

ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC
Wildlife Committee
MEETING MINUTES
May 21, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 10:05.

Members present: Patti Cowin, Cari Hale, Don and Belinda Olsen, Jan Meades, Debbie Yeager, and Jim Peterfeso.
Absent: Joan Gotthardt, Lynda Chamowitz, and Steve Froggatt

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

Wildlife Facebook Page: 132 members to date.

Educational Brochures Progress: Jim's brochure on invasive species just needs final formatting. Joan's and Lynda's brochures on Bobcats and Coyotes are still being reviewed. Patti will work on format issues.

The committee would like Steve to set up links on the FB page to all the brochures we create and, if possible, relevant brochures/information from other entities i.e. FWC, Turtle Watch, etc.

Patti reported the committee budget was approved as \$2500.00 by the BOD.

The stipend/donation. for speakers was discussed for future presentations. Parameters are needed.

Patti requested member input be emailed to her prior to the next meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding Cuban tree frogs and the proper method of dispatching. Jim shared a University of Florida website that does positive identification of frogs with a submitted picture. It will be posted on the Wildlife Committee FB page. Jim further shared another website that identifies Florida frogs by the sound made, (ribbit) This will also be shared to the website.

Proposed Schedule of Topics and Speakers: The manatee presentation was highly praised and it was suggested that it be put on the schedule again in the Fall. A \$100.00 donation was made to the Save the Manatee fund. The snake presentation again received high praise for it's success. (all thanks to Don)

The monarch butterfly presentation is cancelled due to the illness of the potential speaker. (June presentation)

The moth presentation is scheduled for 7/26/19.

The June slot could possibly be filled with a presentation on nature's misunderstood creatures ie:

Opossums, Bats, and Vultures. Cari will follow up and coordinate.

Gopher Tortoise Update: The question was asked if the committee can proceed with marking the burrows.

Patti shared that marking the burrows is in our charter and it was approved by the BOD.

The discussion centered around the markers needed for marking and replacing the multiple signs. (There can only be 1 sign per lot.) Jim made the motion to proceed with the purchase of 72 inch high vis yellow markers.

Debbie seconded and the vote passed unanimously. The committee agreed to put off ordering signs because it will be possible to recycle ones that will be replaced by the markers. Patti reported she had spoken to Hank Killion, RWA President and he related it was ok to proceed with purchases less than \$200.00.

Debbie mentioned that the city of Northport has had issues related to county employees disturbing burrows.

Discussion ensued and Patti let the committee know she had been in contact with the individual who is spearheading the gopher tortoise initiative for Northport.

Meeting adjourned at 1130

Next meeting in June 18th at 1000

Respectfully submitted, Cari Hale

