

Black Diamond Foundation, Inc
Monday, May 2, 2011, 4:00 pm
Black Diamond Ranch Club
Lecanto, Florida

Present: 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: College of Central Florida

- Lisa E Lombardo, Director of Development, CF Foundation

Citrus County Sheriff's Office

- Lt Phil Royal, Law Enforcement Academy Director

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm, May 2, 2011.

2. College of Central Florida

At the Foundation's April 2011 meeting, Dave Burns proposed two ways of providing additional support to College of Central Florida – an endowed chair and STEPS (Scholarships Taking Elementary Promising Students to CF). Members asked for more information.

Lisa Lombardo said an endowed chair - \$18,000 to \$50,000 – would provide resources to elevate instruction, enhance teaching and learning. The grant would endow a chair for a three-year term.

STEPS is a college scholarship opportunity that is awarded to an elementary school student. Each year, a donor-adopted school selects a deserving 5th Grade student to receive a STEPS award. Upon graduating from high school, having remained drug- and crime-free and demonstrating continued academic achievement, the STEPS student receives \$4000 for tuition and fees at the College of Central Florida.

\$10,000 fully adopts a school, providing one scholarship for a student each year, in perpetuity.

The student has 6 years following graduation in which to attend CCF and claim the \$4000 scholarship. Upon graduation from CCF, the student receives any residue remaining from the \$4000. Receiving the STEPS award does not preclude a student from receiving any other scholarship or academic awards.

If a student selected in 5th Grade loses eligibility for the scholarship, the funds remain in the endowment to increase its value.

CCF's goal is to have two scholarships at each Citrus, Levy, and Marion county elementary school. Currently, six Citrus County public elementary schools have one scholarship each; five schools are unadopted.

Chairman Joens thanked Ms Lombardo for the information and presentation.

3. Citrus County Sheriff's Office

At the Foundation's March 2011 meeting, Lt Phil Royal described a proposed training facility for law enforcement officials and cadets. The Foundation requested additional information, including more precise estimates of construction costs.

Lt Royal described the existing 20'x 60' structure on WTI Campus, the proposed renovation, and estimated renovation and construction expenses. Drafting and engineering services have been donated, as have sufficient moveable partitions to configure the interior.

Materials and labor are estimated at \$18,000, of which \$10,000 would complete the priority areas. Potential opening date is Fall 2011.

The facility would be used by the 180 to 200 students who graduate each year from the WTI Criminal Justice Academy, by 225 employees of CCSO, and by officers from other agencies in the region.

Members of the Foundation thanked Lt Royal for his presentation.

4. Minutes, April 4, 2011

Linda Youell highlighted two corrections for the Minutes:

- Doug Lobel was the photographer for the YMCA presentation;
- under Section 11. New Business, "uncharted" is misspelled.

MOVED BY: Sue Pratt

SECONDED BY: Sharron Rosenberg

That the Minutes be approved as corrected.

APPROVED.

5. Treasurer's Report, April 30, 2011

Jim Briley reported that on April 15, 2011, the Office of Thrift Supervision closed Superior Bank, and appointed FDIC as receiver. Community Bancorp of Houston, TX acquired all assets and deposits of Superior Bank, which remains open. All deposits continue to be insured by FDIC, up to applicable limits.

The Foundation has received \$31,300 in member contributions, and has received \$26,000 from raffle ticket sales. Florida law states that an individual may request a free ticket for a raffle; to date, one person has done so.

Jim has filed the Foundation's tax return.

6. Big Brothers Big Sisters

Mike Bays reported that there are 128 Citrus County youngsters in the BBBS program, and the program needs 33 "Big Brothers" and "Big Sisters". The Citrus branch is actively recruiting.

Last year, Black Diamond Foundation awarded \$10,000 to BBBS for Citrus County matches - \$8000 from general Foundation funds and \$2000 from a donor-specified contribution.

BBBS will hold its 6th Annual Regional Golf Classic at Black Diamond Ranch on Monday, May 9, 2011.

MOVED BY: Jim Wood

SECONDED BY: Dave Burns

That Black Diamond Foundation award \$10,000 (Ten thousand dollars) to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Citrus County to facilitate "big - little" matches for Citrus County children.

APPROVED.

7. The RIVER Project

The RIVER Project first requested Foundation support in November 2010. (Reaching Intentional Victory, Expecting Reality) It had been offered in Citrus County public schools, as part of the health curriculum dealing with risky behaviors, but had its funding removed, and needs new funding to continue. The curriculum is approved by the State of Florida. Sue Pratt reported that school nurses and staff are very supportive of the Project's continuing.

The founders of the Project have developed a budget proposal for offering the program in grades 6 through 9, and have applied for 501(c)(3) status. Foundation members continue to have questions about the Project and its funding. Also, Black Diamond Foundation awards grants only to 501(c)(3) organizations.

ACTION: Sue Pratt will continue to work with RIVER, and will keep the Foundation informed.

8. Family Resource Center

On April 1, 2011, Hernando Civic Club donated its clubhouse to Family Resource Center, which is developing an outreach called "Connections". Citrus County residents will be able to apply for food stamps, school lunch program. Mid-Florida Homeless Coalition and veterans' services will have office space. Local churches will offer their outreach feeding programs.

As welcome as the donation is, it has created new expenses, such as insurance and utilities.

Family Resource Center requested a one-time grant of \$5000 to cover these expenses in 2011.

MOVED BY: Linda Youell

SECONDED BY: Sharron Rosenberg

That Black Diamond Foundation award \$5,000 (Five thousand dollars) to Citrus County Family Resource Center, to support new expenses related to the receipt

of Hernando Civic Club's clubhouse.

APPROVED.

9. Corvette Raffle

Volunteers for ticket sales, Friday through Sunday, May 7-9, are Linda Youell and Art Thomas, Friday; Linda Youell and Sue Pratt, Saturday; Sharron Rosenberg and Jim Wood, Sunday.

Jim Briley offered to be "on call".

Sue Pratt may be able to volunteer on Saturday, May 14, 2011.

Bill Joens will ask to borrow a canopy from Black Diamond Club.

Over the summer, Dave Burns will coordinate the sales.

10. Suspend Third Quarter Foundation Meeting

The Foundation's by laws require that the Foundation meet a minimum of once per quarter. With many Foundation members away for the summer, it is not possible to have a quorum for a meeting in the months of July, August and September.

MOVED BY: Linda Youell
SECONDED BY: Jim Wood

That Black Diamond Foundation, Inc suspend the requirement for a meeting during the months of July, August and September 2011.

APPROVED.

The Foundation's next meeting will be held during the first week of October 2011, likely Thursday, October 6.

11. Summer Food Distribution Requests

Traditionally, Black Diamond Foundation has supported local food pantries with grants at the beginning of summer, which is a low time for food donations.

As discussed at the April meeting, all helping agencies in Citrus County are experiencing increased requests for assistance in all areas: clothing, financial and food. For example, in 5 months, requests to the Salvation Army for food assistance have increased by 21%.

MOVED BY: Linda Youell
SECONDED BY: Sharron Rosenberg

That Black Diamond Foundation award \$2500 (Twenty-five Hundred Dollars) to each of CASA (Citrus Abuse Shelter Association), Citrus County Family Resource Center, Daystar Life Center, The Path of Citrus County, Salvation Army of Citrus County.

And that Black Diamond Foundation award \$2400 (Twenty-four Hundred Dollars) to SOS (Serving Our Savior) Pantry.

APPROVED.

12. No Old Business

13. New Business

Recently, the Citrus County Corps of the Salvation Army acquired a new building, which will become their community center for Citrus County. On Saturday, June 11, they are having a fund raiser at the building – Gulf to Lake Highway & School Avenue, Inverness.

MOVED BY: Jim Wood

SECONDED BY: Sue Pratt

That Black Diamond Foundation, Inc become a Bronze Sponsor for the community center, with a donation of \$500 (Five Hundred Dollars).

APPROVED.

The Bronze Sponsorship permits eight people to attend the fund raiser. Black Diamond Foundation members will decide among themselves who will attend.

Discussion turned to the proposal from College of Central Florida about the STEPS Program.

The Foundation discussed the similarities with “Take Stock in Children”, and noted that STEPS is restricted to Citrus County students who graduate and then attend College of Central Florida, so the funds remain local.

The two unadopted schools that are within Black Diamond’s area are Central Ridge and Citrus Springs.

MOVED BY: Dave Burns

SECONDED BY: Jim Wood

That Black Diamond Foundation, Inc award \$20,000 (Twenty Thousand Dollars) to the CF Foundation (College of Central Florida), to establish one STEPS Scholarship in each of Central Ridge Elementary School, and Citrus Springs Elementary School

APPROVED, with one Nay.

Foundation members applauded the efforts of Citrus County Sheriff’s Office to lower the costs of the renovations for the training structure.

MOVED BY: Dave Burns

SECONDED BY: Bill Williams

That Black Diamond Foundation, Inc award \$10,000 (Ten Thousand Dollars) to Citrus County Sheriff's Office to support renovations and construction of the training facility.

APPROVED.

Citrus County Education Foundation awards its curriculum and mentoring grants in September, when the Foundation typically does not meet. For planning purposes, it's important that CCEF know the funds that will be available for grants, prior to the review and selection process.

MOVED BY: Sue Pratt

SECONDED BY: Sharron Rosenberg

That Black Diamond Foundation, Inc award \$4000 (Four Thousand Dollars) to Citrus County Education Foundation, to support curriculum and mentoring grants.

APPROVED.

14. Next Meeting and Adjournment

The Foundation will not meet over the summer. If urgent matters arise, the Foundation can meet by telephone or e-mail, with any decisions being ratified at the first physical meeting.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, 06 October 2011.

An agenda item will be a recommendation by Art Thomas that the Foundation increase its support of Withlacoochee Technical Institute to \$20,000 annually. Art will provide information about graduation rates and job placement rates of WTI graduates.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm, Monday, May 2, 2011.

Linda M Youell, Secretary
Tuesday, 03 May 2011