

Black Diamond Foundation, Inc
Monday, December 5, 2011, 4:00 pm
Black Diamond Ranch Club
Lecanto, Florida

Present: Jim Briley, Dave Burns, Bill Joens, Art Thomas, Bill Williams, Jim Wood,
Linda Youell

Jay Joines

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm, December 5, 2011.

2. Minutes of Monday, November 7, 2011

Jim Briley corrected the Minutes:

The grant to Early Learning Coalition was \$7500, not \$6000.

The Minutes were approved as corrected.

3. Treasurer's Report

Jim Briley reported the Foundation has \$181,537 in unrestricted funding, excluding receipts for the Corvette raffle, which will be included in December's report, following the drawing for the Corvette on December 10. The \$7000 in scholarship monies from 2007 and 2008 that the recipients abandoned has been removed from "Grants Payable". Jim anticipated the Foundation will have approximately \$180,000 in unrestricted funds at the end of 2011.

Jim Briley also distributed a pie chart of the Foundation's grants for 2011, showing the distribution to be:

44% Scholarships
27% Family Assistance
14% Children Assistance
7% Building Grants
8% Other.

Members agreed "Building Grants" should include both the grant to The Path for renovations to their pole barn, and the grant for the WTI Officer Survival Training Facility. Jim will revise the pie chart.

4. Grant Allocation Discussion

Members discussed possible grant recipients, such as local veterans' organizations, increasing grants to the Foundation's traditional recipients, ear-marking funds for emergencies in the county, such as hurricanes.

The Foundation has benefited from its association with Transitions Championship for Healthy Sight, but the 2012 tournament is the last in the current agreement with Transitions, and therefore the future of the bonus pool is unknown.

5. Scholarships – College of Central Florida

The Foundation has awarded \$24,000 to College of Central Florida for scholarships for Citrus County students. The College is responsible for reviewing and selecting recipients.

MOVED BY: Art Thomas
SECONDED BY: Jim Wood

That Black Diamond Foundation increase its grant to College of Central Florida by \$1000, and therefore award \$25,000 (Twenty-five thousand dollars) to College of Central Florida for scholarships for Citrus County students.

APPROVED.

Dave Burns will arrange the check presentation.

6. Take Stock in Children

Art Thomas sketched TSC, which the State of Florida supports with a 100% matching grant. TSC, established in 1995, starts with students in middle school, who sign a contract with TSC, for the promise of a post-secondary scholarship. The selected students are mentored up to and including their transition to post-secondary education. Grant monies are invested Florida's pre-paid scholarship program.

In 2010, the Foundation awarded \$5000.

MOVED BY: Art Thomas
SECONDED BY: Jim Wood

That Black Diamond Foundation increase its grant to Take Stock in Children, and therefore award \$10,000 (Ten thousand dollars) to Take Stock in Children, to provide post-secondary scholarships for students currently in middle school.

APPROVED.

Bill Joens will contact Ms Pat Lancaster to arrange the check presentation, likely at the TSC banquet, Sunday, February 5, 2012, at 3:00 pm, at Lecanto High School.

7. Salvation Army

Lt Vanessa Miller requested funding for community support – mostly emergency needs for rent, utilities, and shelter. This year's grant from FEMA was \$8000, compared with \$20,000 in 2010. The Salvation Army's food bank is in good shape.

The Foundation tabled the request, pending receipt of more information.

8. Citrus County Public Safety Training Center

Dave Burns reported on the opening of this facility, which Black Diamond Foundation helped fund. It is in a renovated building at WTI, which is the site of the Criminal Justice Academy, for training in law enforcement and corrections.

The four counties closest to Citrus – Sumter, Marion, Hernando and Levy – use the facility free of charge. Agencies outside of the region pay a fee to use the facility.

Participating agencies at the two-day courses in November included the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Florida Highway Patrol, and law enforcement agencies from Brooksville, Citrus County, Dunnellon, Hernando County, Lake County, Leesburg, Marion County, Ocala, and Wildwood.

Citrus County Fire Rescue is also looking for a training facility.

9. Foundation Board Members

Nancy Manafort had resigned from the Board, and Bill Williams announced that this December meeting was his last as a Board member.

The Foundation Board can comprise seven to fifteen members, of whom two can be “at large” – individuals who are neither members nor residents of Black Diamond Ranch.

Members offered names of potential new members, including those who have expressed an interest in joining the Board.

ACTION: Bill Joens will prepare an e-mail for circulation through Member News, requesting expressions of interest.

Bill also proposed a review of the Foundation’s by-laws.

ACTION: Bill Joens will initiate a review of the by-laws, and prepare revisions for review and approval at a future meeting.

10. Nature Coast Ministries Update

Mike Bays was not in attendance, and therefore could not report on Nature Coast Ministries and its request for funding that the Foundation received at the November 2011 meeting.

11. Old Business

Linda Youell reported that Transitions Tournament overlaps with Citrus County Schools’ spring break (week of Sunday, March 11, 2012), so Sue is working on alternatives with the Vision Mobile. Family Resource Center has submitted its application to be a site, for the third year in a row.

The drawing for the Corvette Raffle to benefit Black Diamond Foundation and United Way of Citrus County will occur at 2:00 pm on Saturday, December 10, 2011, at the Crystal Chevrolet showroom. Jim Briley asked that Board members return all unsold tickets and monies to him by noon on Friday, December 9, 2011.

Bill Joens and Jay Joines said that one of the most enthusiastic volunteers at the Thanksgiving Feeding Alliance was the home owner of the Habitat for Humanity home that the Foundation sponsored in 2006. She thanked the Foundation for giving her the opportunity to own her own home.

Art Thomas has not received replies from the students to whom he sent certified letters, informing them that their remaining scholarship funds had been withdrawn due to lack of communication with the Foundation.

Dave Burns circulated an editorial, "Orchestra initiative has merit", *Citrus County Chronicle*, November 19, 2011, endorsing the concept of a Citrus Youth Educational Symphonic Orchestra. Harold Seckinger has submitted a grant application form, and will present his request at the Foundation's February 2012 meeting.

Dave also distributed an editorial, "Program gives kids promise of brighter future", *Citrus County Chronicle*, November 9, 2011, supporting the STEPS program at College of Central Florida. At its May 2012 meeting, Black Diamond Foundation awarded \$20,000 to the CF Foundation to establish a STEPS Scholarship in perpetuity at both Central Ridge Elementary School and Citrus Springs Elementary School.

Linda Youell distributed an article about the successful Thanksgiving Feeding Alliance, that mentioned Black Diamond Foundation and Black Diamond Junior Volunteer Corps.

11. New Business

All social agencies in Citrus County report that requests for assistance have increased dramatically, year-over-year. For example, Thanksgiving hampers were provided to 1413 families by Thanksgiving Feeding Alliance, 353 by Daystar, and 204 by SOS Food Pantry, for a total of 1970 families.

MOVED BY: Linda Youell
SECONDED BY: Dave Burns

That Black Diamond Foundation, Inc award \$5000.00 (Five thousand dollars) to each of Citrus Abuse Shelter Association, Daystar Life Center, Family Resource Center, The Path of Citrus County, Salvation Army Citrus County Corps, Serving Our Savior Food Pantry, for a total of \$30,000.

APPROVED.

Board members who attended the opening of the Public Safety Training Center were impressed by the program and the need for law enforcement training.

The Criminal Justice Academy at WTI costs approximately \$2500 per student: \$2030 tuition and fees, \$66 books, \$425 lab, plus additional expenses for uniforms and footwear.

MOVED BY: Art Thomas
SECONDED BY: Jim Wood

That Black Diamond Foundation, Inc award \$5000.00 (Five thousand dollars) to Withlacoochee Technical Institute to fund two scholarships to the Criminal Justice Academy for deserving Citrus County residents.

APPROVED.

Karen Strouse, with Voices for Children of North Central Florida, Inc (guardian ad litem program), has applied for Foundation funding. Jim Briley and Bill Joens will discuss the application with Ms Strouse, prior to any presentation to the Board.

Bill Joens and other members will update the Foundation's Clubhouse foyer display, prior to the January pro-am golf tournament, and asked for new memorabilia, including newspaper clippings, photos, etc.

The Board members present thanked Nancy Manafort and Bill Williams for their service and contributions to the Foundation and improvements in the lives of Citrus County residents.

12. Next Meeting and Adjournment

Black Diamond Foundation will meet Monday, January 9, 2012, at 4:00 pm in the Clubhouse boardroom.

Black Diamond Junior Volunteer Corps will make a presentation.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm, Monday, December 5, 2011.

Linda M Youell, Secretary
09 December 2011