

Black Diamond Foundation, Inc
Monday, March 7, 2011, 4:00 pm
Black Diamond Ranch Club
Lecanto, Florida

Present: Anil Ram, Mike Bays, Jim Briley, Dave Burns, Bill Joens, Nancy Manafort, Sue Pratt, Art Thomas, Sharron Rosenberg, Bill Williams, Jim Wood, Linda Youell

Jay Joines

Guests: Black Diamond Junior Volunteer Corps:

- Mrs Laura Henderson
- Tucker Henderson
- Mrs Elisabeth Moore (and Blessings in a Backpack)
- Alexis Rios
- Chrissy Ronzo
- Dani Ronzo

Blessings in a Backpack

- Ms Debbie Lattin

Citrus County Sheriff's Office

- Lt Phil Royal, Law Enforcement Academy Director

YMCA of the Suncoast

- Ms Sue Ball, Vice-President
- Ms Cindy Spano, Program Director, Citrus County Branch

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm, March 7, 2011.

2. YMCA of the Suncoast, Citrus County Branch

Sue Ball and Cindy Spano described the YMCA's successful 2010 summer camps in Citrus County, and the plans for summer camps in 2011.

In 2010, approximately 150 Citrus County children attended a Y summer camp every week, with 250 different children in all. In 2010, the Y offered summer camps at four different locations, but in 2011, they will offer the camps at two locations: Whispering Pines Park (City of Inverness), and Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park, to make better use of their resources. The Y also offered programs throughout the County during the year.

Thanks to a federal grant, the Y is offering a pilot program at Pope John Paul School – CATCH: Coordinated Approach to Child Health – designed to promote physical activity, healthy food choices and the prevention of tobacco use by children.

Every person who participates in a Y program must pay some part of the tuition, but every child who applied for financial assistance received it. In 2010, \$67,000 was donated, most of which supported the summer camp program.

The Citrus County Branch is focusing on youth development, growing the volunteer program and the annual giving program. In 2011, the Y will continue to work on the capital campaign for a facility in Citrus County. A major fund-raising event occurs on Saturday, March 19, 2011.

Lt Phil Royal, attending the meeting for other reasons, endorsed the 2010 Y summer camps, which family members new to Citrus County had attended.

Black Diamond Foundation awarded \$5000 in 2009, and \$6500 in 2010 for scholarships to enable Citrus County children to attend Y summer camps in Citrus County. The Y requests \$7500 for the 2011 summer camp season.

Chairman Joens thanked Sue Ball and Cindy Spano for their presentation.

3. Black Diamond Junior Volunteer Corps

Tucker Henderson, Alexis Rios, Chrissy Ronzo and Dani Ronzo described the projects BDJVC has supported for the last year: laying sod at Habitat for Humanity houses, preparing boxes for the Thanksgiving Feeding Alliance, sorting and shelving food at Daystar, wrapping Christmas presents at Family Resource Center, cleaning both sides of two miles Pine Ridge Blvd as part of "Adopt-a-Highway", and gathering 400 pounds of peanut butter and packing backpacks for "Blessings in a Backpack". The members of BDJVC have accumulated more than 260 hours of community service.

Black Diamond management has approved the BDJVC logo.

To support "Blessings in a Backpack", BDJVC is organizing a 5K run – 1 mile walk on Saturday, April 2, 2011.

BDJVC requested a grant of \$360 to acquire t-shirts with the BDJVC logo, and requested support from Black Diamond Foundation for the 5K run – 1 mile walk.

Members of the Foundation thanked the BDJVC for their representation of the Black Diamond community.

4. Blessings in a Backpack

At the Foundation's January 4, 2010 meeting, Debbie Lattin requested support for "Blessings in a Backpack". The Foundation did not provide funding at that time.

Ms Lattin updated the Foundation on numbers of students served, student achievement, expansion plans. The program has seen gains of 25% in the areas of reading, attendance and student behavior. They are helping 229 students from 115 families in three Citrus County elementary schools: Floral City, Hernando, and Homosassa, and want to offer the program in four more elementary schools next school year: Central Ridge, Citrus Springs, Crystal River, and Lecanto. School administrators identify the recipients, from confidential information about elementary students receiving reduced price or free school lunches, which ranges from 54% to 74% of the elementary school population.

They serve a maximum of 100 students in each school, and have lowered their costs to \$80 per

student per school year, in line with the national Backpack program – for a cost per school served of \$8000 per school year. The backpacks are filled with single-serving, easy-to-open, ready-to-eat nutritious foods. As noted above, Black Diamond Junior Volunteer Corps has packed the backpacks, and is supporting a major fund-raiser.

Blessings in a Backpack wishes to secure long-term funding, to support its goal of having two years' worth of funding in reserve.

Ms Lattin requested funding from Black Diamond Foundation for the program. Also, she recommended a program on *60 Minutes* (CBS tv): "Homeless children: the hard times generation." The story was filmed in Seminole County, Florida.

The Foundation thanked Ms Lattin for her presentation.

5. Citrus County Sheriff's Office

Lt Phil Royal spoke to a couple of projects that would benefit from Foundation support.

2011 has been a tragic year for law enforcement in Florida: 8 officers have been killed in the line of duty. Lt Royal described a training facility that could be constructed in a building that WTI has donated to CCSO. The training facility would have moveable interior walls that could re-create real-life situations that officers had encountered, and would be used by the police academy, and for on-going training.

CCSO has approximately 100 recruits yearly, about three-quarters from Citrus County. There are 41 criminal justice training centers in Florida, but none has a facility such as CCSO proposes.

CCSO accepts applications from current employees, for police academy, and lets them work, study and train on a flexible schedule. Lt Royal said a scholarship program for CCSO employees who are accepted into the police academy would be a welcome benefit. Tuition is approximately \$3000.

Lt Royal also described civilian handgun safety programs at WTI Criminal Justice Academy – "Handgun safety for women" and "Basic gun safety".

ACTION: Lt Royal will return to the Foundation's May 2011 meeting, with design and renovation costs for the training facility, and with preferences for the training facility or training scholarships. Dave Burns is the liaison.

6. Minutes, February 7, 2011

MOVED BY: Nancy Manafort

SECONDED BY: Sharron Rosenberg

That the Minutes be approved as distributed.

APPROVED.

7. Treasurer's Report, February 28, 2011

Jim Briley reported that the Pro-Am raised \$64,285, and the Foundation has received \$6200 from raffle ticket sales. There will not be a problem with IRS re unrelated business income from the raffle ticket sales, because all the sales labor is volunteer.

8. 2012 Corvette Raffle

Foundation members reported on ticket sales, and volunteered for Saturday, March 12.

ACTION: Bill Joens will ask Larry Gamble, manager of Inverness Walmart, for permission to display the vehicle and sell tickets at that location.

Mike Bays will talk with Kevin Cunningham, past president, Realtors Association of Citrus County, which helped sell tickets for the Boys & Girls Club/ BBBS raffle.

9. Citrus County Historical Society

The weekend of April 15-17, 2011, Citrus County Historical Society will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of "the year Elvis Presley came to town" – a major fundraiser for the historic Inverness Courthouse. By letter, the Society requested Foundation sponsorship.

MOVED BY: Jim Wood

SECONDED BY: Anil Ram

That the Foundation participate at the Diamond sponsorship level, with a grant of \$1500 (Fifteen hundred dollars) to the Citrus County Historical Society.

APPROVED.

10. Rider Cup Flag Sales

Sharron Rosenberg and Art Thomas volunteered to sell pins and country flags on Wednesday, March 16. Bill Joens will recruit other volunteers.

11. Food Programs in Citrus County

At the Foundation's January meeting, Linda Youell offered to compile information about food programs in Citrus County. She distributed a spreadsheet of food banks, kitchens, and reduced price purchasing.

Members wanted information about numbers helped (individuals and families) and pounds of foodstuffs distributed. Members also wanted information about the current status of the social agencies' resources, because all Citrus County agencies are losing their FEMA funds.

ACTION: Foundation members will give Linda 2010 statistics from food banks in Citrus County, to improve the spreadsheet.

12. Old Business

Jim Wood distributed copies of the 2010 Annual Report and 2011 request for contributions. Printing has been delayed, but Jim is optimistic the report will be mailed by the end of the week.

Sue Pratt reported that the Vision Mobile is in Citrus County for two days, co-sponsored by VSP and Transitions. Drs Singh and Dawson are again volunteering their time. Students who aren't examined this trip will receive vouchers for optical examinations.

13. New Business

Nancy Manafort asked the Foundation to consider support for a replacement mini-van for CASA. The current vehicle is 12 years old.

ACTION: Bill Joens will discuss CASA's needs with Diana Finnegan, executive director of CASA, and will talk with Jewel and Steve Lamb about a reasonable replacement.

Anil Ram received a request for financial support from a graduate of College of Central Florida. The writer is attending college in New York, and is experiencing tough financial times.

ACTION: Foundation members agreed it cannot provide direct financial support to individuals.

Discussion turned to the request from YMCA of the Suncoast. Members felt that subsidies for Citrus County children make a difference, and favored increasing the Foundation's support.

MOVED BY: Dave Burns

SECONDED BY: Bill Williams

That Black Diamond Foundation award \$7500.00 (Seventy-five Hundred Dollars) to YMCA of the Suncoast, to subsidize Citrus County children and youth who would otherwise be unable to attend summer programs offered by the Y in Citrus County.

APPROVED.

Black Diamond Foundation will present its grant at the fund-raising banquet on March 19, 2011.

MOVED BY: Sue Pratt

SECONDED BY: Sharron Rosenberg

That Black Diamond Foundation pay for t-shirts for Black Diamond Junior Volunteer Corps members, at an estimated cost of \$360.

APPROVED.

Foundation members preferred that Foundation support of "Blessings in a Backpack" recognize the community service of Black Diamond Junior Volunteer Corps.

MOVED BY: Sharron Rosenberg
SECONDED BY: Linda Youell

That Black Diamond Foundation grant \$3500 (Thirty-five Hundred Dollars) to the 1st Annual 5K Run - 1 Mile Walk, supported by Black Diamond Junior Volunteer Corps, as a fundraiser for "Blessings in a Backpack". Race literature and materials shall display the logo of BDJVC, not the Foundation.

APPROVED.

Jim Wood reported that Sheri Chancey is the new community outreach manager of BBBS in Citrus County, replacing Sheree Monroe. Ms Chancey attended the Foundation's March 2010 meeting. Jim asked if the Foundation wanted a presentation from BBBS, for its request for funding.

ACTION: Jim Wood will ask BBBS for a report on BBBS's success in Citrus County, including numbers of children served, and applicants, as background for consideration of its grant request.

Bill Joens displayed information about the 1st Three Sisters Springs Music Fest, April 9, 2011, 4:00 to 7:00 pm, to support the Education Center Building at Three Sisters Springs. Tickets are \$25 each. The group may make a presentation at the Foundation's May 2011 meeting.

14. Next Meetings and Adjournment

The Foundation meets at 4:00 pm, on Monday, April 4, and Monday, May 2. May 2nd will be the last meeting until October 3, 2011.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm, Monday, March 7, 2011.

Linda M Youell, Secretary
Thursday, 10 March 2011