

Black Diamond Foundation, Inc  
Monday, February 2, 2009, 4:00 pm  
Board Room, Black Diamond Country Club  
Lecanto, Florida

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

Mary Jane Bower  
John Bower  
Al Coogler, re Citrus County Food Network

Guests: Ms Chris Pool, Citrus Memorial Health System

**1. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm, February 2, 2009**

**2. Citrus Memorial Health System**

Ms Chris Pool, Director of Development, Citrus Memorial Health Foundation, described CMHS, its role in the community and its capital campaign.

CMHS, founded in 1957, is the second-largest employer in Citrus County, with 1100 employees. The system ranks among the top 10 percent of hospitals in the nation for orthopedic services and among the top 5 percent for general surgery.

It is funded by Citrus County's property tax system - millage rate on the 2008 ad valorem tax bill is 1.1689, or \$90.43 of the average residential tax bill of \$1,436.89.

Through its 501(c)(3) foundation, CMHS is requesting donations to support health care locally.

Chairman Joens thanked Ms Pool for her presentation.

**3. Review of Minutes, January 5, 2009**

The Minutes were approved as distributed.

**4. Treasurer's Report**

Jim Briley distributed the Foundation's financial report, a/of January 31, 2009. The Foundation has almost \$60,000 in unrestricted funds, approximately \$24,000 less than the same time last year.

Jim also distributed a financial summary of the six pro-am tournaments.

**5. Sixth Pro-Am Tournament Recap**

Bill Joens reported that net proceeds from the full-field tournament will be approximately \$38,000. The community continues its strong support, with 61 of the 99 amateurs being Black Diamond members.

Black Diamond members comprised the winning team - Brenda Belford, Nancy Manafort, Barb Smith, and professional - Chantel Smith.

Bill Joens will send thank-you letters to Black Diamond Club and management, and to Village Cadillac Toyota Scion. As soon as the 2008 annual report is available, he will send thank-you letters to the participating golf professionals, and include a copy of the report.

**ACTION: Linda Youell will prepare a thank-you note for Member News and Channel 19.**

## **6. Citrus County Food Network**

In September 2008, to support the County's "Have a Heart" food drive, Black Diamond Foundation donated \$2000 to each of seven food banks, including the Homosassa Food Bank, operated by Homosassa Civic Club. Homosassa Civic Club is a lead agency in the discussions to establish a Citrus County Food Network. Homosassa Civic Club has received a donation of 5 acres of land in Homosassa, near Cardinal Street and Premiere Avenue, east of US 19, on which it wishes to build a 5000 sq ft food warehouse and distribution center.

Al Coogler reported on the food distribution by Homosassa Civic Club on Saturday, January 10, 2009, and Bill Joens distributed information provided by Diane Toto, President of the Homosassa Civic Club.

Linda Youell had circulated her report on a meeting of the Citrus County Food Network, and will attend and report on future meetings, February 12 and 25.

Al and Linda commented that coordination of current services, to avoid duplication and redundancy, would help all agencies.

**ACTION: Dave Burns will discuss with CFCC the possibility of a research project to catalog current resources and agencies, including food banks, soup kitchens; develop a shared and confidential database of food recipients; and improve the dissemination of information about assistance programs, including applying for aid, e.g., Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamps).**

## **7. "Citrus Forward" Plan Update**

Dave Burns reported that the discussions he and Bill Williams have had with educators and business leaders in Citrus County have been favorable toward the goal of increasing literacy and expanding educational opportunities.

They will continue to explore the concept with Citrus County social agencies, including food banks.

## **8. New Business**

**MOVED BY: Linda Youell**

**SECONDED BY: Dave Burns**

**That Black Diamond Foundation grant \$200.00 (Two hundred dollars) for hole sponsorship at 4th Annual Randall Jenkins Memorial Golf Tournament, March 2, 2009.**

### **APPROVED.**

At this time, the Foundation cannot consider support of the capital campaign of Citrus Memorial Health System.

The Foundation will evaluate grant requests in the spring, once the results of the pro-am, the annual appeal, and the proceeds from "Birdies for Tampa Bay Charities" are known.

Art Thomas distributed a letter from a scholarship recipient at Withlacoochee Technical Institute. The student returned to school at age 39, and has maintained a 4.0 gpa.

Foundation 500 - the "no-host" celebration of the Foundation's first half-million dollars in grants to Citrus County charities and education - will be held at the clubhouse, Sunday, February 22, starting at 6:00 pm.

Jim Wood had circulated by e-mail a draft of the Foundation's 2008 annual report, and requested comments and corrections by February 7th.

Sue Pratt reported on "Stars Over Citrus County", the awards ceremony for teacher and support person of the year in Citrus County's public schools. A recipient of a Black Diamond grant is the teacher of the year.

Sue also informed the meeting that Citrus County schools are ranked fourth in the FCATs (Florida Comprehensive Assessment Tests).

She is examining a potential fund-raising arrangement with a retail store in Ocala.

Linda Youell distributed a comparison of Citrus County with Lake and Sumter Counties. Lake and Sumter counties have a joint United Way program, and cooperate in the provision of many social services, including food banks. The demographics are relatively similar.

She distributed December 2008 unemployment rates, which show Citrus, with a rate of 9.5%, is eleventh highest in the state. Florida's overall rate in December was 7.8%.

Citrus County has approved a six-month pilot program for a fixed bus route, beginning April 6. It will travel among Citrus Springs, Lecanto, Inverness, on CR 486 and SR 44, including a stop at CFCC.

## **9. Next Meeting and Agenda Items**

The Foundation's next meeting is Monday, March 2, 4:00 pm in the Clubhouse Boardroom.

## **10. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm, Monday, February 2, 2009.

Linda M Youell, Secretary  
16 February 2009