

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

March 19, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 10:05.

Members present: Patti Cowin, Cari Hale, Lynda Chamowitz, Don and Belinda Olsen, Jan Meades, Debbie Yeager, Steve Froggatt, and Jim Peterfeso. Stan Plizga was present as a visitor.

Not Present: Joan Gotthardt

The Minutes of the Feb 19 meeting were approved as written. Jim made a motion to approve the Minutes and Cari seconded the motion; the Minutes were approved.

Wildlife Facebook Page: Cari reported that there were now 114 people on our Facebook page. She noted that we were widening our base due to participation at the presentations from people in organizations outside RW, such as the Peace River Butterfly Society (PRBS). Debbie Yeager forwarded some pix to the FB page from a Realtor on burrowing owls and scrub blue jays and there was some discussion about Rotonda Trace and the Wildlife there. Jim said he tried to put a post on our Facebook page about the presentation PRBS will be giving about Monarch butterflies and their diseases but somehow it didn't show up. A discussion ensued on the vagaries of FB.

Educational Brochures Progress Report:

Jim handed out copies of his brochure on *Invasive Wildlife* and asked everyone to proofread it and make comments/suggestions. Cari asked him to put the website address on and Patti asked Jim to put the logo on. Belinda noted that she didn't think we should do a brochure on butterflies since a very good one already exists (put out by the Florida Museum of Natural History, the University of Florida, the US Forest Service and FBCI). All agreed, and Patti suggested we put an article in the April Westways. The brochures are free so Belinda will try to get copies to put in the clubhouse information rack.

Steve said we could scan it in and post it onto the Facebook page.

Stan asked to be recognized and mentioned that he had asked permission to put up some display cases outside-between the clubhouse and the office and suggested that would be a good place for us to put our brochures. He also said he would have a picture display of the area wildlife and plants with information under each picture, and he said we could do the butterfly life cycle in a display case as well.

Belinda suggested we put together a Wildlife packet with a copy of each brochure so people can get become more education on all the critters around rather than just focusing on a species of special interest.

The brochure on Bobcats is in work.

Feedback on the Snake presentation. Cari said the feedback had been excellent. She also mentioned that the feedback on the butterfly presentation was very positive. Cari remarked that although it was disappointing that the butterfly speaker had not brought any live butterflies or even a collection, she found the butterfly books he did bring to be excellent. They were on butterflies in our region and are available on Amazon; she bought them and gave them a 5 star review.

Belinda suggested that we try to ensure that all presentations have a daytime and evening option to attract more attendees.

Jim noted that the PRBS is bringing in a PhD butterfly researcher, Mark Minnow who contrasts butterflies in the US and Cuba. Apparently there are some very unique ecological differences. PRBS wants to have Dr. Minnow do a lecture and then a butterfly walk, and they have asked if this could take place here at our clubhouse on Nov 9, probably around 10 am. Following the talk, the group would move to Broadmoor Park to see and discuss the butterflies in this location. Jim has asked to tentatively book the clubhouse for that date.

Proposed Schedule of Topics (Potential speakers):

Belinda spoke with Steve Scott about a Monarch butterfly presentation, and he told her that the ladies who do the Monarch presentations are snowbirds so we need to do it quickly. Belinda will try to arrange such a presentation to be done before the presenters depart for the summer. She will inquire as to whether or not the presenters could do a daytime and evening presentation. Belinda also talked about a presentation on moths that would probably be best done in the fall when it gets dark earlier; the goal would be to set up lights to attract the moths.

Jan asked about the Peace River butterfly meeting tomorrow and Jim gave the group the information and also spoke about the associated field trip.

Old Business:

Committee status- The Chair of the Activities Committee recommended that we be split off to become our own Committee. He also recommended that the Community and Activities Committees be combined; this combining of committees might help our effort to become a Committee as the number of Committees would not change if this were to happen. This potential change will be taken up on Thursday at the next Board Meeting. The Board told Patti we had to meet 2 requirements to become a Committee: create a Charter and a Budget. Patti handed out copies of the Charter document she had prepared when we first convened, noting it would now say Committee vice Sub-Committee and stated that she had changed "signage" to "markers" in the last paragraph. Patti asked everyone to review and comment within the next 24 hours due to the upcoming vote. Patti handed out copies of a preliminary draft budget with several items and associated dollar amounts. Patti went through the list of expenditures, which everyone seemed to agree with, although there was some discussion about signs, which several people thought we could no longer install. It appears that it is ok to put up a single sign on a lot. Discussion ensued on the total budget amount and the other items to be added. Cari proposed adding money for an informational kiosk and a cage and Steve suggested we double the amount. Don made a motion for Patti to create a draft budget based on the feedback received at today's meeting, including a baseline of at least \$5000, which was unanimously approved.

New Business- Proposal of joint efforts with Canal Committee:

Stan Plizga gave a presentation of his idea to have a Joint effort of the Aquatics and Canal Committee and the Wildlife Committee. Stan has 15 years experience working with the canals. Stan recounted how Dr. Mark Hostettler, Wildlife Ecologist and Assistant Professor at UF came out and spent a day looking at what we're doing to create and maintain a positive wildlife and healthy aquatics habitat. He did an assessment of Broadmoor Park. Dr. Hostettler's big questions were what's the management plan for the community and how is it being implemented. Stan would like to have several different types of experimental littoral areas: Natural, maintained, semi-cleared, etc. and has started an experimental area around one of the small lakes.

Jim said from an organizational perspective Stan's Committee focuses on the shoreline and water; our Committee's focus is wildlife in Rotonda West. The Aquatics & Canal Committee doesn't have jurisdiction to advise on anything but shore and water, so Patti proposed that we work together to come up with a well-developed and concise plan. Patti also noted that the Building and Grounds Committee should be involved, and opined that if we get the three Committees on the same page, we should be able to get approval from the Board.

Jim asked if we were talking about two separate things: a plan of implementation (around the lake, Florida friendly planting, etc.), which he agreed should be done in small pieces. But he's also concerned about the entire plan for Broadmoor Park. There was general agreement that if we partnered with Stan's committee, we were more likely to be able to influence the future development of Broadmoor Park to be more favorable to aquatics, plants, and wildlife. While he supported Stan's current efforts to increase vegetation diversity around the ponds, Jim expressed concern about focusing too much on Stan's single experimental area to the detriment of the entire Park being developed in a way that might adversely impact the natural habitat in the meantime. Patti said she thought the Master Plan has most of the activity spaces, such as Bocce, etc. planned to be near the clubhouse. There are about 100 acres behind the clubhouse that we should be able to develop a good environmental plan for.

The group agreed to partner w/ the canal committee and will try to come up with a plan for what we want Broadmoor Park to look like, using Stan's smaller lake aquatic plants test case as a start on the implementation side. Debbie suggested that a few people get together to come up with a concise draft plan, and then part of that would be the small implementation plan. Patti asked Jim to head up such a working group and Debbie will work with him to develop a clear and concise plan. The next Building and Grounds Committee meeting is April 11. Patti told Jim and Debbie that if they could put a draft document together by the 10th, she could take a working document to this Committee.

The next meeting will be Apr 16, 2019.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48.

Respectfully Submitted:
Lynda Chamowitz