1. CALL TO ORDER

Parks and Open Space Commission Chair Pat O’Brien called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

A member of the public commented about the quality of various brands of lithium ion batteries that are being imported for use on recreational devices such as hoverboards and electric bicycles, the fire danger those batteries pose to open space preserves, and the need for federal and/or state regulations to be in place before e-powered vehicles are allowed in county open space preserves.

3. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Director and General Manager Max Korten reviewed recent improvement projects that have been completed at Deer Island, Lagoon Park, Stafford Lake and McNears Beach parks, fire fuel reduction projects taking place at various open space preserves, a sea rise adaptation project at Bothin Marsh, and the completed Spirit Nest project that was recently moved to Stafford Lake Park. Mr. Korten also discussed various public social events that have been hosted by the department, and science-based projects, including a bat telemetry project, that have been accomplished or are in progress.

Mr. Korten invited commissioners to attend the upcoming Sky Ranch preserve public celebration on October 14 and responded to questions from commissioners.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

A member of the public offered comments about an upcoming hearing regarding the San Geronimo golf course property, CEQUA issues and the Trust for Public Land.

4. APPROVE MINUTES FOR MAY 17, 2018 REGULAR MEETING AND JULY 19, 2018 SPECIAL PUBLIC WORKSHOP

M/s Raful/Harris to approve minutes for regular meeting held on May 17, 2018.

AYES: Commissioners Guardado, Harris, O’Brien, Raful, Scremin

ABSENT: Commissioners Kennings, Stompe

The minutes for May 17, 2018 were approved as submitted.
M/s Raful Scremin to approve minutes for special meeting held on July 19, 2018.

AYES: Commissioners Guardado, O’Brien, Raful, Scremin

ABSTAIN: Commissioner Harris

ABSENT: Commissioners Kennings, Stompe

The minutes for July 19, 2018 were approved as submitted.

5. PRESENTATION ON RECREATION AND WEST MARIN COMMUNITIES RESEARCH FINDINGS

External Affairs Coordinator Kevin Wright introduced Madeline Hope, Director of the Tomales Bay Youth Center. The youth center provides a year-round after school program and serves both youth and their families during school holidays and summer break.

Ms. Hope gave a PowerPoint presentation that included information about their West Marin collaborators and community café participants, the importance of mentors for all age groups and the need for more of them. She discussed young adult services for transition age youth between 16 and 25 years of age and their all-age needs assessment findings from this research, and their finding that transportation was the number one issue for all age groups. Ms. Hope reported that they will be working with the Transportation Authority of Marin to increase future year-round transportation options for West Marin students.

Ms. Hope responded to questions and comments from commissioners.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Executive Director of the San Geronimo Community Center appreciated commissioner’s comments and questions and noted that student transition to after school programs in West Marin has been seamless.

6. PRESENTATION BY MEASURE A COMMUNITY GRANT RECIPIENTS ON THEIR FISCAL YEAR 2016 – 2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Kevin Wright introduced Morgan Patton, Executive Director of the San Geronimo Community Center. Mr. Patton gave a PowerPoint presentation about the center’s various Measure A programs and reviewed the subject matter for various field trips that were developed for students in grades 4 through 12. He also discussed how the curriculum has increased student exposure to scientific knowledge. The curriculum is designed to teach students how to sharpen both their observation and reporting techniques. Field trips to Agate Beach are conducted in partnership with the California Academy of Science. Mr. Patton also provided a breakdown of the student’s ages, grade level, and the total number of students who participated in each field trip. He also reviewed program impacts and results, noting increasing student interest in the natural environment, and the success of the iNaturalist program where scientific data, findings, and pictures are logged by student participants.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A member of the public suggested that grantees connect with each other and work together to accomplish their goals.
7. **PRESENTATION OF DRAFT ONE TAM FIVE-YEAR VISION**

Kevin Wright commented on and reviewed information contained in One Tam’s Five-Year Strategy Outline for 2019-2023, including their vision, updated mission and values, the One Tam 2019 – 2023 Strategy Goals Summary and the importance and success of the collaborative effort between the five partner agencies (Marin County Parks, National Park Service, Golden Gate National Park Conservancy, and Marin Municipal Water District) for community outreach.

After commenting on the importance of being engaged at the level where the work happens, not above or below it, Director Max Korten responded to questions from commissioners.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

A member of the public commented on agency anacronyms, the positive influence the One Tam partnership is having, how its realm and influence is extending beyond the county, the importance of mapping and its countywide benefit, and that a new paradigm and model for agency cooperation has been created across regional boundaries.

The Deputy Director of the One Tam Initiative offered comments about vegetation mapping noting that that all goals to date have been met and exceeded thanks to the leadership of Marin County Parks. Due to their success, One Tam partners have been able to successfully leverage funds. Parks and Open Space Commissioners were thanked for their role in the process.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A member of the public praised One Tam accomplishments and offered positive comments about the quality and success of their recent science symposium.

8. **BOWMAN CANYON ACQUISITION**

General Manager Max Korten gave a brief introduction to the subject. Senior Open Space Planner James Raives then gave a PowerPoint presentation providing those present with information about the Bowman Canyon land and the addition of 167 acres of it that have been added to the Mt. Burdell Open Space Preserve. The Bowman Canyon property was previously identified as a priority land conservation area in Marin County Parks’ *Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan* and in the *Plan Bay Area*. This land was found to have habitat values like those of the Mt. Burdell Open Space Preserve, and to be a rare turn-key opportunity as the property is essentially ready for the public to enjoy.

Mr. Raives briefly discussed CEQA and planning for future projects, gave a Measure A Acquisition Fund recap, informed commissioners that this acquisition does not include Bowman Creek itself, and responded to questions from commissioners.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A member of the public expressed support for the acquisition of the Bowman Canyon property.

A member of the public thanked Mr. Raives for his efforts and suggested that staff keep in mind how many additional rangers will be needed to patrol the property.

9. **E-BIKE WORKSHOP FOLLOW-UP**

Mr. Korten thanked commissioners for their participation in the July e-bike workshop and noted staff disappointment at the relatively low turnout for this event. After introducing Marin County Parks Superintendent Aril Golan, he noted that Mr. Golan had previously contacted every city and town in the county to see how they have approached the e-bike issue.
Superintendent Golan reviewed the purpose of the workshop and staff expectations. He also provided a summary of comment subject matter received from workshop participants, reporting that there are 13 miles of paved pathways under the jurisdiction of Marin County Parks, and that in the future staff will be hosting e-bike workshops at other locations within the county.

Mr. Golan reviewed concerns mentioned by members of the public, including the possible “tweaking” of e-bikes after purchase to increase their maximum speed capability. E-bike speeding, increased speed potential, illegal e-bike modifications, increased congestion, limited enforcement capability, displacement of users from paved pathways, and other concerns were all noted on comment cards returned to staff by members of the public who attended the workshop.

Commissioner Raful commented on jurisdiction issues.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A Marin County Bicycle Coalition member expressed support for the use of e-bikes, suggested that they be allowed on all county paved pathways, and offered comments on the speed capability of Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes.

A member of the public noted that the e-bike workshop was held at a time of day when pathway use is quiet as compared to earlier and/or later times in the day and suggested that conventional bicyclists are just as likely to break the speed limit as are e-bike riders, and remarked that currently, enforcement of the speed limit on paved pathways is very lax. It was suggested that research into these issues should be carried out at a variety of locations, dates and times, including weekends and commute times, before any decisions on the subject are rendered.

A member of the public complimented Mr. Golan’s workshop presentation and remarked about the focus of the workshop being on the use of e-bikes on paved county pathways, not open space preserves, and noted that there are currently no speed limits for bicycles posted on county paved pathways. Staff were cautioned that e-bike speed issues may end up causing the displacement of other pathway users.

Commissioner Scremin absent at 4:07 p.m.

10. NAMING POLICY SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

Senior Open Space Planner Craig Richardson briefly reviewed the goal of the Marin County Parks and Open Space District’s place naming policy, and the recommendation to update the policy by creating a two-step process for the review and approval of requests for naming trails or locations after individuals. The committee’s suggestion is that place naming occur no sooner than one year after an individual’s death.

Commissioner Harris noted that their discussion was not based on prior problems. The goal is to strengthen the policy, as names themselves are a public resource, and names of trails should memorialize the habitat.

11. STAFF-COMMISSION REPORTS

No reports were given.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:16 p.m.