

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

November 13, 2018

Meeting called to order at 10:00 A.M

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

The minutes of the October 16th meeting were approved as written.

Facebook page: Nothing new to report. Jim asked if we could note the Open House on the page and all thought this was a good idea. We could also post on the Rotonda West Association page and post surveys to the page.

Bird Walk: Next one is this Fri at 0745. These last about 1.5 hours and meet in the parking lot of the Community Center the third Friday of every month. There will also be a table (Tammy) at the Open House.

New (and Old) Business: Don talked to the "snake guy" about giving a presentation. He will not be able to give a talk for us because he's not a public speaker. He is, however, available to us for his expertise if needed. Jason Thompson may be agreeable to giving a presentation on snakes, as reptiles are his hobby. Patti will see if he would like to give a presentation on reptiles and when he might be able to do it. Patti will put together a list of potential speakers.

Cari suggested checking to see what resources Sarasota Co. might have in addition to using Jason, a Charlotte Co. resource. Belinda suggested having some of the speakers appear in the evening so people who work can attend. Lynda proposed a mix of daytime and evening, and mentioned that it might depend upon the availability of the speaker.

Belinda proposed having Mike and Tammy give a talk, and Cari suggested a donation jar for The Venice Wildlife Center, and also doing the same for Peace River (speaker and donation jar). Also suggested: posting the event and advising that if folks have extra towels, etc., to bring them to donate to the wildlife centers. Cari said she would take the lead on the donations aspect.

Belinda asked if we need special permission to bring live species into the Community Center and Cari said she thought we did. Cari said if it was an issue we could meet outside.

Old business: Cari reported that the tortoise situation will probably not come to a vote until the January Board of Directors meeting. Cari said we would also let the BOD know that if we get to mark burrows again, we will also remove signs from collapsed burrows. Some Rotonda West residents have expressed concerns about burrows that might be destroyed if not identified for protection. It was noted that private individuals, but not sub-committee members, could use driveway markers or other non-signs. Jim said we could tell people we hope to be out marking again next year, and since there won't be any more mowing, we will be able to see the state of the burrows more easily. Patti gave a stack of her cards to Jim to hand out if people have questions or want a burrow marked. In answer to a question about replacing current signs, Patti doesn't know if we will have to do that. Going forward we will just place new markers on active burrows.

Jim asked about **potential speakers:** do we pick dates or how does that work? He's been talking with a horticulturist and will give him a few suggested dates. He also asked if we provide honoraria in case he gets asked the question.

New business: Jim has put together an amazing poster board for the Open House and provided the following information on upcoming nature events:

- Lemon Bay garden Club-garden tours this Fri/Sat
- Charlotte Harbor national Estuary Program on Sat at Laishley Park-Nature Fest
- PhD researcher talking about butterflies in Nokomis Community Center on Sun at 1pm sponsored by the Englewood Family Garden Club. Butterflies in Florida and Cuba.

Cari announced that the Venice Wildlife Center is having a rummage sale Nov 30 and Dec 1 and is accepting donations. There will also be a cash match on Giving Tuesday.

Next meeting will be Dec 18.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:10.

Respectfully Submitted:
Lynda Chamowitz