

**MODA Annual Meeting  
For FY 2018  
November 11, 2018**

President Judy Horst called the meeting to order at 3:10 PM at the Peninsula School auditorium, Menlo Park. Judy highlighted the history of Menlo Oaks that became a neighborhood in the 1700s. MODA (Menlo Oaks District Assoc.) was founded in the 1950s. Details are on the MODA website. She further discussed some of the past year's activities and the Board's desire to create a sense of community within Menlo Oaks as part of the attraction of the neighborhood.

This past year several board members and residents met with various San Mateo County officials, including members of the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors, members of the transportation and planning staff at the County and with County Supervisor Canepa, giving him a walking tour of Menlo Oaks. These meetings were to help County officials become better acquainted with Menlo Oaks and our residents' concerns.

Judy introduced Board members in attendance Janet Benson, Rich Collyer, Penny Gallo, Kay Hitch, Remona Murray, Hinda Sack and Celine Sanie.

**Treasurer's Report:** Remona noted that fiscal year ending 9/30/18 summarized revenues from dues \$3,200. Major expenses for: the annual picnic, the newsletters and mailings. She passed copies of the year-end financial report.

**Yard Sale:** Remona noted that the only cost from the Yard Sale was laminating the posters (\$50). Judy Horst stated that between 20-25 households participated along with four lemonade stands managed by youngsters and their parents. Discussion ensued about having it annually or bi-annually. John Danforth made the motion to hold the yard sale annually. It was seconded by Greg Gallo. Question called. Vote for was unanimous.

**MODA Dues:** Since 2003, the annual dues have been \$20 and the Board proposed raising them to cover increasing costs. After discussion a motion by Dorothy Fadiman was made to raise the annual dues \$5 to \$25 as of Oct. 1, 2018 for FY 2019. Seconded. The vote was unanimous to increase the annual dues to \$25.00.

*Action Item:* The Board was asked to research using an on-line, low charge or no charge service to make it more convenient for members to pay dues each year.

**Nominations for Board:** The slate of current board members for two-year terms, FY '19 and '20 included Janet Benson, Judy Colwell, Rich Collyer, Penny Gallo, Kay Hitch, Remona Murray and Celine Sanie. Judy Horst asked if others were interested in joining the board in addition to those being proposed. Discussion ensued about terms and openings.

As there were no volunteers or nominations from the floor, a motion was made by Ken Rutsky to elect the slate presented. John Danforth seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor of the slate.

**Disaster Preparedness/CERT:** Remona recommended that people sign up for the San Mateo County Alert system on line so that they can receive rapid information on dangerous natural incidents. She also showed a sample of an Assembly Point sign used in Atherton for neighbors to gather and provide information about each household after a disaster. She asked that anyone interested in using their easement for an assembly point to contact her. The property owner must agree to have their easement used for signage and as a gathering point for people. Remona said that a CERT volunteer and the Fire Department use and depend on Assembly Points in a disaster.

**No Parking Zones:** Remona said that her discussions with neighbors show that the benefits have outweighed the inconvenience of the no parking times in front of their homes. Neighbors concerned about high-speed corridors through Menlo Oaks or other parking problems should write to the Sequoia School District about obtaining a study of traffic through our area, since the District has refused to do a Traffic Demand study up to this point.

*Action Item:* It was requested that Remona provide a draft letter for homeowners in the next MODA newsletter to request a Traffic Demand study.

**New Business:** Janet Benson asked whom she should contact about students bicycling three abreast along Ringwood. Remona advised calling the San Mateo Sheriff dispatch.

Anne Kortlander asked about getting a stop sign placed in the roundabout of Coleman/Menlo Oaks as bikes and autos do not stop at the 4-way stop

intersection. Bill on Berkley mentioned that stopping was not occurring at the Berkeley/Coleman intersection either.

*Action Item:* The Board will research both requests with appropriate County officials.

A request was made about the next training session for CERT training. Remona stated it usually occurs over 3-eight hour days over a three-month period on a Saturday. The next one is in January. The Menlo Fire Department website lists the dates.

Mary Ann Carmack provided a handout, “The High Cost of Neat & Tidy Landscaping” addressing the health effects and pollution factor of leaf blowers. She asked that anyone interested in helping promote this, contact her.

**Annexation/LAFCo:** John Danforth and Mitch Tuchman summarized progress made by the Board’s taskforce assigned at last year’s Annual Meeting to research the annexation of Menlo Oaks into the city of Menlo Park or Atherton. They indicated that the County of San Mateo seems overburdened with other, larger issues and can’t address the needs of small, unincorporated neighborhoods like ours. These needs include more responsive policing, better traffic control, safe streets for children walking or biking to school and better supervision of new home development.

Menlo Oaks has experienced lots of development in recent years and the Menlo Oaks assessed value for property taxes calculations is currently about \$500,000,000. This will increase in the future due to an average of 8 properties being sold each year.

This taskforce also included Remona Murray and Judy Horst. It met several times, including meetings with County officials, with Menlo Park officials and with Atherton’s City Manager. It also took a walking trip through Menlo Oaks with County and Menlo Park planning and traffic officials.

The invited speaker at this year’s Annual Meeting was Martha Poyatos, Executive Officer of LAFCo (Local Agency Formulation Commission of the County of San Mateo). She spoke about the application process for annexation as it applies to Menlo Oaks MODA and took questions from the audience.

Maps were posted showing that Menlo Oaks is in the sphere of influence fell to the City of Menlo Park. Because of this she could only speak about annexation to Menlo Park. She provided a draft of a Comparison Table for services provided by the County of San Mateo versus the City of Menlo Park. This included land use, fiscal standards and services along with stats on Menlo Oaks and fees required. While just a preliminary example, not based on extensive and required research, the documents she provided will be included as addendums to the minutes.

Application to LAFCo and pre-zone request to the city of Menlo Park (and perhaps also to Atherton) can be concurrent. Research of the property owners as to their wants to determine benefits versus the costs should occur before application. Protests of a certain proportion of property owners will stop the process (after fees have been paid to LAFCo and city of MP) and trigger an election.

Much discussion ensued. Penny Gallo made the motion to thank Martha for using her Sunday to inform us of the long process (likely a year or more) to annexation.

*Action Item:* Penny Gallo also made a motion that the taskforce continue its research into Atherton as well as Menlo Park and to determine property owners' interests as the process continues. John Danforth seconded. Vote was unanimous for continuing the taskforce.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Hitch  
Secretary

Addendums-LAFCo