

Black Diamond Foundation, Inc
Monday, April 2, 2012, 4:00 pm
Black Diamond Ranch Club
Lecanto, Florida

Present: Jim Briley, Dave Burns, Bill Joens, Jill Ludowese (by phone),
Susan Pratt (by phone), Kent Rinker, Sharron Rosenberg,
Susan Savard, Jim Wood, Linda Youell

Steve Barnes, Jay Joines

Guests: Commissioner J J Kenney, on behalf of Citrus County Veterans Foundation
Patricia Coles, Supervisor, Senior Services, Citrus County
Dee Reynolds, on behalf of "Meals on Wheels" Program in Citrus County

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm, April 2, 2012.

2. Citrus County Veterans Foundation

County Commissioner J J Kenney is a board member of Citrus County Veterans Foundation, a 501(c)(3) that provides the County's Veterans Service Officer (Charles Fettes) with funds to cover emergency expenses for eligible veterans and surviving spouses. The most common needs are energy bills, rent, and transportation. There are approximately 24,000 veterans in Citrus County – 16% of the population, which does not include spouses and dependents of veterans. CCVF works with other agencies in Citrus County to assist needy veterans and their families, and also is a member of Citrus County Veterans Coalition.

Since its incorporation in 2004, CCVF has raised and distributed \$80,000. Commissioner Kenney asked Black Diamond Foundation to consider awarding a grant to CCVF.

Chairman Joens thanked Commissioner Kenney for the presentation.

3. Citrus County Home Delivered Meals

The local "Meals on Wheels" affiliate is operated by Citrus County. Ms Pat Coles is the Supervisor of Senior Services Operations for the Citrus County Board of Commissioners.

The program receives \$500,000 from the federal "Older Americans Act", and a 10% match from the County government, for an annual budget of \$550,000. Funding has not grown in 10 years. The program is exploring additional funding opportunities, and held its inaugural golf tournament on March 24, 2012.

The program serves about 250 meals daily at six sites in the County, and delivers meals to approximately 400 residents. There is a waiting list of approximately 75 for the home-delivered meals program. Participation is not income-based, and the program does ask for donations from those who are able to give.

Each home-delivered meal costs the County \$5.59, of which \$3.54 is the cost of food.

Ms Coles asked the Foundation for a grant to help the program serve some of the people on the waiting list.

Chairman Joens thanked Ms Coles and Ms Reynolds for their presentation.

3. Approval of Minutes, March 5, 2012

Linda Youell corrected the Minutes: She had omitted the names of Mike Bays and Susan Pratt in the list of Foundation members present.

The Minutes were approved as corrected.

4. Treasurer's Report, March 2012

The Foundation has \$181,000 in unrestricted funds, and Jim Briley is optimistic that donations as a result of the Annual Appeal will add another \$100,000. Foundation supporters sent \$68,000 to "Birdies for Tampa Bay Charities", which will return those funds to the Foundation, along with a minimum 10% match, sometime in May 2012.

One Gold Sponsorship pledge for the Foundation's Pro-Am remains unfulfilled.

Daystar thanked the Foundation for the conditional grant approved at the March meeting, and reported that it is awaiting permissions from the Diocese of St Petersburg and Citrus County.

To date, Black Diamond Foundation has awarded \$925,000 in total grants, and will pass the Million Dollar threshold soon.

Jim Briley reported that, in order for Dave Burns, Vice-Chairman, to sign checks, the Board needs to pass a motion authorizing his signing authority.

MOVED BY: Jim Wood
SECONDED BY: Kent Rinker

That Black Diamond Foundation name David W Burns as a signing authority for the Foundation's checking account at Cadence Bank.

Approved.

5. New Church Without Walls

The New Church Without Walls, a partner in the Thanksgiving Feeding Alliance, requested \$5000 for its 2012 county outreach program. NCWW feeds over 1250 people each month, and each week, provides food boxes to 70 to 90 families.

Foundation members have worked with NCWW and know its effectiveness first-hand.

MOVED BY: Dave Burns
SECONDED BY: Jim Wood

That Black Diamond Foundation award \$5000 (Five thousand dollars) to The New Church Without Walls, to support its 2012 outreach program in Citrus County.

Approved.

6. Million Dollar Grant Party

The Foundation wishes to recognize the awarding of One Million Dollars in total grants to Citrus County organizations. It's likely the mark will be attained before the end of 2012, and therefore, it's appropriate to plan a celebration in early 2013.

The Foundation marked the awarding of One-half Million Dollars in February 2009.

ACTION: Bill Joens, Jill Ludowese, Kent Rinker, Sharron Rosenberg, Susan Savard comprise the planning committee.

7. 2011 Annual Report and Appeal

Jim Wood has mailed the 2011 Annual Report, with donation cards, and Jim Briley has received some donations in response.

Bill Joens thanked Jim Wood for his excellent work.

8. Old Business

Sue Pratt (by phone) reported that an assistant superintendent for Citrus County Schools thanked Black Diamond Foundation for its support of the RIVER Project (Reaching Intentional Victory, Expecting Reality), offered through the health curriculum in Citrus County schools. Sue will observe the program in classrooms, and will report to the Foundation's April 30th meeting.

Jim Briley viewed a good video presentation about the program.

9. New Business

"Healthy Families Citrus" has submitted a funding application to the Foundation, with a wish to present on April 30th.

It is the opinion of Foundation members who reviewed the application that the umbrella organization for "Healthy Families Citrus" is well funded, with \$1.8 million in reserve. Therefore, the Foundation does not intend to invite "Healthy Families Citrus" to present.

ACTION: Prior to rejecting the application, Bill Joens will discuss the organization's needs with Mike Bays, to whom the request was made initially.

Bill Joens has received an offer from a prospective donor to donate a horse to the Foundation, which could be a fund-raiser. Board members did not support such a transaction.

ACTION: Bill Joens will decline the offer.

United Way of Citrus County is receiving nominations for "Spirit of the Community Award". For their work in 2010, Rotary Clubs of Citrus County won the 2011 category of service clubs/ foundations/ civic organizations. Deadline for applications is April 10th.

ACTION: Black Diamond Foundation will not participate.

The Foundation reviewed the application from Citrus County Veterans Foundation.

MOVED BY: Jim Wood
SECONDED BY: Sharron Rosenberg

That Black Diamond Foundation award \$5000 (Five thousand dollars) to Citrus County Veterans Foundation, to support the emergency funding needs of veterans and their families in Citrus County.

Approved.

The Foundation reviewed the request for support for the "Meals on Wheels" program of Citrus County Seniors Services. Board members felt the administrative costs to provide home-delivered meals were excessive, as compared with other feeding programs in the County. According to figures provided, the food costs are 60% and administration is 40%.

In addition, a grant from Black Diamond Foundation would shorten the waiting list for this year, but the program did not have a plan to continue to feed the people, especially since funding had remained constant for 10 years.

ACTION: The Foundation will not award a grant to the local "Meals on Wheels" program.

Boy Scout Troop 370 in Homosassa requested \$1000 to send four youths to Scout camp in July 2012.

Black Diamond Foundation has supported the YMCA summer camp program, which serves many more young people in Citrus County.

ACTION: The Foundation will not award a grant to send four Scouts to camp.

By phone, Sue Pratt described a program to provide new carseats to needy parents and babies.

ACTION: Sue Pratt will research the program, and ask that the program submit an application to the Foundation.

(Secretary's Note: Excerpts from article and editorial in *Citrus County Chronicle* attached.)

CREST School of Citrus County Schools (Citrus Resource for Exceptional Student Transition) is building a new playground for its students, and has applied for a grant from the Foundation. CREST provides a learning environment for both intellectually disabled students and emotionally disturbed students. The playground will require special construction so that it is, for example, wheelchair accessible.

ACTION: Sue Pratt and Sharron Rosenberg will research the application and project.

(Secretary's Note: Article attached, *Citrus County Chronicle* on-line, Sat 22 Oct 2011.)

Bill Joens circulated a poster advertising the festival marking the 100th Anniversary of the Old Citrus County Courthouse. Black Diamond Foundation is a sponsor. Individual tickets are \$25. Dates are April 20 to 22, 2012, at Courthouse Square, Inverness.

Bill Joens and Dave Burns attended a College of Central Florida donors reception. Dave Burns will incorporate a photo of the donor wall in his "Happenings" article about College of Central Florida.

8. Next Meeting and Adjournment

The Foundation will meet on Monday, 30 April 2012, 4:00 pm in the Boardroom.

At this time, the only presenters are The Path of Citrus County.

The Foundation will not meet from May to the beginning of October, but will review applications by phone or e-mail, with any actions being ratified at the first physical meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm, Monday, 02 April 2012.

Linda M Youell, Secretary

04 April 2012

CREST group seeks special playground

By Mike Wright, Citrus County Chronicle on-line, Saturday, October 22, 2011

LECANTO – At most schools, the playground is where children unwind during recess.

For the 175 mentally and physically challenged students at CREST, the playground is a chance for fun-centered therapy.

And that's what makes the somewhat ancient playground at CREST so not fun and nearly useless from a therapy standpoint.

About 20% of the students are confined to wheelchairs, which means their access stops at the covered pavilion and basketball court. The remainder of the playground is not shaded at all and includes such old-time kiddie favorites as the rocking horse and purple dinosaur. Great for 5-year-olds; not so great for the students CREST serves.

So educators at the school have formed a Playground Project committee to raise the funds needed for a new playground.

"Kids could do physical therapy out there if we had the right equipment," teacher Kelly Daugherty said.

They have an ambitious goal of raising \$296,000 — the estimate to bring two sets of playgrounds to the school which are wheelchair accessible and provide plenty of hands-on activities.

So far the group has about \$5,000, much of it coming from area Rotary clubs. It has a kickball tournament Oct. 29 to raise more money, and Daugherty is researching grant opportunities. Principal Rich Hilgert said he plans to take the project to the school board in about a month for a possible funding request, though he realizes money is tight.

CREST — Citrus Resource for Exceptional Students in Transition — replaced the old Lakeview School in 1994. The playground equipment was installed then and hasn't been replaced.

The school is in the Roger Weaver Educational Complex, home to Lecanto elementary, middle and high schools, plus the Renaissance Center.

Daugherty said she doesn't believe many residents know CREST exists or understand its mission. "We're trying to get the word out into the community," she said. "We're getting our message out."

Hilgert said he believes residents and community groups will help with the playground project once they understand that CREST educates disabled students.

Daugherty said she hopes to have the first set of playground equipment in the ground by the end of the 2012-13 school year.

Anyone with questions or wanting to help can contact Daugherty or Debbie Rumpf at the school, (352) 527-0303.

"It's a project very dear to our hearts for all our kids," Daugherty said. "The kids deserve a place to go to socialize and play."

Coalition seeks funds for car seat program

By Shemir Wiles, *Citrus County Chronicle* on-line, Mon 12 Mar 2012

CRYSTAL RIVER — ... Sue Littnan ... [was once] a child passenger safety instructor for the Citrus County Health Department, where she originally developed the program in 2001, Littnan diligently taught people how to properly install and use car seats to help protect children from any crash-related injuries.

However, budget cuts in September led to her position being eliminated at the health department. ...

Therefore, Littnan, who is now with the Early Learning Coalition of the Nature Coast in Crystal River, is hoping to secure the funds necessary to revive the program through the coalition.

... Ingrid Ellis, Citrus County program manager for the Early Learning Coalition of the Nature Coast, told the Chronicle editorial board Wednesday ... the current grants they have won't allow for funding for the child passenger safety program.

As a result, Ellis and Littnan are hoping local agencies and civic organizations in the county will step up with donations to assist in getting the program back on its feet.

... **car crashes are the leading cause of death for children.** ... car crashes kill four children and injure another 490 each day. And the sad part, Littnan revealed, many of the deaths and injuries are preventable.

Therefore, if the funds became available to reinstate the program, **there would be four main services provided: car seat safety inspections, car seat distribution, car seat safety education for the community and national child passenger safety technician certification classes.**

The inspection, which would be by appointment, would be free and allow for car and booster seats to be checked for appropriate seat choice, correct use and installation, damage or expiration dates and manufacturer recalls.

Littnan said four out five car seats checked are not installed properly.

"People don't read the instructions," she said.

...

During the program's 10 years, 5,800 parents and/or caregivers participated and **the misuse rate declined from 92 percent to 84 percent.**

...

At about \$60 a car seat with an average of about 30 to 35 seats being provided a month, the need for a funding source is imperative.

...

For more information or questions about helping the child passenger safety program, call Littnan at 352-422-0500 or email her at slittnan@tampabay.rr.com.

Car seats save lives

Citrus County Chronicle on-line, Tuesday, March 20, 2012

THE ISSUE: Car seats.

OUR OPINION: Proper use saves lives.

It is a no-brainer: When used properly, child car seats save lives. The success of the car seat depends on buying the appropriate car seat and installing it correctly in the car.

Statistics provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration claim each day four children ages 1 to 14 die while occupants in a motor vehicle, and 490 are injured. Most of these deaths are preventable and are due to the child being ejected from the seat or car because of improper — or no — restraint.

Since 2001, Sue Littnan has been an advocate in the county for properly training parents to use car seats the way manufacturers suggest. If the seat is installed correctly and the size is appropriate for the child using it, it will diminish the likelihood of injury during a car crash.

With severe budget cuts, Littnan's position at the Citrus County Health Department was eliminated, and thus her ability to buy car seats to hand out to those most at risk. She has teamed up with the Early Learning Coalition of the Nature Coast to fund her position; however, there is not enough money to purchase the 30 to 40 seats needed each month for needy families, to perform safety inspections or for public education.

Littnan is asking local businesses and community members to step up and help fund the purchasing of car seats for the most vulnerable. At a cost of about \$60 per seat, she said it is well worth the money invested.

According to 2010 statistics provided by Littnan, there are about 1,084 babies born each year in Citrus County; there are 2,654 children in 47 child-care centers, preschools and home day-care centers and 15,559 children in the Citrus County schools. The majority are at risk when not appropriately restrained in car seats or placed in seats rendered ineffective due to breakdown in the materials from which they're made.

This is a worthwhile cause, and we encourage parents to know the state law requirements for their child and always make sure they are buckled in a car restraint properly.

For more information about the program or to donate, contact Sue Littnan at 352-422-0500 or slittnan@tampabay.rr.com.
