

**ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC
WILDLIFE AD HOC SUB-COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

December 18, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 10:05.

Members present: Patti Cowin, Cari Hale, Lynda Chamowitz, Don and Belinda Olsen, and Jim Peterfeso.
Not Present: Jan Meades, Joan Gotthardt, and Steve Froggatt.

The Minutes of the November 13, 2018 meeting were approved as written.

Old Business:

Facebook page: Cari reported that there were now 89 people on our Facebook page. Cari will show Jim how to invite people in RW to join.

Educational brochures: Patti will put some of the Sub-Committee and FWC brochures (Protected Wildlife and Living with Gopher Tortoises) in the clubhouse and main office. Jim noted that black bears have been sighted in RW so he might do a brochure on them; Patti said she thought the bear sightings were because of the new path extension. Jim said he would prepare a brochure after the holidays; although he at first said he would think about a topic, by the end of the discussion he agreed to do a brochure on native wildlife and invasive species such as feral pigs, black banded spiny iguanas, tegu lizards, etc. Jim said he would include information on trapping these species and Florida law, as well as options available to individuals if they are having problems with a species that adversely impacts the local ecosystem. Cari offered to prepare a brochure on snakes.

Bird Walk originally scheduled for Friday, Dec 21, has been cancelled.

Potential speakers: Jim has scheduled a speaker for Wed, Jan 9 at 1 pm at the Community Center, open to all and free admission. Tom Heitzman, Horticulturist and co-owner of the Sweet Bay Nursery, will give a lecture and slideshow presentation on "Designing Your Yard for Wildlife". Jim has contacted some local garden clubs, the Floral Society, and the Rotonda West Garden and Nature Club about this event to spread the word. Jim will give the flyer to the office to make more copies and post around Rotonda and on the Rotonda Facebook page; Cari will post to the Wildlife Facebook page. There was some discussion about notifying outside groups and putting a notice in the Sun, but for now we believe it's best to just publicize it among local groups with similar interests. Belinda has lined up someone to talk about Butterflies in March and will contact the North Port Friends of Wildlife about a potential speaker on Manatees. Don said he would contact Jason about a presentation on reptiles. Patti asked if we thought a talk on Red Tide would be beneficial, and the general consensus was that it would be.

Don asked about the signs he still has. Patti said that, if the Board approves us to once again mark gopher tortoise areas, signs will no longer be used, only driveway markers.

New Business. None.

The next meeting will be Jan 15 2019.

The meeting was adjourned at 1058.

Respectfully Submitted:
Lynda Chamowitz