

ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC
646 Rotonda Circle, Rotonda West, FL 33947
Wildlife Committee

MEETING MINUTES

March 3, 2021

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM

Present: Cari Hale, (Chair), Patti Cowin (BOD Liaison) Cindy Chatham, Jim Peterfeso, Via Zoom: Kip and Ann Stadnicki,

Absent: Joan Gotthardt, Lynda Chamowitz, Belinda Olsen, Don Olsen, Jackie Baker.

Guests: John Stem

Approval of Minutes: Jim motioned to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2021 minutes. 2nd Cindy. Minutes were approved unanimously.

New Business:

The March 31st presentation at 1 PM is on Raptors. Peace River Wildlife Center (PRWC) will be providing the presentation and will have 3 Animal Ambassadors present. Jim motioned to provide a \$100 stipend to PRWC. 2nd by Cindy. Motion passed unanimously.

Cari is coordinating a presentation for Gopher Tortoise Day, April 10th. She would like to follow the presentation with a walk-through Broadmoor Park to identify/mark Gopher Tortoise burrows in an effort to educate attendees on how to discriminate between active tortoise burrows, abandoned burrows, and burrows that have been taken over by invasive species such as iguanas.

Old Business:

Cari informed the Committee members that while the idea of placing a birding structure down by L08, to view the rookery there, was rejected by the Building and Grounds Committee, a bench will be placed there as an interim measure to determine how much usage a bird blind might attract. A bench will also be placed near L07.


The kiosk between the office and the admin building has been cleared out and is ready for use by the Wildlife Committee. The plan is to update it regularly with wildlife information and notifications about upcoming presentations.

The nature walk is now being held the 3rd Saturday of the month.

The vests for Kip and Ann Stadnicki are in and are available for pick-up in the office.

The signs for marking gopher tortoise burrows are also available.

Member Input: John Stem was concerned about the amount of seating available for the Raptors presentation as he is aware of a number of his neighbors that are interested in attending. Cari assured him that ample seating would be available as the entire room would be used and can seat up to 60 people in a socially distanced fashion.



Committee comments: Jim shared his assessments of the Lemon Creek preserve walk sponsored by the Lemon Bay Conservancy in conjunction with the Aquatics Committee.

Cindy suggested that a trash can be placed by the viewing benches. She also suggested that we start working on the bat boxes now as it takes up to 2 years for the bats to “take up residence”.

Meeting adjourned at 12:27 PM

Next meeting: April 7, 2021

Respectfully submitted: Patti Cowin, Wildlife Committee Secretary