

ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC
Wildlife Committee
MEETING MINUTES
December 17, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 10:32 on 17 December 2019.

Present: Patti Cowin, Cari Hale, Don Olsen, Belinda Olsen, Joan Gotthardt, Lynda Chamowitz, Jim Peterfeso, and Debbie Yeager.

Absent: Jan Meades and Steve Froggatt

Guests: Bob Sanner and Lois Hutter-Pishgahi.

Minutes: The minutes of the November meeting were approved as written. A motion was made to post Committee Minutes on the Wildlife Committee Facebook page and the motion passed. This was proposed because it is currently difficult to find our meeting minutes on the Rotonda West Association's web page.

Wildlife Facebook Page: There are currently 207 members. We have been posting Meeting Agendas on our FB page and will begin posting our meeting minutes there as well.

Manatee Presentation. Consensus was that the presentation went well. About 43 people attended the event. Pattie Mihalik interviewed the presenter, Cora Becham, and Debbie Yeager for an article that was in the Englewood Sun on December 18th. There were some issues with filming for a live stream of the presentation for the YouTube channel and it caused some interruptions during the presentation. Discussion also centered on fees, the cost of a videographer vs a donation to a presenter. Bob asked if RWA had a photography club b/c then we could possibly get someone from the club to tape a presentation. Lois suggested putting a note in Westways seeking volunteers to do the taping. Debbie suggested having another manatee presentation in a year.

Sea Turtle Presentation: Belinda Olsen is coordinating the presentation scheduled for January 15th at 1 PM.

Shark Presentation. Katherine Baumgartner, Ocean Family Games, will provide a presentation on Feb 19 at 1 PM. Patti will contact her again to ask if she charges for a presentation. Discussion ensued regarding stipends, sponsors, and donations in lieu of stipends, etc.

Old business: Markers. Patti passed out copies of our charter, which says we are "authorized by the Board of Directors and RWA Management to enter undeveloped lots to inspect same for protected wildlife and, as appropriate, the placement of signage." Bob asked about the rationale for the markers and Jim provided him with the history of our marking tortoise burrows. The Committee has marked and recorded 150 burrows, and has shared that information with Charlotte County and the FWC. Patti will talk with the Board members and then put in a request to use our budget for markers.

New business: Debbie recommended looking at the budget and preparing line item costs; we had done this previously so Patti will send it to the committee members. Debbie asked whether or not we should put together guidelines for providing a stipend for presenters. Don recommended tabling the discussion on the videographer.

The meeting was adjourned at 1157.

Next Meeting will be 21 Jan 2020

Respectfully submitted:
Lynda Chamowitz