

ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC
WILDLIFE AD HOC SUB-COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
August 14, 2018

Meeting called to order at 10:00 A.M

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

Absent: Mike and Tammy Kipp

Patti called the meeting to order and the group approved the minutes from the last meeting. The Wildlife Facebook page is being utilized by 60 members.

The marking of additional gopher tortoise burrows continues to be on hold. Frustration was expressed by the committee members. Discussion ensued regarding the origin of the sub-committee and it being charged with the marking of the tortoise burrows to prevent injury to the tortoises, burrows, and aprons by RWA mowing crews. This meeting was attended by Patti, Cari, Don, Belinda, Andy, and Scott. Signs were distributed at this meeting and we were told that additional signs would be made available. Since this meeting, that essentially formed the sub-committee, the request for additional signs has been declined. There has been the question of whether the committee and the RWA mowers are trespassing by entering the undeveloped lots. Despite the stand-down of marking efforts the RWA mowers continue to mow. Another concern of several Directors is the placement of multiples signs on a single lot which has been interpreted as a violation of the deed restrictions. The proposed solution is the substitution of signs with single poles. Committee members continue to question the continuation of the wildlife sub-committee due to the obstacles that it has encountered. Patti continues to attempt resolution but understands the frustration of the committee particularly since numerous gopher tortoise burrows were mowed over by RWA this past week. There was an email and further discussion that it may be time to consult Kelly O'Connor with FWC. It was noted that Kelly holds no ability to sanction anyone for violations.

Steve mentioned that the committee had become "bogged down" with the gopher tortoise initiative. He was reminded that in addition to presentations about gopher tortoises the following topics were presented by our sub-committee in the past year: scrub jays, eagles, sandhill cranes, and alligators. The committee has represented several of the species that inhabit Rotonda West and members are pleased with the accomplishments made in less than a year as a sub-committee. We have been asked to partner with Stan Pliska, of the aquatics committee, on the bird walks that are scheduled for every third Friday at Broadmoor Park. Stan has spear headed this activity but has asked the wildlife subcommittee to work with him. The committee agreed and will support his efforts.

The next meeting is September 18th at 1000.

Meeting was adjourned at 1120.

Respectfully Submitted:
Cari Hale