

ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC
Wildlife Committee
MEETING MINUTES
August 20, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 10:00.

Present: Patti Cowin, Debbie Yeager, Belinda Olsen, Don Olsen, Jan Meades, Steve Froggatt
Attending via Phone: Jim Peterfeso, Joan Gotthardt, Lynda Chamowitz
Absent: Cari Hale
Guest: Julie Shaw Lambert

Minutes: The minutes of the June meeting were approved as written.

Wildlife Facebook Page: Steve/Deb will look into creating a folder in the Facebook page for the Wildlife brochures.

Proposed 2020 Budget: \$5,000 is the proposed budget for 2020. This is to cover the cost of brochures, speakers, markers for burrows, and various signs. Don and Belinda asked if the Committee is now able to post signs and markers. Patti replied that our Charter grants that ability but Hank Killion insists that only the RWA Manager and his crew will be allowed to place signs for tortoise burrows. Steve motioned to approve \$5,000 for the annual budget, Jim 2nd the motion. Motion was approved unanimously. Belinda moved to purchase approximately 100 markers, Steve 2nd. Motion approved unanimously.

Educational Brochures Progress: Jim's "Invasive Species" brochure has been printed and copies are available at the kiosks between the Office and the Maintenance building. Joan's and Lynda's brochures (one on Coyotes and another on Bobcats) have formatting issues that will be resolved prior to next meeting. It was suggested that we make copies of the FWC snake brochure for distribution. It was also suggested that we reproduce a brochure on manatees. Jim will contact Suzy D'Hont to see about a brochure about birds, possibly from the Audubon Society.

Moth Presentation: The moth presentation was a tremendous success given that it was a daytime off-season offering. There were approximately 40 people in attendance and a repeat presentation is planned.

Proposed Schedule of Topics and Speakers: Don will check with Jason Thompson about a presentation on reptiles, possibly alligators on October 16th around 2PM and perhaps another in the evening. The 9 November Butterflies of Florida and Cuba presentation will be held in the tiki hut. The presentation will begin at 10 and will be followed by a guided nature walk through Broadmoor Park. The encore Manatee presentation, by Cora Becham, is scheduled for December 11th from 1-3 PM. Stipend to be \$100. Planning for 2020 presentations will begin once our budget is approved.

Bird Walks (Nature Walks) will resume on September 20th at approximately 8 AM.

Old Business: Anything purchased for marking tortoise burrows has to be approved by the BOD. Patti and Cari are donating the first batch of markers. Lynda and Joan still have some signs that can be redistributed. Per Hank, only manager will be placing signs. As markers are placed excess signs can be reused.

New Business: Don proposed purchasing 7-10 signs such as a fed Gator is a dead Gator for posting in the memorial parks and other appropriate locations. A number of RWA members have raised questions about the dead vines around the community. Patti will investigate but thought it might be related to the Brazilian Pepper Tree eradication initiative. She confirmed it was RWA employees doing the spraying and thought the spraying of the vines might be a training issue. She will clarify.

Belinda would like to check into having a sea turtle presentation sometime in January or February. Jan suggested checking on the availability of a presentation by the Wildlife Center of Venice in 2020.

Steve mentioned that Florida panthers are suffering from some sort of neurological disorder of unknown origin. Members were encouraged to investigate.

Meeting adjourned at 11:44
Next meeting on September 17th at 10:30

Respectfully submitted, Deb Yeager