

Black Diamond Foundation  
Monday, March 2, 2020  
Black Diamond Club  
Lecanto, FL

Present: Mary Jane Bower, Kent Rinker, Foster Lamm, Susan Savard, Jon Radabaugh, Pat Monea, Hon. Mark Yerman, Dick Ragatz, Roger Obenauf, Joan Plunkett, Shaunda Burdette, Karen Evans

Absent: Lisa Honnold

Guests: Duwayne and Katherine Sipper, The Path of Citrus County  
Tom O'Brien, Program Director, United Way, Mission United  
Jessica Ebert, Prosperity Center Director, United Way, Prosperity Center  
David White, President, Citrus County Education Foundation

Meeting was called to order by Foster Lamm at 4:00pm, March 2, 2020.

**Presentations:**

**The Path of Citrus County**

Duwayne Sipper stated the \$500K renovation of the hotel complex rescue mission is complete. They are now taking in families to the new facility slowly to get acclimated to what is needed to service them all. They must have 51 people in place by August and 68 by the end of the year.

The focus of their ministry is on the whole person and a longterm solution so they keep people for a long period of time to get them prepared for a successful transition to life outside again. They have job training going on in the construction industry and have hired a Program Director to help people with long term changes and solutions.

They are now asking for funding to replace AC units for \$17,500, flooring for \$22,500 and a Minivan for \$14,000.

**United Way, Mission United of Citrus County**

Tom O'Brien related the Mission United Program has served over 250 veterans since its inception May 2018. They have also given many referrals to partner community agencies to help these vets. The "Got Your Back Fund" has spent \$42,000 to help with such things as rent,

homelessness, evictions, home repairs, utility bills, food, clothing and gas cards. The biggest challenge in Citrus County is the elderly vets with housing issues. The qualifications for these vets to get help are honorable discharge, no felonies, and a copy of military record. There is a cap of \$750 per vet per year.

### **United Way, Prosperity Center**

Jessica Ebert explained the Prosperity Center is committed to helping individuals in our community who are enrolled in a GED or post-secondary education program. They assist both GED students and technical college students working toward trade certification in nursing, welding, computer Science, electricity and many more. The Prosperity Center helps students with the financial gap while maintaining enrollment by paying for such expenses as testing fees, textbooks, school supplies, gas cards, childcare and more. There are 45 students in this program at this time.

The Prosperity Center is requesting a grant to help with these costs.

### **Citrus County Education Foundation**

David White spoke on behalf of the CCEF. The CCEF is requesting funding for the following programs:

First Library	\$5,000
Teacher Mini Grants	\$5,000
Citrus Scholars : Golden Heart Scholarship	\$2,000
Marine Science Station, need based grants for summer camp.	\$2,000

Our grant \$5,000 for the Teacher Mini Grants will be matched dollar for dollar by State of Florida.

### **Minutes**

Acceptance of minutes of February 3, 2020 was moved by Dick Ragatz and seconded by Joan Plunkett. Approved unanimously.

### **Treasurers Report**

Susan Savard reviewed the February Financial Report and stated we have an unrestricted fund balance of \$179,073.00.

Susan made a motion that the \$10,000 gift from Bob Campbell be distributed by his request as \$9,000 to the YMCA and \$1,000 to the Salvation Army. Mary Jane Bower seconded and motion carried.

Susan did the Annual Appeal mailing and has handwritten notes on many of these letters. Susan requested Roger put this letter and the Honor Roll of donors on the BDF website.

Mary Jane Bower moved to approve the Treasurers Report and Karen Evans seconded. Approved unanimously.

### **Grant Requests**

#### **Community Food Bank**

Moved by Roger Obenauf and seconded by Pat Monea that we grant \$20,000 towards purchase of a truck. Motion was approved unanimously.

#### **The Path of Citrus County**

Moved by Joan Plunkett and seconded by Karen Evans to grant \$10,000 towards purchase of a minivan. Approved unanimously.

#### **Citrus County Education Foundation**

**Note: Shaunda Burdette recused herself from discussion and vote on this request.**

Moved by Joan Plunkett and seconded by Kent Rinker to grant \$14,000 for First Library, Teacher Mini Grants, Marine Science Center and Golden Heart Scholarship Award. Shaunda Burdette abstained. Motion approved.

#### **United Way, Mission United**

Jon Radabaugh made a motion to make a grant in the amount of \$5,000 to Mission United for the Got Your Back Fund to assist only Citrus County Veterans. The motion was seconded by Susan Savard. Pat Monea made a motion to amend the first motion to increase the amount of the grant to \$10,000, which was seconded by Roger Obenauf. After discussion, the amendment passed. The motion as amended then passed.

### **Old Business**

Community Alliance:

Shaunda reported that affordable housing was again topic this week. They focused on the homeless population and what we can do as a community for these people.

## **New Business**

Foster will contact John Ceparano at Modera regarding a date for a Charitable Giving Seminar. Shaunda suggested inviting our grantees to this seminar.

Foster requested we consider making Jay Joines a Chairman Emeritus of the Black Diamond Foundation. It was so moved by Jon Radabaugh and seconded by Dick Ragatz. Motion was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57pm

Next meeting will be April 6, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Jane Bower  
Secretary  
Black Diamond Foundation, Inc.  
March 5, 2020