners with moving soil is still needed. A suggestion by Pat was to also use a Demonstration bed for an ADA compost bin that is near their plots. We need a system for how to request help with physically difficult jobs if needed.

F. November 2021 Election

John Jenkins, Discussion

At this time we have only received notification that Allen Palmer will run for Treasurer and Mary Kellogg will run to continue being Secretary. We don't need to replace Allen with a new regular Board member because we will still have the correct number of Board members with 8 members. Daniel Armendariz will be on the ballot again for a regular Board position. We can have 4-9 members. The November Board meeting will be earlier in the month because of the Thanksgiving week, so we will send the ballot out on October 16 with voting instructions so garden plot holders will have a month to return their ballots.

VI. New Business

A. Small Business Fundraiser John Jenkins, Discussion

Tabled to another meeting as we are looking at other fundraiser items also.

B. Agenda Items for October Mary Kellogg, Discussion, 5 min.

Drought and Watering, November Election final plans, ADA area progress and projects, Boy Scout project thank you pizza day perhaps, (completed two trellises, 2 more trellises to come, built compost bins. Perhaps BBQ next year) Projects (short term within 90 days and long term- what, when, costs)

VII.

Adjournment

7:22 John Jenkins, Action Item