

Venice Nokomis Woman's Club
General Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2021

Kathy Price, Director of Programs, called the brief meeting to order at the Venice Rookery at 1:30 PM. Kathy reminded us of the General Meeting and visit in February to the Venice Urban Forest at 308 E. Venice Ave. across from the train station.

Ellie Vick made the motion to approve the General Meeting Minutes of December 10, 2020. Joan Brinton seconded the motion. All approved.

At this time, Jack Foard President of the Rookery was ready to introduce us to the Rookery and take us on a tour of the Rookery Park. Anyone is welcome to visit the Rookery but the building is temporarily closed due to Covid. He encouraged all who visit to socially distance and wear a mask. He said he was very thankful to talk to us that events at the Rookery have been very few.

Jack gave us a brief history of the Rookery that is internationally known to bird photographers. In 1988 when the government building was built the dirt was removed for the pond and the inner island was left there. Eventually the plants and birds took over the island. Alligators in the lake keep mammal predators away from the island birds. There is a path around the small lake where all the birds can be viewed. Some of the birds that can be seen on the island are Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, Glossy Ibises, and other types of Herons. You can see nests, birds courting, eggs and chicks. Jack also showed us the bat houses by the lake where hundreds of bats live. They can be seen emerging in the evening.

At the end of tour Kathy presented Jack with a VNWC thank you to the Rookery. He said they would be sure to buy some native Florida plants with the donation. VNWC members can donate online at Veniceaudubon.org if they so choose. Thanks to Kathy Price for arranging our tour. I heard a lot of members expressing their gratitude also. It was a very fun trip during these social distancing times.

Just one small note, there is a lot of construction taking place at the Government Facility at this time which is beside the Rookery. If you plan to visit, parking is very limited. Also Jack said they hope to get the County to build another pond during this construction and expand the Venice Rookery.

Submitted by
Pat Church
Secretary