

ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC
Wildlife Committee
MEETING MINUTES
January 21, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 on 21 January 2020.

Present: Patti Cowin, Cari Hale, Debbie Yeager, Don Olsen, Belinda Olsen, Jim Peterfeso, Jan Meades and Steve Froggatt.

Absent: Joan Gotthardt and Lynda Chamowitz

Guests: Jerry Eldred, Charles Magoffin, and Sue Reske

Minutes: A motion was made by Don to approve the minutes of the December meeting as written. Second by Jim. Motion passed unanimously.

Wildlife Facebook Page: Cari was proud to pass along that one of our FB members paid us a compliment on the presentations we sponsored.

New Business: As Jim had to leave early the committee agreed to cover a portion of New Business early. The first new business item was the election of a new chair for the Committee. Patti nominated Debbie Yeager for Chair, seconded by Belinda. Debbie accepted the nomination and was unanimously approved. Next Jim introduced Charles Magoffin, a resident of Rotonda Sands. Charles is establishing a wildlife group for the Sands and is looking to the RWA Wildlife Committee for guidance. He ultimately envisions a mission similar to ours but the impetus for his group is an issue regarding coyotes. We provided him with Coyote brochures and suggested contacting FWC. As members believe the issues can be resolved through education, it was decided the best course of action was to pursue an educational presentation from FWC. The Wildlife Committee and Charles will pursue having a speaker from FWC provide a presentation to the Sands and the Wildlife Committee will sponsor one for RWA residents.

Sea Turtle Presentation: Approximately 45 individuals attended the presentation on January 15th and it was well received. Don would have liked to have had a larger crowd and a discussion ensued as to how we might improve advertising our presentations. Patti mentioned that the presentations that have been videotaped are available on the Wildlife Committee FB page. Belinda mentioned that neighbors of hers, who would have loved to attend, did not even know about the presentation as they do not use social media or access the RWA website. All members were encouraged to think about ways to improve advertising the presentations to maximize attendance. As Patti had forgotten to request a check for the presentation she asked Belinda to secure a non-profit number and address for the Coastal Wildlife Club so a \$50 check (donation) could be mailed to them.

Shark Presentation. Patti provided a copy of the proposed flyer/announcement for the Shark Presentation by Katherine Baumgartner, Ocean Family Games. The committee approved the flyer. The presentation will be held on Feb 19 at 1 PM.

Old business: Markers. Patti indicated that the markers approved by the BOD had been received. The initial goal is to revisit locations where signs have been placed to ensure that the burrows they are marking are not abandoned. If they are the signs should be removed. Members were also directed to replace signs with markers if there are multiple signs on a single lot so as to comply with RWA By-Laws. Jim offered to help members with using google maps to locate/mark burrows.

Other New business: Patti directed Committee members to review Chapter 12, Section 12.12 (the Committee Charter) before the next meeting and provide comments/updates to the same. Next, she proposed purchasing video equipment for the Committee so we could video and post our presentations.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the needed equipment, camera (with audio input), case, and tripod could be obtained for a little more than what the videographer cost for the single recording. Patti motioned for approval, seconded by Don. Motion passed unanimously. All Committee members are to be trained in the use of the equipment. Patti then distributed copies of a mailer from the North Port Friends Of Wildlife (NPFOWL) regarding two Free Seminars about Florida Scrub Jays. The first is scheduled for 10 a.m. on February 1st in Punta Gorda and the second at 1 p.m. on the 15th in North Port. Members were requested to try to attend at least one of the offerings. Cari is going to try and coordinate two presentations with Peace River Wildlife Center (PRWC). The presentation for March is to be about Rescue to Recovery and for April one on Gopher Tortoises in recognition of Gopher Tortoise day, April 10th. It was suggested that we put out sign-in sheets at future presentations asking attendees how they heard about the presentations and to collect contact information from attendees to aid in future advertisements. Jerry was struck by the similarity between the Aquatics and Wildlife Committees. He thinks that the two committees could work together to develop Broadmoor Park with nature in mind. He also suggested that the groups could work with the local schools to have bird houses as such built for the park.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:27.
Next Meeting will be 18 Feb 2020

Respectfully submitted:
Cari Hale