

Black Diamond Foundation, Inc
Monday, December 3, 2012, 2:00 pm
Black Diamond Ranch Club
Lecanto, Florida

Present: Mike Bays, Jim Briley, Dave Burns, Bill Joens, Jill Ludowese, Susan Pratt, Kent Rinker, Sharron Rosenberg, Susan Savard, Art Thomas, Jim Wood, Linda Youell

Steve Barnes, Jay Joines

Guests: Bob Plaisted and Tom Slagle, on behalf of Nature Coast Ministries

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm, December 3, 2012.

2. Approval of Minutes, November 5, 2012

The Minutes of November 5, 2012 were approved as amended and corrected.

3. Nature Coast Ministries – Dental and Medical Services

Tom Slagle and Bob Plaisted described the need in Citrus County for free or low-cost dental and medical services for low-income families, seniors and veterans. Nature Coast Ministries will open a Free Dental and Medical Clinic, with the support of Catholic Charities, equipment donations, a team of 21 volunteer dentists and medical professionals, and Citrus Memorial Hospital.

The State of Florida has awarded the volunteer medical professionals Sovereign Immunity.

The free clinic is not a walk-in clinic. In order to obtain free dental services, patients will be screened by accredited interviewers. Provision of services is “need based”, not “open door”. The income threshold is twice the poverty level. They anticipate serving approximately 25 patients each week - 90% dental care and 10% medical care.

In order to open, the free clinic needs supplies for the first month of operation, amounting to \$6133.

Chairman Joens thanked Bob Plaisted and Tom Slagle for presenting this community-based initiative.

4. Treasurer’s Report, November 2012

At the end of November, the Foundation has \$246,000 in unrestricted funds.

Jim Briley’s analysis of the past two years indicates the Foundation has about 115 base supporters; 35% of all donors are responsible for 85% of the total donations. As members and residents of Black Diamond leave the community, their generosity is not being replaced by new members and residents. Also, potential new regulations for taxable gains and charitable deductions may have an effect on individual generosity.

Therefore, Jim recommended that the Foundation plan for a decline in donations over the next five years. The Foundation will discuss reserving a “carryover” of \$75,000 to \$150,000.

In 2013, it’s likely that three large projects in Citrus County will request Foundation support: YMCA Capital Campaign – the Foundation provides scholarships for Y summer camps; Community Food Bank of Citrus County – the Foundation rejected an application in November 2012; and Open Table – a local implementation of a national initiative that SOS Food Pantry, and Family Resource Center have investigated. [Please go to www.opentable.org for information.]

The Foundation must develop enthusiasm among new members and residents for the Foundation’s work.

ACTION: DAVE BURNS will meet with the developer, and discuss placing Foundation information in “New Member” orientation packages. Sharron Rosenberg and Susan Savard will help.

A new information brochure for Black Diamond Foundation will be available prior to the “Million Dollar Celebration” in February 2013.

5. Early Learning Coalition – Approval of e-Vote

The Foundation has supported Early Learning Coalition, and wished to present a grant at ELC’s fund raiser on November 30, 2012. The Federal government provides \$15.67 for each dollar raised locally.

By electronic vote, the Foundation approved a grant of \$10,000. E-votes and telephone votes must be confirmed at the next regularly-scheduled board meeting.

MOVED BY: BILL JOENS
SECONDED BY: KENT RINKER

That Black Diamond Foundation, Inc grant \$10,000 (Ten thousand dollars) to Early Learning Coalition of the Nature Coast.

APPROVED.

Jill Ludowese attended the event on behalf of the Foundation, and reported ELC was thrilled with the donation. Jill will invite Sonya Bosanko, Executive Director of ELC, to the “Million Dollar Celebration”.

6. Nature Coast Ministries

The Foundation discussed Nature Coast Ministries’ request for funding for the free dental and medical clinic.

MOVED BY: Jim Wood
SECONDED BY: Jill Ludowese

That Black Diamond Foundation, Inc grant \$6200 (Sixty-two hundred dollars) to Nature Coast Ministries, to acquire supplies sufficient to open the free dental/ medical clinic.

APPROVED.

7. Family Resource Center

Family Resource Center requested \$3500 for transportation needs of their clients, for example bus tickets and bus passes to travel to work, school and medical appointments.

The scheduled County bus line charges \$1 per trip, \$2 daily pass, \$35 monthly pass.

Family Resource Center also requested \$450 to buy sturdy grocery carts, to transport food hampers to clients' vehicles.

MOVED BY: KENT RINKER
SECONDED BY: SUSAN PRATT

That Black Diamond Foundation, Inc grant \$4000 (Four thousand dollars) to Citrus County Family Resource Center, to acquire food carts and to support transportation needs.

APPROVED.

8. CASA – Citrus Abuse Shelter Association

Sue Pratt reported that CASA needs \$2500 for a storage shed, to free up space in their main building. Jim Briley noted that the Foundation holds \$760 in trust for CASA, and recommended that, if the Foundation approves the grant, \$760 from the trust be combined with \$2000 for a total of \$2760.

MOVED BY: Jill Ludowese
SECONDED BY: Sharron Rosenberg

That Black Diamond Foundation, Inc grant \$2760 (Twenty-seven hundred, Sixty dollars) to Citrus Abuse Shelter Association, to include \$760 held in trust for CASA.

APPROVED.

CASA also had requested \$4200 to replace six outdated, slow computers.

ACTION: Sue Pratt and Jay Joines will investigate CASA's acquiring reconditioned 24" iMacs, at \$270 each, a substantially lower cost than new computers.

9. Scholarship Funding - Withlacoochee Technical Institute

Art Thomas supported \$25,000 funding for scholarships for Citrus County residents at WTI: \$17,000 for general scholarships, \$5000 for scholarships to the Citrus County Public Safety Training Center (which includes Criminal Justice and Fire Academy), and \$3000 to support GED classes and testing (General Equivalency Diploma).

Linda Youell noted that, effective January 2014, GED is changing its requirements, testing and fees, and 2013 is the final year for current students to retain existing credits. WTI is alerting all former students who have credits, but who have not received their GED, of the importance of completing requirements before the end of 2013. There are approximately 500 students who have started but not completed the GED. Currently, the prep test fee is \$30 and the writing fee is \$75. Linda Youell recommended increasing the award for GED scholarships.

MOVED BY: JILL LUDOWESE
SECONDED BY: ART THOMAS

That Black Diamond Foundation, Inc grant \$28,000 (Twenty-eight thousand dollars) to Withlacoochee Technical Institute for scholarships for Citrus County residents, the allocation to be \$17,000 for general scholarships, \$5000 for scholarships to the Public Safety Training Center, and \$6000 for scholarships to support GED students.

APPROVED.

10. Take Stock in Children

Take Stock in Children is a Florida program that identifies academically-promising, low-income, at-risk middle school students. Upon selection, students and parents/guardians sign a contract that the students will stay in school, maintain good grades, exhibit good behavior, remain crime and drug free, and meet with their mentors weekly. Students are held accountable: If they don't meet TSC's standards, they risk losing the scholarship. Citrus County Sheriff's Office is a sponsor.

Last year, BDF awarded \$10,000 to Take Stock in Children. The State of Florida matches grants, 1 for 1. Art Thomas recommended increasing the grant to \$12,000.

MOVED BY: ART THOMAS
SECONDED BY: JIM WOOD

That Black Diamond Foundation, Inc grant \$12,000 (Twelve thousand dollars) to Take Stock in Children for scholarships for Citrus County students.

APPROVED.

11. College of Central Florida

Art Thomas recommended maintaining the Foundation's \$25,000 grant to support scholarships for Citrus County residents at College of Central Florida.

MOVED BY: SUSAN SAVARD
SECONDED BY: JIM WOOD

That Black Diamond Foundation, Inc grant \$25,000 (Twenty-five thousand dollars) to College of Central Florida for scholarships for Citrus County residents.

APPROVED.

12. Family Agencies in Citrus County – Status Report

On Saturday, November 17, 2012, the Thanksgiving Feeding Alliance provided 960 Citrus County families with a complete basket for Thanksgiving dinner. Jay Joines reported that, with successful fund-raising, the support of Publix, and the generosity of the Church of Latter Day Saints, the Thanksgiving Feeding Alliance will provide an equivalent Christmas basket to all the registered families.

Board members reported that most agencies in Citrus County have sufficient food to meet their clients' needs for the near future.

13. United Way of Citrus County

Susan Savard and Dave Burns reported on their follow-up meeting with United Way of Citrus County, regarding potential cooperation with Black Diamond Foundation, to help 25 Citrus County residents obtain their GED. United Way has ear-marked \$10,000 to \$15,000 for the project. Workforce Connection is a partner in the project, and will pay all GED costs for these students.

The project involves mentorship, and help with barriers to success, such as transportation, family support and child care. United Way of Citrus County is eager to get broad-based community involvement, and is establishing a coalition to shepherd the project.

Approximately 18,000 adult Citrus County residents do not have high school equivalency.

Board members noted the Foundation's increased support of the GED program at WTI, which helps its students with needs such as transportation and child care.

ACTION: Amy Meek, President and CEO of United Way of Citrus County, will attend the Foundation's meeting on January 7, 2013.

14. Composition of the Board

At the end of 2012, three members will leave the Foundation board: Art Thomas, Jim Wood, and Linda Youell.

ACTION: Board members will talk with potential candidates, and will forward their comments to Bill Joens.

Jim Wood has written the Foundation's annual report, and appeal for support. Susan Savard offered to take on that responsibility. Linda Youell has been Secretary, and Jill Ludowese volunteered for that position.

Chairman Bill Joens thanked the departing board members for their substantial contributions to the board and to the Citrus County community.

15. Officers of the Foundation, 2013

MOVED BY: JIM WOOD

SECONDED BY: SHARRON ROSENBERG

That the following slate of officers of Black Diamond Foundation, Inc be approved:

William A Joens	Chairman
David W Burns	Vice Chairman
James W Briley	Treasurer
Jeryl C Ludowese	Secretary

APPROVED.

16. Old Business

None to discuss.

17. New Business

A Black Diamond resident wishes to donate publicly-traded securities to the Foundation. The Foundation does not have a brokerage account, but Cadence Bank, where the Foundation has checking and savings accounts, has a financial services arm that trades securities.

MOVED BY: JIM BRILEY
SECONDED BY: KENT RINKER

That Black Diamond Foundation, Inc open a brokerage account with Cadence Bank, for the purpose of receiving, transferring, and selling publicly-traded securities.

APPROVED.

Progress Energy (Duke Energy) has made a partial payment of 2012 taxes to Citrus County, due to a difference of opinion on valuation and classification. This is significant to Citrus County, because Progress Energy is one-quarter of the local tax base. The unpaid portion is approximately \$16.7 million. The Foundation briefly discussed the potential impact on services, agencies and residents.

Posters and donation cards for "Birdies for Tampa Bay Charities" are available. Last year, the Foundation earned an additional \$7000 through the "Birdies" bonus pool. The Foundation will encourage its donors to donate through "Birdies".

Sue Pratt reported that the Black Diamond Junior Volunteer Corps is involved with "Paws for a Cause", a fund-raiser on January 13, 2013, 1 pm, on the Withlacoochee State Trail, to support the Humane Society of Citrus County. "Blessings in a Backpack" walk-run raised \$41,000 for Citrus County Harvest. Foundation members who worked with BDJVC volunteers commented on their enthusiasm and hard work.

ACTION: The Foundation will send a letter of commendation to BDJVC.

Jill Ludowese reported on plans for the "Million Dollar Celebration", Friday, February 8, 2013, in the Black Diamond Clubhouse. Invitations will be mailed before the end of the year. The program will include guest speakers describing the positive impact of Foundation grants on people and programs in Citrus County.

18. Articles for 2013 Club Newsletter – “Happenings”

Copy is due to Dena Leahy by the 15th of the month prior to publication.
dleahy@escalantegolf.com

January	Scholarships	Art Thomas	due Dec 15
February	BDJVC	Sue Pratt	due Jan 15

Other topics and contributors will be identified at the Foundation’s January 2013 meeting.

19. Next Meetings and Adjournment

In 2013, the Foundation meets at 4 pm on Monday, January 7; February 4; March 4; April 8, in the clubhouse boardroom.

Dena Leahy has the meeting dates, and will post notices on Ch 19 and in the newsletter, and will reserve the boardroom.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm, Monday, December 3, 2012.

Linda M Youell, Secretary
Black Diamond Foundation, Inc

Wednesday, 05 December 2012