

ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC
646 Rotonda Circle, Rotonda West, FL 33947
COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES

June 4, 2025

Present: Deb Orchard, Chair, Gwen Grace, Vice Chair, Annemarie D'Abrosca, Secretary, Maureen Laderer, Donna Stogsdill, Rita Lopienski

Absent: Andy van Sycoc, Karen Harvey, Merrill Horswill

Attending on Zoom: None

Guests: Nadine Clough, Christina Royce, Grace Checuti

Staff in Attendance: Denise Huffman, 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 May 1 2025 Minutes, with corrections (Rita was absent in May) seconded by Gwen. Motion approved.

2. RESIDENT/ MEMBER INPUT None

3. ACTION REPORTS

a. CONSTANT CONTACT/COMMUNITY OUTREACH FACEBOOK SITE

The Constant Contact Manager's Report is still getting the most "opens". The new At-A-Glance activities page had an "open" rate of 49%. In order to look at the complete flyer for the event, an individual would have to log in to the RWA Website and click on "RWA Happenings". Deb asked Joe if he could find a way to put it on the home page so members would not have to Log In to the site. This has been done. Nadine said she would put a

“cancelled notice” on any event in At-A-Glance that is cancelled. This also has been done.

A suggestion was made to have an evening seminar which would show residents how to access the RWA website and electronic voting for the fall BOD elections. This idea received favorable comments, but no action was taken.

The Facebook now has approximately 850 members.

b. BINGO Annemarie D’Abrosca Lead

- No Report.

c. MUSIC IN THE PARK Deb Orchard Lead

- A musical presentation, 7 Metal Singing Bowls of Tibet will be performed by Rita on 5/21 at 9:30 AM. Speakeasy Alley will perform on 6/16 at 6:30 pm.

d. CHRISTMAS PARADE Pam Pierce Lead, Gazebo Lighting Karen Harvey Lead

- **Parade:** Pam Pierce is still looking for volunteers for the parade. Theme is 50’s and 60’s
- **Gazebo Lighting and Boat Parade Karen Harvey and Andy VanSycoc.**

Date is set for 11/29.

- **Decorating Grace Checuti** spoke about decorating for Christmas. Her first meeting is the week of 6/2-6/6. Grace will plan 2-3 workshops each month to make the decorations (no beginning month was mentioned at this meeting). Grace then discussed an idea to ask if Rotonda “interest” groups (clubs that meet at the Community Center) if they would like to decorate a tree for Christmas that would be in the Community Center. This would be in addition to, or in place of, the Holiday Stroll. Gwen said she would like to see a “Giving Tree” as part of this project. Maureen volunteered to help Grace with this activity.

e. TRIVIA NIGHT TIM Deb Orchard lead

- Deb made a motion to spend \$150 per month to continue Trivia Night with Tim Dowd. Annemarie seconded. Motion passed.

f. LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS Donna Stogsdill and Merrill Horswill leads

- **Rotonda Presentations**
- **Fauna** On 1/29/26 There will be a presentation on Shorebirds by May Lundeberg.
- **Flora** Presentations are as follows: 1/14/26 @ 2pm Gardening for Wildlife by Sarah Weber: 2/14/26 @ 9am Butterfly Garden Tour Family Event: 3/11/26 @ 2 pm Invasive Plant presentation by Mark Thurmond

g. HEALTH AND WELLNESS Rita Lopienski Lead

6/3 @ 9am World Bike Day Ride at RW Community Park; 6/25 @2pm Fit for Life Using Functional Exercise to Maintain Muscle Mass and Confidence by April Sutphen; 9/25 2 2pm How Not to Age via Nutrition by Diane Casey.

h. MIX AND MINGLE Maureen Laderer Lead

The subcommittee is looking for a place to hold monthly luncheons. It will not be at the Hills. At the most recent Pot Luck gathering, 35 people attended.

i. VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION BANQUET

Gwen will be the lead for the 2026 Volunteer Banquet. Maureen and Annemarie volunteered to help. The Committee agreed that we will not schedule it on the same day as the March Bingo.

j. COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE Rita Lopienski Lead

The Spring Community Garage Sale in March was very successful. Approximately 140 houses participated. The tentative dates for the Fall Garage Sale are November 7 & 8.

k. RWA Open House Gwen Grace Lead

- The Open House will be held on November 13, 2025

4. NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Gwen to schedule the annual Alzheimer's Benefit Walk for November 15. Seconded by Annemarie. Motion passed. The event is co-sponsored by the COC and the RWWC.

At the end of the meeting there was a general discussion about sponsoring more events for children. Ideas included were : A Halloween Party (which might conflict with other neighborhood Halloween events); Kids Bingo; an Easter Egg Hunt; and a Kid's Talent Show. The general feeling was that it is hard to gauge how much participation there would be considering the relatively low number of children living in RW.

The lead volunteers for the Christmas related events would like to bring back the Holiday Stroll which could involve many children's activities.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting was adjourned at 10:32 am. The next meeting is scheduled for June 4th at 9:30 am.