

HOA Board Meeting
Oct 4, 2023 - 6 PM

Members Present

Al Roberts, Ardeth McCall, Ken Crews, & Tim Praznik

Items discussed.

- Should HOA provide some funding for TNR (Trap, Neuter and Release) for feral cats in RO?
- Although the work being done by Mary and James Wallace is admirable, the consensus was that RO should not fund their work. The Board members do not share the same love for stray, feral cats, but TNR does have some merit.
- Al discussed several articles he found that discussed the feral cats and the consensus was to not feed them or do anything that encourages them to stay. Besides the human and animal health risks, the feeding and sheltering of any stray cat can cause damage to property. Cats gather around buildings, urinate, defecate, scent mark or spray, creating unsanitary conditions damaging structures, equipment and materials. All the ferals look for is food and the ability to mate. Some states, not Texas, it's against the law to even feed or shelter feral cats. Al related that the wife of his nephew that lives east of Winsborow started feeding feral cats and started with four cats and now has over twenty of them to deal with. Ardeth stated that Hugh's aunt had one cat come to her property and now has about 100. Wood County has no animal control facilities, however there is one City facility in Winsborow, two in Mineola, and one in Hawkins. Al stated that if you don't feed them, they won't stay.
- Ken stated that after Heavenly Acres was cleared out, most coyotes left and now they don't help keep the population down. Lots of discussion followed, but we have no obvious solution to the ferals. Of the Board Members present, there was no strong support for financial aid for the TNR in the neighborhood. Al thinks we should talk with Mary, but the fear is that it could become very adversarial. We may need to get the entire community to vote on the issue of funding.
- Following the meeting, Tim supplied links to two articles about ferals. One from the TP&W that is against TPR and one from another source that supports it. Links are shown below.
- We discussed street repairs to do this year. Tim supplied a spec sheet for future concrete work on our neighborhood streets. Al, Ken and Tim will get together during the week of Oct 15, to choose areas for repair.

For TNR - <https://www.texastribune.org/2023/06/13/texas-trap-neuter-release-bill-cats/>

Against TNR -

<https://www.tpwd.texas.gov/wildlife/birding/bird-city-texas/tpwdferalcatbriefingpaper.pdf>

Meeting adjourned 7 PM