

**ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC**  
**WILDLIFE AD HOC SUB-COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**June 26, 2018**

Meeting called to order at 11:00 A.M

Members present: Patti Cowin, Chair, Cari Hale, Joan Gotthardt, Lynda Chamowitz, Jim Peterfeso, and Jan Meades

Absent: Ruth Fletcher, Mike Kipp, Tammy Kipp, Steve Froggatt, Belinda Olsen, Don Olsen

Patti called the meeting to order and the group approved the minutes from the last meeting.

Following approval, meeting minutes are posted at [www.RotondaWest.org](http://www.RotondaWest.org). From the main page, click on Committee Minutes, then (under Rotonda West Forum) click Meeting Minutes, then scroll down to Wildlife Sub-Committee and select it.

The group reluctantly agreed to remove Ruth Fletcher from the members list. She is welcome to rejoin us at any time. It was also agreed to set the quorum at 40% of the membership.

The Facebook page for "Rotonda West Wildlife Committee" is up. There was discussion and it was decided to have access to our page via the HOA website. Cari encouraged everyone to invite RW Facebook friends to follow the site. There are currently 38 followers. The group continued conversation regarding the cataloguing of burrows. Patti has collected all of the data and has mapped the gopher tortoise burrows, using the Google Maps App by dropping a pin which then yields a latitude/longitude. Further discussion resulted in an agreement to drop the plus code as a means of mapping the burrows. The current map has been placed on the wildlife Facebook page and forwarded to Kelly O'Connor, FWC Gopher Tortoise Biologist for our area.

The marking of additional burrows has come to a complete stop. The Activities Committee failed to pass our request for additional signs. There was discussion about the formation of the committee and how it came to be because of the concern for the tortoise burrows. It was explained that Scott Feldkamp, RWA Manager, and Andy VanScyoc, Activities Committee Chair (and RWA Board Member), proposed the idea of forming a committee to address issues concerning gopher tortoises and RWA wildlife in general. During the December 2017 exploratory meeting, attended by Belinda and Don Olsen, Cari Hale, and Patti Cowin Mr. Feldkamp and Mr. VanScyoc, encouraged the placement of the signs by the proposed committee as a means of protecting the mowing equipment and operators from harm due to the potential of becoming stuck in a burrow. At this meeting Belinda, and Don were given 20

signs to place and all were told that all we needed to do to obtain more signs was ask Mr. Feldkamp and he would be happy to provide them. Subsequently, the committee was informed that sign purchases would have to be approved by the Activities committee and the BOD. There is now question as to our ability to enter private property to place signs. There was also a question as to whether or not multiple signs could be placed on a single lot. Patti is working to clear up these concerns by working with the BOD, RWA Manager, and the RWA Attorney. Of the 118 signs that have been placed by the Wildlife Sub-Committee to date (primarily in Pinehurst, White Marsh and Pine Valley), there was a request to remove 1 and it was promptly removed.

Alternate signage has been researched and can be obtained via a Rotonda West resident for \$3.36 per including legs. A price break could be negotiated if we order 200 signs at one time. A logo was approved if signs are to continue. A logo was also approved for T-shirts in the event the committee moves forward.

Cari has been working with Bill Byle of Charlotte County, and Kelly O'Connor of FWC. It has been determined that signage in no way alerts predators to gopher tortoise burrows. Also, Mr. Byle indicated that there are approximately 40 gopher tortoise burrows in Broadmoor Park.

Under old business Patti requested that members think about potential speakers for educational presentations. She is going to contact Eva Furner about a Wildflower presentation and asked Jim to follow up on the speaker he suggested.

Under new business Patti informed the members about a FWC Gopher Tortoise App that is available. The app allows users to post pictures of Gopher Tortoises and submit them to the FWC to help identify where tortoises occur. The photo will be uploaded to the FWC database along with any notes you add. She encouraged members to install the app on their cellphones and see if this could assist the Wildlife Sub-Committee in its efforts. Cari suggested that the group develop tri-folds to provide information on the various wildlife found in RW. She plans to start with one on Gopher Tortoises. Patti encouraged other members to pick a species and gather information for future tri-folds. Tri-folds developed will be placed in the Office and Community Center. It was suggested that they also be placed in new-homeowner packets.

The meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

The next meeting will be July 10

Respectfully Submitted:

Cari Hale