

ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC
WILDLIFE AD HOC SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
May 8, 2018

Meeting called to order at 11:00 A.M

Members present: Patti Cowin, Chair, Cari Hale, Joan Gotthardt, Lynda Chamowitz, Belinda Olsen, Don Olsen, Jim Peterfeso, Jan Meades

Absent: Ruth Fletcher

Others present: Steve Froggatt, Scott Feldkamp

Patti called the meeting to order and the group approved the minutes from the last meeting.

The group discussed the cataloging of tortoise burrows. Patti distributed enlarged maps of Rotonda West Subdivisions. The maps show lot numbers, (but not street addresses) and should aid members in capturing information on the location of burrows. Scott found funding for a data base program that Patti has begun to use to input burrow data. Patti showed members what she has already entered into the data base including "house" number, street, latitude, longitude, comments, etc. It was decided to also add columns for date (of last assessment/update) and for lot numbers. Jim said he was using Google Maps when he identifies burrows. He indicated that if you drop a pin, the app will show lat and long coordinates, etc. If you use the "Plus" code, the code will enable other Google Map users to see where the burrows are if they have the code. Jim suggested that the data base include Plus Codes.

Cari said several commensal species (that share the tortoise burrows) are also listed as protected and that commensals could also be relocated if they are captured with the gopher tortoise.

Scott asked that we not mark the burrows (put in signs) in Broadmoor Park, but told us he had no problem with us capturing the burrow information in our data base.

Patti reminded everyone that we are marking burrows to aid the guys that mow vacant lots so that they don't inadvertently run over the burrows and cause them to collapse. This is a good reply if someone asks what you are doing while you are installing a sign.

Cari gave an update on efforts to make an area of Broadmoor Park a tortoise relocation site. Cari recommended that we ask the Board of Directors (BOD) for permission to submit a modified application for a permit to receive 10 or fewer relocated tortoises, although the proposal would have to first go through the Activities Committee. She added that if relocated tortoises are moved a shorter distance they have a greater chance of successfully adapting to their new home. A move was made and seconded to accept Cari's proposal to ask the BOD about submitting an application for a permit for Broadmoor Park to become a recipient site for 10 or fewer tortoises. Cari further noted that it might be possible to add plants in Broadmoor Park that tortoises like to eat (e.g., asters) to the relocation area. We could

work with the relocation person to decide which tortoises would be moved to our park. Good sites would be upland, with sparse vegetation, etc. The next step would be to get a presentation/plan together for the BOD.

Potential names for our subcommittee were discussed. Suggestions included: Rotonda Wildlife Guardians; Rotonda Wildlife Subcommittee; Rotonda Wildlife Advocates; Rotonda Wildlife Group; and Wildlife Advocates of Rotonda. No decision was reached, and members were encouraged to continue to think of additional names for consideration.

Lynda mentioned some of our signs have "Property of RWA" wording while other signs don't. Patti said she thought we could get more stickers for the signs that don't have this wording.

Before the meeting adjourned, Jim offered to add coordinates, etc. to burrow data collected by Don and Belinda before giving the data to Patti for the data base.

Meeting adjourned 12:10

The next meeting will be May 8.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joan Gotthardt