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Morgan Hill Community Garden Tentative Minutes Tuesday, February 22, 2022 Zoom 6:30 pm
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
Mary Kellogg	Secretary 2024	Alex Simpliciano	Board Member 2023
		Martha O'Rourke	Board Member 2024

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

II. Adopt Agenda/January Minutes John Jenkins, Action
Motion to accept the agenda and minutes by Allen, second Mary M. Approved.

III. Hearing of Membership/Questions (None) Membership, Info Item

IV. Reports

A. Financial Report Treasurer, Action Item

Allen has a new form that tracks income and expenses to date for the year and running balances.
Current Balance \$24,067.00.

Income: Donations \$2,500.00 Sakata Seeds unrestricted, Gardening Fees \$3,220.00, Refund of \$20.00 for CCC room since we had to do a Zoom meeting.

Expenses: Gardening Supplies \$250.60 (\$100.00 is for wattles), Water Bill \$115.29, Porta Potty Rental \$387.30 (2 months), Post office box \$182.00 for the year, Insurance \$337.12 (paid for the year until an August bill). Daniel A asks what special projects are. Allen reported it was a project from a grant if the grant is restricted to certain purchases. Some grants are unrestricted and the funds just go into the general fund account.

Motion by Mary K to approve the report , with a second by Pat. Approved.

Other business: Allen reported that the banking authorization has been transferred to the new officers as well as access to the post office box.

B. Oversight Committee Mary Kellogg, Action Item

Currently there is a need for gardeners to weed their plots and the pathways around their plots and to cut back the plants that are growing over the plot boundary edges, including tall plants like artichokes that have leaves higher up that extend over into the pathway. John has sent out a request for all gardeners to check on their pathways for weeds. The oversight committee is currently determining which plots need additional requests made of them. One gardener has received written oversight communications with the listed infractions and the reminder of our policy that after three notifications the gardeners can lose gardening privileges, as this one has received multiple communications already.

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

C. Work Day Committee Kay Meyer, Action Item

Two work days have been completed in February with 5 participants at each meeting. The next work days are on Sunday, March 6 and Saturday, March 12. Rob has tried some heavy-duty

vinegar and sprayed his weeds to test out if that kills the weeds. We are watching to see if that works. Kay thinks it needs hot weather to work. Daniel says maybe we need more hoes since a lot of people need to do that work at the same time. Joe has an extra one also that he can bring. Motion by accept the report by Daniel A, with a second by Joe. Approved

D. Garden Expansion

John Jenkins, Action Item

110 plots are now built. John is adding a second wattle on top of some of the beds to raise the bed and make more room for soil. The old wattle is sinking down some. A new shed has been put up on the east side (paid for by SCC county grant). There are a couple of new wheel barrows, but one is broken and needs repair. We should have plenty of wheel barrows and tools for spring. The big grinder for the compost bin is being repaired.

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

V. Unfinished Business

A. Native Bee Habitat Project

Joe Elliott, Action Item

Joe started one of the mound habitats in the south corner by Railroad Ave. There will be three more. Today he shared a variety of other be habitats we could make for different types of native bees. These are for native bees and not honey bees. These bees are solitary and do not create a colony in a hive. Joe says these bees will probably populate the hives on their own, but we could buy bee kits with cocoons. It was discussed that we need “bee habitat” signs up so people will know to leave the structures and that soil alone. Joe could have a May or June walk through the garden to show the structures to the membership.

B. Fundraising

John Jenkins, Discussion

1. T-shirts: Mary M shared some designs. We can decide which one we want. We are selecting a design with minimal colors to keep cost down and increase our profits. Additional thoughts were shirts for kids, long sleeves, etc. Mary M will send out designs and colors to Board members who will reply to her via email. Everyone thought Mary M did a great job with the designs and choices.

2. Grant Discussion

We received \$2500.00 from Sakata Seeds. It is unrestricted and we can decide how we want to spend it, so the funds have been placed in our general fund. We are determining what projects could be infrastructure, maintenance, or garden improvements. Some upcoming projects are: gravel pathways, bee projects, and an automatic shut-off on our main water valve. The Sakata Seeds grant is one-time money and should be spent on a one-time need project. Allen reported that the gravel replacement is not a special project, but the reason we raised our rates was for this type of maintenance that is not one-time. Daniel A wants to know if a weed blocker fabric will be under the gravel. All of this is still to be decided. Daniel A and Allen will measure the area needed before they go further to get information on gravel types, weed fabric, etc. Mary K asked about planting shrubs on the parking lot edge next to the fence since there are many storage vehicles there now. John says the property owner, Mr. Gallo, will be putting up new fencing so we can wait to see how that area looks after that is complete.

3. City Council Nonprofit Grant- The City has grant money available with an Earth Day theme. Money can be used to run our own event. Perhaps this could be the Grand Opening we never had because of COVID. The application is due by Friday, March 18. Board members will send an email to John about event ideas and purchasing needs. Martha asked if we can have the event after the garden looks better in May or June and John replied that we could. Pat could include a class on that day and have the grant pay for the materials .Joe could show some bee habitats and have the grant pay for some of those materials.

VI. New Business

A. Upcoming Classes

Pat Day, Information

John's last class on beginning gardening had about 10 people. Pat's class on Basic Gardening on April 2 at 10:00 has 13 signed up on NextDoor already. A work day is also on the same day and work day people can help Pat set up.

B. Security

Mary Kellogg, Discussion

Kim has an email and phone number for a Homeless Coordinator who goes out and talks to people who are doing things such as entering property where they should not. Pat has been concerned about that since the beginning of our garden. He is glad to have cameras on the sheds, but using the camera is after the fact when there is a problem. A lot of times people are alone at the garden and we are in a vulnerable location. We need to remind people to have their phone with them and be aware of the numbers to call in case of an issue. (There are phone numbers on the bulletin board or call 911.) He suggests sharing emergency phone number often. Allen says to have mandatory meeting with new gardeners to give them the info. We need a security check list so all the information is given out. Allen says we need to have the check list to cover everything like locking your cars, etc. We need to stress this more.

C. Agenda Items for March 22 (perhaps in-person meeting)

Mary Kellogg, Discussion

Projects discussion are to be placed under New Business and moved to Unfinished Business for further discussion if needed. Other items: main valve auto shut off quote by John, T-shirt fundraiser by Mary M, bee habitats by Joe, Sakata seeds grant ideas that were suggested to John by Board members, City Earth Day grant progress, Allen and Daniel's gravel cost and other information.

VII. Adjournment

8:10 John Jenkins, Action Item