

**MODA Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**For Fiscal Year 2019**  
November 10, 2019

President Judy Horst called the meeting to order at 3:10PM at the Peninsula School. She introduced Board members Janet Benson, Rich Collyer, Kay Hitch, Penny Gallo, Remona Murray, and Celine Sanie. Approximately 30 neighbors were in attendance.

**Treasurer's Report:** Remona Murray passed copies of the Treasurer's report for fiscal year 2019. FY '19 ended with a loss of \$670. Payments for last year's dues and receipt of current dues have covered Remona's reimbursement for expenses. The cost of postage continues to increase, so the October newsletter and directory, which were hand delivered by Board members. Since paying dues online was requested at the last annual meeting, the Board voted to set up a PayPal account, which processes credit cards as well as PayPal transactions. The convenience of paying dues and increase of payments more than offsets the fee costs. Payments can be made on the updated website. Work is in progress to update the monthly bulletin board or find a new communications program.

**Board Nomination(s):** Judy Horst noted that there are 9 members of the Board. Due to Rich Collyer resigning after 17 years of service, his remaining term of one year needs to be filled. Rebecca Partridge was asked and agreed to fill the vacancy. Judy Horst's two-year term is up and is nominated for another two-year term. Jane Farish made the motion to elect Rebecca Partridge to the remaining term of one year and Judy Horst to a new two-year term. John Horsley seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Judy thanked Rich for his service as President, web master and BBQ chef.

**Annexation Update:** Judy H. said that attendees of the 2017 Annual Meeting asked that MODA pursue researching whether our neighborhood could be annexed by the City of Menlo Park or Atherton. At the 2018 Annual Meeting the San Mateo LAFCo (Local Agency Formation Commission) executive officer, Martha Poyatos spoke about the sphere of influence for our neighborhood Menlo Oaks is in the sphere of influence of the City of Menlo Park and would be where first efforts for annexation would be focused. Atherton has not expressed interest in considering annexation of Menlo Oaks at this time and does not have adequate services to cover our neighborhood. Our substandard roads are a problem for the City of Menlo Park, which doesn't have the funds to bring the roads up to its standards. Dennis Tse noted that the City of Menlo Park has a \$57 million unfunded pension liability. Remona stated that the Triangle in 2015 paid substantial fees to start the process of being annexed into the City of Menlo Park. City delays have continued for many reasons, slowing down the Triangle's annexation and delays could stall annexation by Menlo Park. Celine Sanie asked the meeting attendees how many were interesting in continuing the pursuit of annexation—no one was. Celine made the motion for MODA to stop pursuing annexation. Dennis Tse seconded. Vote was unanimous to drop further annexation research and talks.

**Newsletter:** Judy H. thanked Celine, our new newsletter editor for her efforts in the new design and content of the most recent newsletter. She plans to make it a quick

read by referring members to the website for details. Celine asked for those with comments on newsletter improvements to contact her.

**Short Term Rentals:** Celine stated that for our neighborhood any building on a property could be rented for a minimum of 30 days and no maximum per the current County of San Mateo codes. Unincorporated areas have different codes than cities and the County of San Mateo is studying future codes for Bay side cities and areas under its purview. Celine noted that anyone disturbed by a rental incident should first talk with the owner. If resolution is not obtained, then the County should be contacted about a code violation.

**Disaster Preparedness:** Remona provided a computer presentation outlining preparedness for Menlo Oaks. She highly recommended the [SMCAAlert.org](http://SMCAAlert.org) website for all information and updates on emergency incidents. If someone does not want to use his or her address, they could use the Laurel School address for privacy. Communication by landline (with copper wire) and a plug-in phone should still function. Those with lines connected to the internet are less likely to function due to the possible electricity failure.

Websites such as MyShake for earthquake early warnings, FireIncidents, which displays any fire dispatches in San Mateo County, Amer. Red Cross for emergency alerts and [menlofirecert.com](http://menlofirecert.com) will be listed on the MODA website soon. She also showed a list of reading material starting with the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) booklet, Oct. 2019 with "Your disaster planning guide" as a resource for all types of emergencies. The reading list will also be posted to the MODA website.

Additional Resource/Ideas:

Seminars available: CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) through the fire department and REI in Redwood City.

Generators such as Golden Apex Solar storm kit that are solar powered need little care and maintenance.

Water storage with a 55-gallon barrel will last 10 years before the plastic degrades.

Drinkable water using the Aqua Block (1 liter) has a 5-year lifespan.

Luci, an inflatable clear plastic container is a solar powered lantern that has steady or flashing capabilities.

**Past Year Review:** Judy H. noted that this year's picnic was well attended. More families participated in the September Yard Sale this year. The Halloween celebration this year, which included unique decorations, a rock band, food and beverage stands and trick or treat handouts (including comic books and light wands) were spectacular. Photos will be on the website.

**New Business:**

**Turkey Trot:** This new event was approved by the Board. The Turkey Trot can be a run, walk with stroller, dog walk or just a walk to be held on Sunday, November 24 at 9:30 – 10 AM. People can start at the meeting spot in the parking lot in front of Peninsula School. There will be options for family photos and making food donations to a local food drive. (Note: The date has changed to Saturday, Nov. 23 to accommodate more participants.)

**Limited Parking on Menlo Oaks:** Kate Fickle at 500 Menlo Oaks had a group of people parking from 2-5 PM on a Friday in front of her house. She forgot that it was a no parking zone at the time and consequently a San Mateo County sheriff issued parking tickets. She reimbursed her guests for their costs. It was noted that part of the limited parking was to free up the road for fire truck access as the street is so narrow when the Menlo-Atherton students park there. In addition the limited no parking is to curtail speeding, littering and drug dealing by students.

**Improving Communications With Block Volunteers:** Mary Ann Carmack on Menlo Oaks Dr. volunteered to walk her block with the newsletter and visit in person with her neighbors. Steve Rasmussen on Berkeley thought it was a great idea and would like to be involved. The Board hopes to find other volunteers and plans to work on how to implement this kind of neighbor-to-neighbor communication.

**Adjournment:** Judy H. asked for a vote for adjournment, which was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Hitch, Secretary