

Foundation Executive Committee Regular Meeting (Wednesday, February 8, 2023)

Members present

Christine Anderson, Bill Chunowitz, Jake Wuest, Barbara Fromm, Barbara Foster Monachino, Tom Minder, Jane Saltonstall, Marge Dodge, Catherine Abbott

Meeting called to order at 1:01 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

1.01 Call to Order

2. AGENDA

2.01 Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(b)(2), the Board may take action on items of business not appearing on the posted agenda, upon a determination by a 2/3 vote of the Board, or (if less than 2/3 of the members are present, a unanimous vote of those present), that there is a need to take immediate action and that the need for action came to the attention of the local agency subsequent to the agenda being posted as specified.

2.02 Confirmation of Agenda: Approval of agenda for the January 11, 2023, Foundation Executive Meeting with any additions, corrections, or deletions.

Cathy Abbott requested to add item to the agenda - Armando Robles to give a brief update on the virtual meetings.

Motion to approve agenda as amended by Tom Minder, seconded by Jake Wuest.

Motion carried.

3. MINUTES

3.01 Approval of January 11, 2023, Foundation Executive Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

None, the minutes stand as presented.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

4.01 Public Comments: In accordance with Senate Bill 361 and guidance from the California Department of Public Health on gatherings, remote public participation is allowed and will be accepted in person, by email to codfoundation@collegeofthedesert.edu and read into the record during public comment or by using the raise your hand function by joining the Zoom link. All requests should be directed to the Foundation by 5:00 p.m. Friday, February 3, 2023.

No Public Comments

5. REPORT ITEMS

5.01 Brown Act Updates

Armando Robles, Executive Assistant, Office of President, presented the Updates for Brown Act Meetings

In March of 2020, the Governor issued an executive order temporarily waiving some of these restrictions. The Legislature followed up the Governor's executive order with AB 361, which provided a statutory exception, authorizing local agencies to use teleconferencing without complying with all of the Brown Act's restrictions in specified circumstances related to public health and safety emergencies. By the terms of AB 2449, this authorization will sunset and expire on January 1, 2024.

AB 2449 does not extend AB 361, which still sunsets on January 1, 2024. Instead, the bill implements another temporary exception authorizing agencies to meet by teleconference without strict compliance with the traditional notice and physical access requirements. Notably, where AB 361 is based on an agency's need for teleconferencing, AB

2449's new framework is based on the circumstances of individual members of the legislative body.

Under AB 2449, the legislative body of a local agency can use teleconferencing without noticing each teleconference location or making it publicly accessible, provided at least a quorum of the body participates in person at a single physical location that is identified on the agenda, open to the public, and within the boundaries of the agency, and provided that other requirements regarding accessibility are met. However, an individual member of the legislative body may participate remotely only in one of two circumstances:

1. With "just cause", the member can participate remotely after giving notice as soon as possible. AB 2449 defines "just cause" as (a) a family childcare or caregiving need; (b) a contagious illness; (c) a need related to a physical or mental disability that is not otherwise accommodated; or (d) travel while on official business. The bill also limits a member to participating remotely under this provision to two meetings per calendar year.

2. In "emergency circumstances," defined as a physical or family emergency that prevents the member from attending in person, the member can participate remotely by requesting approval to do so from the legislative body. The legislative body may take action on the request as soon as possible, including at the beginning of the meeting, even if there was not sufficient time to place the request formally on the agenda.

Under either circumstance, the member in question must give a general description of the circumstances relating to their need to appear remotely, but need not disclose any medical diagnosis, disability, or other confidential medical information.

In addition, AB 2449 provides that a member cannot participate solely by teleconference under the new teleconference framework for more than 3 consecutive months or more than 20 percent of the agency's regular meetings. Since College of the Desert holds 12 regular meetings per year, it is likely that a Member can only attend two meetings under the two exceptions listed above (20% of 12 is approximately 2.4 meetings).

5.02 Administrative Comments

Ruben Perez, COD Board of Trustees Representative:

Not present

Dr. Martha Garcia, COD Superintendent/President:

Not present

Chris Anderson, Board Chair:

Annual Meeting is projected for April or May.

Chris thanked Cathy Abbott for doing great job even being without Administrative Assistant for so long.

Catherine Abbott, Foundation Executive Director:

Upcoming Coachella valley Giving Day, thanks to Jake, 160 charity organizations have signed up. A \$10500 gift was received from Mary Rischer, Jakes Manager.

Western Wings Foundation - Jody Hops, John Monahan and Visit Greater Palm Springs thanks for supporting hospitality program, this is a social program that is treated as business program. Students will have a lifechanging experience of learning opportunities in Japan. Dr. Garcia supported the program, and her enthusiasm is incredible. Jane Saltonstall suggested to have publicity on this program.

Director of Development update - we have couple of wonderful candidates, moving to second round of interviews.

Interim Executive Assistant is starting on Monday, February 13.

5.03 Directors' Reports (Reports may be submitted by emailing the Foundation at codfoundation@collegeofthedesert.edu)

Tom Minder, Director of Recourse Development and Stewardship:

Stepping out for COD - we still don't have contract.

Marge Dodge, Director of Recognition and Outreach:

Academic Angels updates: 68 lifetime members, 24 renewed. We are hoping to improve numbers, as we are having March Mixer at Mitch's. HR Advantage is picking up the tab for us.
Spring Fundraising Event at Arena - we still don't have the date.
President Circle - Shadow Mountain Event is not happening there, Karen Miles opening her house for this event on April 4th.

Jane Saltonstall, Director of Programs/Campus Connections:

Campus Tours are back in February.

Barbara Foster Monachino, Director of Operations and Nominating:

Reviewing some By-Laws to be in line with requirements.

Jake Wuest, Treasurer:

Finance Committee meeting is taking place next week.

Bill Chunowitz, Past Chair:

Looking forward to starting the Campus Tours again.

Q: Have we e-mailed donors that tours are back?

A: Not specifically, but there is a lot of info about that on web site, etc. We all need to spread the word about that.

Barbara Fromm, Secretary:

Not present.

6. Closed Session

6.01 Closed Session

Executive Committee has given direction to post position of Interim Finance officer Position as well as the permanent Finance officer position.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.01 Executive Committee Organizational Chart Review

Agenda item was moved down to the end of the meeting. Org Chart was shown to Board Members for informational purposes and Board Members were asked to think of ideas and changes that need to be done in future Meeting

7.02 Board of Directors Nominee Review

Jane Saltonstall presented four candidates for Board of Directors:

Charles Townsend Vinci

After serving in the military as a medic in the infantry, Charles spent the next ten years as a retail advertising manager over and became advertising managers for all publications in the San Gabriel Valley. He then moved to retail sales for the suburban division of the Los Angeles times.

As a part time venture he started Charles Townsend collection in Rancho Mirage, CA. This grew into a full-time business, and he devoted his time to this enterprise until his retirement. He sold the business to Ethan Allen.

Charles was elected to Rancho Mirage City Council in 2014 and served as mayor pro term in 2017 and 2021. He retired as mayor in 2022.

He serves on the board of directors to the Rainbow Foundation, the Rancho Mirage chamber of commerce, as well as the Mission Point homeowners association. He was voted citizen of the year and businessman in 2014 by Rancho Mirage chamber members.

Charles is a member of COD President's Circle, Legacy Leaders and funds the Moller/Vinci scholarship endowment at COD. He is a founding member of Desert Aids Project, and serves on the Eisenhower associates President's Circle, the MacCallum theatre foundation, Desert Theatricals theater, Children's Discovery Museum, Stroke Recovery Center and Equality California.

He attended Pasadena City College.

Shari Stewart

Shari has been a desert resident for 38 years. Her degree is from California State University Northridge in Sociology. She is a retired elementary school teacher and one of her passions is education. She served as a board member of the Palm Springs Unified School district governing board for 18 years. She is also a mentor in the Rancho Mirage High School "smart" program and has been the lead mentor for five years. She has served on the Rancho Mirage planning commission and was a board member of the Rancho Mirage public library foundation. Shari is on the Academic Angels committee, and a member of COD President's circle. She is a 2023 Stepping Out sponsor.

Jenell Vandenbos

Jenell is a luxury specialist and a real estate investment specialist with Coldwell banker realty servicing Coachella valley. She was ranked in the top 50 agents in Coachella valley by Palm Springs life magazine for the past five years. Jenell has been a valley resident for twenty-five years. She is current president of Women Leaders forum of the Coachella valley, which serves local professional women working to make the cv a better place. She is also involved with Olive Crest, an organization dedicated to preventing child abuse and is an active member of the Desert Valley Builders' Association. She is a published writer in "real estate" and has her degree in marketing. At one time she attended COD to supplement her courses for her undergraduate and master's degree.

She and her husband own Buzz Box headquartered in Indio.

Connie Lurie

Connie has served on numerous boards and acted as advisor to nonprofit CEO's, a role she loves, as it takes advantage of her depth of experience and knowledge.

She has a BA in psychology and elementary education from state and an honorary PhD from the Connie I. Lurie school of education at San Jose State University. She was awarded the 'Tracks in the Sand' conservation award by the Living Desert in 2021 and the Champion of Youth award from the Boys and Girls Club of Coachella Valley in 2019.

She also serves as an advisory trustee of the California State Parks Foundation (40 years), a Director Emeritus of the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation, the President of the CBL Foundation and a Trustee Emeritus of the San Francisco Zoo. She founded the Guardian Scholars' program that supports foster students at San Jose State. That program is now at all CSU schools. Locally, she is very involved with the Living Desert where she and her husband Bob, are generous supporters and are spearheading the creation of the Living Desert's, soon to be built, special event center.

Connie has been a generous supporter of COD for many years. Recently she has given a grant to support foster students. She has already reached out to Catherine for a meeting to share a mockup pamphlet she created for COD to tell the COD story and eventually raise money.

7.03 Budget Input - Board Designated Funding

Kirstien Renna presented Budget Input - Foundation Budgeted College Support Expenses from Unrestricted Fund. Budgeted Amount - \$190 000, paid/pending amount - \$151,228.6, remaining budget available - \$38,771.4.

7.04 March Board Agenda Items - Mission Moment, Prospective Board Member First Read, Financial Update

8. ADJOURNMENT

8.01 Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 2:35 PM

8.02 Next Meeting: April 12, 2023, 1 PM to 2:30 PM