

# **ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC**

**646 Rotonda Circle, Rotonda West, FL 33947**

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **MINUTES**

**Wednesday, March 6, 2024**

**Present:** Deb Orchard, Chair, Annemarie D'Abrosca, Secretary, Nadine Clough, Editor, West Ways Newsletter, Rita Lopienski, Donna Stogsdill, Merrill Horswill, Barry Kean, Andy Van Sycoc

**Absent:** Vice Chair, Gwen Grace, Karen Harvey, Board Liaison, Denise Slovenski

**Guests in Attendance:** Maureen McDowell, Sam Besase

**Attending on Zoom:** Grace Chetcuti, Karen Hoover, Jenny Bulle, Sheryl Nowicki

**Staff in Attendance:** Joe Harris, IT Technician

The Meeting was called to order by Chair, Deb Orchard at 9:30 AM

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Annemarie moved to approve the February, 2024 minutes, seconded by Nadine Clough. Motion approved.

### **2. MEMBER INPUT**

- Deb handed out copies of the Volunteer Waivers for review and signing.
- Karen Harvey spoke to Deb the day before this meeting and told her that the expansion of the office building and the announcement board would be brought up at the Board of Directors meeting on 3/14.

### **3. OLD BUSINESS**

Maureen McDowell asked that the Committee consider allowing Fitness Classes to take once per week for 90 minutes for the entire year in the Community Center. She mentioned that the issue has been around for a while and she would like a definitive answer on the subject. Maureen advocated for classes saying there has been resident interest in having these classes and that having participants sign a waiver would

mitigate the liability issue. Later in the meeting Deb reported that she discussed the issue of liability with Derrick and he is speaking with the Rotonda insurance companies. She also said this is a complicated issue and it will take time to figure it out.

#### **4. ACTION REPORTS**

##### **a. WEST WAYS NEWSLETTER FOR February**

- Nadine thanked everyone for writing their articles and doing a great job of getting them to her promptly and reminded them the articles can be short.

##### **b. CONSTANT CONTACT**

- Registrations: the total number of contact registrations has been stagnant.
- There is a 52% open rate for emails which is pretty much the industry standard.
- Follow up at next meeting

##### **c. BINGO**

- Bingo is scheduled for March 17th . Committee Volunteers will be Deb, Rita and Annemarie
- Follow up at next meeting

##### **d. MUSIC IN THE PARK**

- The Rotonda Singers will perform on 3/11 at 5:00 pm in the Community Center. Andy expects approximately 100 people to attend.
- The Northport Showcase scheduled to perform on 3/21 has been canceled due to a scheduling conflict on their part.
- A Dance Party with Erik Stephanick is scheduled for 4/8
- Follow up at next meeting

##### **e. CHRISTMAS PARADE**

- Deb said that Pam Pierce will be organizing the 2024 Christmas Parade again this year and has confirmed using Fellowship Church as the beginning point.. Nadine will do the media portion of the event and volunteers are needed to coordinate helpers and logistics.
- Follow up at future meetings.

##### **f. TRIVIA NIGHT WITH TIM**

- April, May and June Trivia nights have been approved by the Board and will be held on the first Wednesday of the month.

- **LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS**

- **Rotonda Nature** Merrill Horswill scheduled a presentation by the Charlotte County Extension Office called "Florida Friendly Gardening and Landscaping" for 3/13 and there will be a Guided Birdwatching event on 3/30. Donna made a motion to accept these dates. It was seconded by Nadine and approved.
- Merrill is scheduling a Lemon Bay Conservancy presentation on how a Golf Course was made into Wildflower Preserve.
- Donna would like to have a presentation by the Charlotte County History Department on the Vanderbilt's connection to Rotonda West for May 14 and May 21. Donna moved to accept and Rita seconded and approved by the committee.

Donna is looking for individuals for presentations on Coyotes and Bobcats for May and Alligators for June.

Merrill mentioned that Rose Weaver from the Lemon Bay Conservancy will do a presentation at the Broadmoor Park Butterfly Garden on April 22 – Earth Day beginning at 10:00 am. This coincides with the Bike and Trash Pickup at Rotonda Park.

Merrill moved to have brochures made for various Nature subjects such as native plants and animals to be put in the New Homeowners Packet and available in the office and handouts at presentations, seconded by Rita and approved by the committee.

#### **h. Health and Wellness**

- Outreach Committee members are encouraged to attend the Rotonda Emergency Preparedness CERT Training with AED on March 27<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30 pm.
- Rita said there will be a Bike Ride and Litter Pickup scheduled for On April
- A presentation by Englewood Hospital Health and Nutrition office is scheduled for March 20.
- Follow up at next meeting

#### **i. MEET & GREET**

- A disappointing 19 people attended the February Meet and Greet on February 23, 2024. The next one will be held on March 26, 2024.
- Follow up at next meeting

#### **j. VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION BANQUET**

- Nadine reported that 68 volunteers attended the Banquet and that many invitees did not RSVP. The Banquet came in under budget at \$3,085. Coffee was inadvertently omitted. Nadine would like to have a volunteer she would train for future years coordinator

#### **k. ROTONDA'S GOT TALENT**

- Donna reported on a great afternoon. There were many people who are looking forward to next year's show. Andy does not want a "contest" going forward, just a show. He feels that if people do not move forward in the show, they will not show up for subsequent rounds. All people should be allowed to participate. Deb suggested Donna put a proposal together for next year for a "Showcase" instead of a contest.

#### **l. Shred-it and Share**

- Deb wants to keep this on the agenda to not to lose sight of it for next October

### **5. NEW BUSINESS**

**Celebrate the Circle.** Deb asked the Committee to think of ideas as to how this event will take shape.

- **Holiday Decorations** Karen previously sent out templates to committee members of the banners that will be used to decorate the subdivision parks. There was a discussion about whether to use "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Holidays". A vote was taken which ended in a tie. Deb contacted Barry and Andy after the meeting and they voted for "Merry Christmas".
- Karen is going back to the sign company to adjust the signs for two of the subdivisions. The designs will come to the committee for approval and then sent to the BOD
- **Miscellaneous Presentations** Deb shared a suggestion to have a Hurricane Preparedness presentation with the Neighborhood Watch for sometime in May. Donna is going to coordinate this.
- There is a local company who would like to make presentation to Rotonda residents and who wrote an article for Westways on how to protect your home while you are away for the Summer. Committee members were skeptical about having a private company try to sell services via presentations. Annemarie suggested that we might be

able to ask the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office for this info. Donna is going to follow up.

- Annemarie asked that when reporting on events with residential attendance she would like volunteers to report on the numbers of attendees.
- Deb expected Linda Felix to be present at today's meeting to follow up on Linda's potential membership on the COC. Deb will follow up with Linda.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

- The Meeting was adjourned at 11:10 AM