

**ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC**  
**Wildlife Committee**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**November 19, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 10:31.

**Present:** Patti Cowin, Cari Hale, Don Olsen, Belinda Olsen, Joan Gotthardt, Lynda Chamowitz, and Jim Peterfeso (via phone)

**Absent:** Debbie Yeager, Jan Meades and Steve Froggatt

**Guests:** Katherine Baumgartner, Jerry Eldred

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

**Wildlife Facebook Page:** There are currently 204 members. Cari announced that she had removed the residency requirement for individuals to join this Facebook Page. Several committee members have heard from non-Rotonda residents that are excited to be able to join this page now. Cari proposed putting the minutes on the FB page. The proposal was tabled until the next meeting.

**Open House Discussion:** Jim said he thought the presence of the Wildlife Committee at the Open House went well, although he believed overall attendance at the Open House was down. However, he noted that attendance at our booth had increased this year over last. He said he got lots of positive feedback on our wildlife presentations, and also heard a lot of interest in snakes and other reptiles.

**Presentations:** Katherine Baumgartner attended the meeting as a guest to discuss potentially providing a presentation on sharks next year. She gave a brief review of her CV and experience with marine wildlife and education. She started a business educating people on the importance of the oceans and giving back to the marine community. She has partnered w /OCEARCH, a company that tracks sharks, as her main interests are sharks and the marine ecosystem. She can give a presentation covering shark encounters, threats to shark populations, why sharks are important, etc. She would include some shark tracking information and would bring along shark teeth to display. The Committee unanimously supported having such a presentation, and Patti will see which dates might be available in February.

**Old Business:** Cari reported that Charlotte County has installed "Sandhill Crane Crossing" signs on Rotonda Circle (in front of the Pinemoor Golf Course). If there is a need, she could also call the county to put up gopher tortoise crossing signs.

Cari said she would talk to Robin, the Peace River veterinarian, about doing a presentation in March on Wildlife rescue and rehabilitation. She could possibly bring some owls and an opossum to the presentation.

Carol, the person who will be giving the sea turtle presentation in January, has canceled the second presentation due to a conflict. However she will still do the Wednesday presentation, as scheduled, on January 15<sup>th</sup>.

New Business: None.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10.

Next meeting on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:30.

Respectfully submitted:  
Lynda Chamowitz