

**ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC.  
646 Rotonda Circle, Rotonda West, FL 33947**

**Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday, August 27, 2020 – 2:00PM**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Patricia Aho, Sam Besase, Patti Cowin, Jerry Eldred, David Kelly, and  
(via Zoom) Peter Traverso, Stephen Froggatt

**Management:** Derrick Hedges, RWA Manager

**Members:** Joe Harris, Hank Killion, Dale Jensen, Cari Hale, Dan Casteel, Barry Patterson, Karen Harvey, Maureen McDowell, Carol Abarbanell and (via Zoom) Tom Roque, Allyson Eakin, Bob Bondeson, Bernie Schmeltz, Susan Superak, Melisa Stricker, Rev Dr Brian Armen, Joe Amabile, Andrew Leonard, Linda Bondeson, Wayne Legris, Astrid Diamtia, Claudine Hoffman, Steve Superak, Vickie Lowe, Johna Donahue, michael Donahue, Don Mahon, Kip and Ann Stadnicki, Diane Shaw, eric Christenson, David Burton.

The Meeting was called to order by President Aho at 2:00 PM. The meeting was properly noticed and a quorum was present.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America was said by all.

Director Besase moved the Board to approve the Meeting Minutes for the Aug 13, 2020 BOD Meeting as amended by adding unanimous outcome for the vote appointing Nadine Clough as Westways editor. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Director Traverso. Motion passed unanimously. See attached.

**MEMBERS INPUT** (Agenda Items)

None.

**OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES & CONTRACTORS REPORTS**

**Treasurer's Report:** Director Besase – see attached  
At 70% with the 2021 budget preparation.

**Manager's Report:** Derrick Hedges, Manager - see attached  
Director Kelly inquired as to whether the RWA will appeal any of the taxes levied. Manager Hedges replied that he would get with the Treasurer and check on that.

Director Eldred mentioned that a count of “new” trees was done in the areas that were rested from mowing. Manager Hedges stated that 555 palm trees have come up in those areas.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Activities Committee** – Andy VanScyoc (Chair)

No report.

### **Administration/Personnel** – President Aho (Chair)

No report.

### **Aquatic Committee** – Stan Plizga (Chair)

Director Eldred indicated that the “Critter Count” was complete. The data will now be evaluated to determine the health of the ponds. He also requested volunteers to help with future collections. President Aho indicated that the Communications Committee could help with that request by putting a call for volunteers in the next Westways as part of the article about the “Critter Collection”.

### **Budget & Finance Committee** – Hank Killion (Chair) see attached

Work on 2021 Budget has started. They are being very conservative on the income side of the budget to allow for potential shortfalls in assessments due to COVID19. Still have not received any budget request from the Activities Committee. Director Eldred inquired as to the status of 2020 assessments collections. Treasurer Besase indicated that around 400 delinquent accounts were sent “suspension of rights” notices 6 weeks ago. In the last 4 weeks around 50 accounts were brought up to date. That leaves around 350 accounts still delinquent which is average for this time of year.

### **Buildings & Grounds** – Director Besase (Chair) see attached

Director Eldred questioned how the AC bids were written since generally quotes are only good for 30-60 days and the BOD only approved replacement of the AC upon failure of the current system. Manager Hedges indicated that the bids were indeed for 60 days but the contractor had agreed to submit re-bids every 60 days to keep the estimates current. Director Traverso encouraged Manager Hedges to ensure there is at least a 5 year warranty on the compressor. Director Cowin asked how the issue raised at the last meeting regarding the address on the sign for Broadmoor Park was going to be resolved. Director Besase stated that he is working with Manager Hedges to install an additional section to the sign with the address in larger font on the additional section.

### **Communications** – Patricia Aho (Chair) see attached

**Compliance** – Richard Duggan (Chair)

No report.

**Deed Restriction** Duties assumed by BOD

**Election Committee** – Dale Jensen (Chair) see attached

President Aho motioned to approve the following individuals as candidates for the 2020 election. Patti Cowin, David Kelly, Bernie Schmelz, Diane Shaw. 2<sup>nd</sup> Director Traverso. **Motion passed 5-0 with Directors Cowin and Kelly abstaining.**

President Aho motioned to place the rollover question on the ballots. 2<sup>nd</sup> Director Traverso. Motion passed unanimously.

Director Traverso motioned to add “Frequently Asked Questions”, submitted by the Election Committee, to the Annual Meeting Notice packet. 2<sup>nd</sup> Director Froggatt. Motion passed unanimously.

Director Traverso motioned to place the Candidate Information Sheets on the RWA website for those candidates that would like to do so. 2<sup>nd</sup> Director Besase. Director Eldred expressed concern about putting private information out on the internet and asked whether the CIS’s could be modified to remove some of the private information. **Motion passed 5-0 with Directors Cowin and Kelly abstaining.**

**Holiday Sub-Committee** see attached

Director Kelly motioned to approve \$2,904.75 and 2/ea of the pole decorations to include associated hardware not to exceed \$5.5K total. 2<sup>nd</sup> Director Traverso. Motion passed unanimously.

**Residential Modifications Committee** – Barb Peszko (Chair)

No report.

**Wildlife Committee** – Cari Hale (Chair) see attached.

Ms. Hale requested that the Board approve new members to the committee.

Director Eldred motioned to approve Ann & Kip Stadnicki and Jackie Baker as new members of the Wildlife Committee. 2<sup>nd</sup> Director Cowin. Motion passed unanimously.

A protracted discussion was then held regarding the committee proposal to purchase signs “Do Not Feed or Molest Alligators”. Director Traverso wanted “no swimming” added to the signs. Director Cowin clarified that “no swimming” signs are already present at all the roadside parks. Director Besase was concerned about the cost of the signs and who would pay for them (County

MSBU?) and expressed his opinion that the money would be better spent on educational flyers and presentations. Director Eldred agreed with Director Traverso regarding adding “no swimming”. Director Kelly stated he did not want a lot of signs as they would be unsightly. Director Froggatt expressed his support for the signs. Director Eldred requested the committee revisit the sign issue to try and address these concerns before bringing it for a vote. Ms. Hale agreed to take the issue back to the Wildlife Committee.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Regarding the need for any changes to the current limitations to the hours of operation or opening of the Administrative Office or Community Center due to the COVID19, the BOD did not see a need for any changes at this point.

### **NEW BUSINESS & COMMUNICATIONS** – President Aho

The Certificate of Recording for the updated RMC Guidelines has been received from Attorney Spector.

### **MEMBERS INPUT** (Non-Agenda Items)

Carol Abarbanell expressed her dismay that the BOD could not come to any agreement regarding the alligator signage. She also is disappointed that there is no movement to help protect the alligators. She does not believe that educational presentations alone will save the alligators and that a THA is needed.

Diane Shaw inquired as to when the CIS’s would be removed from the RWA website. President Aho indicated it would be the day of the annual meeting.

### **DIRECTOR INPUT**

Director Froggatt intoned that although he was in favor of the Christmas decorations he was concerned that the current COVID crises would result in the cancellation of the boat parade and street parade. He also warned that as members are under a great deal of emotional and financial strain that the BOD should not raise rates/fines etc. and should show a little compassion.

Director Traverso asked if there was anything in the new owner’s packages regarding the wildlife in RWA. Director Cowin explained that a tri-fold containing information regarding the wildlife has been included in the new owner’s packets for over a year and that as a result of the current alligator issue Manager Hedges has begun including FWC’s “Living with Alligators” brochure in the packets.

Director Eldred indicated he liked the idea of the signs but would like different wording. He also said that he thought that the RWA was going to check into the liability issues related to establishing a THA. President Aho stated that Manager Hedges had checked with the insurance

provider and based on the limited information provided to her, she does not believe, at this time, that the RWA should become involved in the process.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 3:13 pm.

**Next Board Meeting:** 2 PM August 27, 2020

Respectfully Submitted,  
Patricia Cowin,  
Director/Secretary

Attachments:

Agenda  
Minutes  
Reports