

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

MEETING MINUTES

April 7, 2021

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

Present: Cari Hale, (Chair), Patti Cowin (BOD Liaison), Joan Gotthardt, Lynda Chamowitz, Belinda Olsen, Don Olsen, Jim Peterfeso, and Via Zoom: Cindy Chatham

Absent: Kip and Ann Stadnicki.

Guests: Dale Jensen

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

New Business:

Belinda Olsen will check on the potential for a “Bee” presentation. The hope is to have a local beekeeper come and talk about the importance of these pollinators. Projected date, June.

Cindy Chatham will check into the possibility of a “Bat” presentation and will pursue the construction and placement of bat houses.

Don Olsen will pursue having another presentation on “Snakes”.

Jim Peterfeso is working on a presentation “Native Plants for Birds”

Old Business:

Raptor presentation was excellent. We received a lot of positive feedback.

Gopher Tortoise day is Friday. FWC has sent coloring books and other materials for handouts.

Gopher Tortoise burrow marking is continuing under the leadership of Don & Belinda Olsen.

Member Input: Dale Jensen is concerned about the placement of bat houses. It is his understanding that the houses have to be a minimum of 2ft by 2ft and placed on poles high (20 feet) in open areas. He is concerned that such a structure would be at risk during hurricane season. Cari stated that in southwest Florida the houses do not need to be “out in the open” as the direct sunlight is not needed to keep the bats warm. Cindy also indicated that there are several tall pines in locations near lakes that would be appropriate and provide a much more stable situation that would withstand high winds. Scott Schermerhorn will be consulted regarding the issue as well as he is in charge of Charlotte County mosquito control program and may have some insight as to the contribution of bats in mosquito control.

Committee comments: Cindy Chatham would like to organize a clean-up day for Rotonda West.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM

Next meeting: May 5, 2021

Respectfully submitted: Patti Cowin, Wildlife Committee Secretary