

Black Diamond Foundation, Inc.
Monday, February 1, 2016, 4:00 pm
Black Diamond Ranch Club
Lecanto, Florida

Present: Mary Jane Bower, Dave Burns, Foster Lamm, Jill Ludowese, Charlotte McKim, Joan Plunkett, Jon Radabaugh, Susan Savard

Absent: Kent Rinker, Sue Pratt

Guests: Joanna Castle, Executive Director, YMCA of the Suncoast – Citrus County Branch
David Reed, Senior Program Director, YMCA of the Suncoast
Darlene Carlson, Regional Executive Director - Citrus, Hernando, and Sumter Counties, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay
Sherri Chancey, Director of Partnerships – Citrus, Hernando, and Sumter Counties, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay
Bill Joens, Past Chairman, Black Diamond Foundation
Dick Ragatz, Black Diamond Community Member

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm, February 1, 2016.

2. Presentations

YMCA of the Suncoast – Citrus County Branch

Joanna Castle and David Reed presented printed materials to the Board members including: a brochure entitled "Building What Matters," a card reflecting YMCA Membership Rates for their new facility, and a two-page 2016 Black Diamond Foundation Grant Request.

In 2015, Black Diamond Foundation granted the YMCA \$15,000. Of that total, \$12,500 was provided to make YMCA summer camp an affordable option for low income families. The summer camp program (to include daily meals) costs \$89 per week, and serves approximately 550 children. Roughly 50% of the students attending YMCA summer camp require financial assistance to participate.

The remaining \$2,500 funded a new summer camp initiative featuring a literacy program designed to prevent learning loss over the summer months. The Foundation grant helped purchase 400 books used by camp participants, as well as literacy program curriculum material for instructors.

Participants were encouraged to read for 30 minutes each day they attended the summer camp program, and complete a log describing what they had read that day. The first-year initiative proved to be a great success, giving children access to books, materials and experiences to help them maintain their reading levels and skills.

The YMCA is asking for a similar grant in 2016, to continue to provide financial assistance to low income families to offset summer camp fees, and purchase materials to continue the literacy initiative.

The YMCA has also begun an Academic Enrichment Program in three local elementary schools designed to help students who are reading below grade level to improve those skills and build reading confidence. The YMCA would like to expand the program into a total of eight elementary schools, but do not yet have sufficient resources to do so. Funding the program at one elementary school (focusing on 12 to 15 students) for an academic year (24 to 26 weeks) costs \$5,500.

Big Brothers Big Sisters (BB/BS) of Tampa Bay

Sheri Chancey and Darlene Carlson started their presentation with an update about the January 2015 merger between Big Brothers Big Sisters of Pinellas County (which used to include the Citrus County program) and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay. The resultant Greater Tampa Bay program, now the largest BB/BS agency in Florida, has been in place for just over a year and has proved to be a wonderful partnership. BB/BS has grown 45 % in Citrus County in the last year. The need for a community grant to support Citrus County mentoring programs is especially great this year, since BB/BS's funding from the State Department of Education was cut by 63% in 2015.

Eighty cents of every dollar granted goes to fund the program costs. These include background checks for new mentors, program liability insurance, and in person and on-line training for new and current mentors. The BB/BS program now has Case Management Support staff members who can give advice to address difficult questions that arise in the mentoring process.

BB/BS is requesting a \$15,000 community grant which will help the local Citrus County branch sustain its current matches, and bring on more "Big" mentors. There are 20 children in the program now, with 9 more on the Citrus waiting list for "Big" mentors. To find more mentors, BB/BS has distributed "Help Wanted" signs for display in local businesses, and they have begun radio campaigns for volunteer mentor recruitment.

The grant funds also provide cultural, recreational and social activities (such as field trips, holiday parties) to enrich the opportunities available to all children in the Citrus County program.

3. Approval of Minutes, January 4, 2016

The Minutes of January 4, 2016, were approved as submitted.

4. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Susan Savard presented the Monthly Financial Report. As of today's meeting, the Foundation has assets totaling \$288,948.63; of that total \$238,948.63 are considered unrestricted funds. Total revenue for 2015 was \$216,295, the second highest amount since the Foundation was established in 2002. As stated last month, the Foundation granted \$197,595 to Citrus County charitable organizations in 2015. To date in 2016, the Foundation has provided \$30,000 in community grants.

5. Community Grant Requests

The Path of Citrus County

The Path of Citrus County is a nonprofit organization dedicated to shelter and feed the homeless in Citrus County. The Path's farm co-op is an integral part of their operation, providing work opportunities and food for clients within the program, as well as fresh produce for community feeding programs.

The Path has provided a list of priority items, and associated costs, needed to support daily operations for Foundation consideration. The Board agreed to address The Path's request for support of its new building fund capital campaign later in the year.

MOVED BY: CHARLOTTE McKIM
SECONDED BY: JOAN PLUNKETT

That Black Diamond Foundation, Inc. grant \$15,000 (Fifteen thousand dollars) to The Path of Citrus County to fund high priority needs associated with its daily operations in Citrus County.

APPROVED.

YMCA of the Suncoast – Citrus County Branch

YMCA of the Suncoast submitted a community grant request to help fund their 2016 summer camp program, to include funds for the Learning Loss Prevention Program Initiative described during today's presentation. We are reminded that the YMCA seeks to give all children, regardless of race, religious preference, athletic ability, familial status, or income, the same recreational and social experiences that help them develop in spirit, mind and body. No one is turned away due to an inability to pay.

MOVED BY: CHARLOTTE McKIM
SECONDED BY: JON RADABAUGH

That Black Diamond Foundation, Inc. grant \$15,000 (Fifteen thousand dollars) to YMCA of the Suncoast to help fund youth summer camp activities for Citrus County children, to include the Y's Learning Loss Prevention Program Initiative for 2016.

APPROVED.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay

BB/BS makes meaningful, monitored matches between adult volunteers ("Bigs") and children ("Littles"), ages 6 through 18, in communities across the country. The program develops positive relationships that have a direct and lasting effect on the lives of young people.

BB/BS of Tampa Bay is requesting a community grant to sustain existing "Big/Little" matches in Citrus County, and expand the program to meet the needs of local children on the BB/BS waiting list.

MOVED BY: JON RADABAUGH
SECONDED BY: MARY JANE BOWER

That Black Diamond Foundation, Inc. grant \$15,000 (Fifteen thousand dollars) to Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Tampa Bay in order to fund Big/Little matches for low income Citrus County children.

APPROVED.

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity of Citrus County is a nonprofit organization that seeks to bring people together to build homes, neighborhoods and hope. They work to eliminate substandard housing for people of all backgrounds, races and religions by providing simple, decent, affordable housing to those who have a need, ability to pay, and willingness to partner.

“Habitat” is sponsoring a fund raiser in Citrus Springs on February 19th. In past years, Black Diamond Foundation has provided a community grant to help sponsor the event, which will benefit construction efforts in Citrus County.

MOVED BY: DAVE BURNS
SECONDED BY: FOSTER LAMM

That Black Diamond Foundation, Inc. grant \$1,000 (One thousand dollars) to Habitat for Humanity of Citrus County to help fund local construction projects that benefit low income County residents.

APPROVED.

6. Old Business

Foundation Pro-Am Tournament Summary

Past Chairman Bill Joens presented the financial summary for the 13th Annual Black Diamond Foundation Pro-Am Golf Tournament held on January 25th, 2016. His handout reflected net revenue was \$62,269.64 (\$82,800 total revenue less \$20,530.64 in expenses).

There were fewer teams that played this year (24 of 30 available pairings), so total entry fees were down. Raffle Board revenues were also down slightly. This was offset by sponsor revenue, which was significantly higher this year. The newly established live auction took in \$1,900.

Bottom line: the ProAm needs some new excitement, but is doing well despite fewer registered teams because of the increased number of tournament sponsors. The Pro-Am committee will meet on February 2nd for its post-tournament after action review.

Black Diamond Invitational Car Show Relationship

Jon Radabaugh gave a brief presentation with regard to progress made during two recent meetings with the Black Diamond Invitational Car Show Committee, led by Paul Siano

and Jim Houle. Representing Black Diamond Foundation were Jill Ludowese, Susan Savard and Jon Radabaugh.

The Committee presented Treasurer Susan Savard with a check for \$5277.30, which represents their “seed funds” for the Invitational Car Show to be held in November 2016. Title sponsorship for the event will be provided by Crystal Automotive.

It was agreed that Susan Savard would draft a Memorandum of Understanding between the Black Diamond Foundation, Inc. and the Car Show Committee to outline the handling of financial matters and other designated responsibilities related to the 2016 Black Diamond Invitational Car Show. It is expected that both parties will review the document and comment during the month of February.

In the interim, Susan Savard will open a separate account for the Black Diamond Invitational Car Show at BB&T.

7. New Business

Election of New Board Member

The Board of Directors reviewed the resume of Judge Mark Yerman, who has volunteered to fill the At Large vacancy on the 2016 slate.

MOVED BY: FOSTER LAMM
SECONDED BY: MARY JANE BOWER

That Judge Mark J. Yerman be elected to serve a three-year term as a member of the Board of Directors, Black Diamond Foundation, effective February 1, 2016.

APPROVED.

Chair Jill Ludowese will coordinate an orientation briefing for new Directors Yerman and Bower on February 18th to acquaint them with Foundation mission, history, community activities, financial position, and Board processes/procedures.

Transition Discussion

Chair Jill Ludowese asked the Board to take time this month to thoughtfully evaluate where Black Diamond Foundation stands as an organization. What does the Foundation do well? What do we, as an organization, need to improve? What needs to change moving forward?

She wants to focus the Board over the coming year on building a sustainable structure for development and execution of fundraising initiatives. The newly-installed Executive Committee will meet this month to assess a sub-committee structure designed to share workload, focus our efforts, and utilize individual skill sets and experiences.

In the interim, the Foundation’s largest fundraising event, the Pro-Am Golf Tournament, has suffered a decline in participation over the past two years. Solicitation of event sponsors has been driven largely by one former Board member. The Board discussed creating a formal Pro-Am committee that would be charged with evaluating how the

Tournament might be modified to build on past success, and plan/execute the 2017 event moving forward. The Golf Tournament Committee Chair will be asked to meet with past participants of the Pro-Am event during the month of February to get their valuable feedback, and present findings and a proposed way ahead for the Board to consider at the next meeting. It was noted that the Foundation By-Laws do not require committee chairs to be elected members of the Black Diamond Foundation Board of Directors.

MOVED BY: JOAN PLUNKETT
SECONDED BY: DAVE BURNS

That Black Diamond Foundation form a Standing Committee to plan and execute its annual golf tournament fundraiser, and install Jim Ludowese as the Committee Chair for the 2017 event.

APPROVED.

8. Articles for Club Newsletter – “Happenings”

Copy is due to Sally Ince (since@blackdiamondranch.com), by stated suspense.

Mar	Pro-Am Thank You	Bill Joens	due Feb 16
Apr	CCEF Teacher Grants	Sue Pratt	due Mar 16

9. Next Meeting and Adjournment

The Board will meet next on Monday, February 29, 2016 at 4:00 pm in the clubhouse boardroom. Additional meeting dates for 2016 are: April 4, May 2, November 7, and December 5.

The meeting adjourned at 6:01 pm, Monday, February 1, 2016.

Joan Plunkett, Secretary
Black Diamond Foundation, Inc.

Wednesday, February 17, 2016