

Foundation Executive Committee Regular Meeting (Wednesday, January 24, 2024)

Generated by Dotty Durney on Thursday, January 25, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

1.01 Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 1:30

1.02 Roll Call

Members present: Diane Rubin, Christine Anderson (arrived 1:38pm), Bill Chunowitz, Marge Dodge, Barbara Foster Monachino, Tom Minder, Rob Moon, Jane Saltonstall

Members attending remotely: Barbara Fromm

Members not present: Jake Wuest

Non-voting members present: Laura Hope (arrived 1:36pm), Ruben Perez (arrived 1:42pm)

Guests present: Catherine Abbott, Executive Director, Dotty Durney, recorder.

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 24, 2024, Foundation Executive Meeting with any additions, corrections, or deletions.

3. MINUTES

3.01 Approval of November 1, 2023, Foundation Executive Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

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. Tuesday, January 23, 2024. No public comments

5. REPORT ITEMS

5.01 Administrative Comments

5.1.1 Ruben Perez: Will save comments for full Board.

5.1.2 President Hope: Welcomed all to the new facility. Classes begin next week. She updated the committee on the \$5 book rental program at the College, which will go into effect this semester. The Foundation, Friends of the Library, and private donors purchased books that students can check out for \$5 per semester. Procedures have been put in place to flag records of students who do not return the books. She expects some loss, but withholding their records should cut down on the number of lost books. We have chosen 10 of the most expensive and most commonly used titles in an effort to maximize usage of the available funds, and the faculty has agreed to use these titles for at least two years, ensuring that our investment is stretched as far out as possible. This is a bridge program until we can get to a zero-textbook situation. Currently, e-books are expensive and not all students have access to devices that allow them to use an e-book, but the College is looking into options available in the future. Roadrunner Express will begin next week. We have signed with a local vendor to provide three bus routes allowing students to get from one end of the valley to the other within an hour.

5.1.3 Diane Rubin: Welcomed all to the new Indio Child Development Center. No further comments

5.1.4 Catherine Abbott: No comments

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

Rob Moon: Most recent member appreciation event went well and came in under budget by \$950. Not certain of exact attendance totals, but quite a few people participated. The next event will be Pizza and Putters at Shadow Mountain on Sunday March 3. The event will be catered by Piero's PizzaVino. We'll offer bloody Marys, margaritas, wine, beer, soft drinks, and several different pizza and salad options. For the putting tournament, we will supply putters, or attendees can bring their own. Right now, it looks like we'll have approximately 50 people, but we can accommodate many more. He expects we'll come in under budget again for this event. The Stewardship and Advancement committee will combine with the President's Circle committee going forward. We are proposing to convert the President's Circle to a "volunteer" group that will be overseen by the Stewardship and Advancement committee. The Stewardship and Advancement committee will be tasked with managing the budget and administrative duties, while the PC volunteer group will meet as an ad hoc, "off campus" group that will focus on building camaraderie and expanding membership. This structure is being modeled after the Cabrillo College design. The committee is also working closely with Foundation staff to revamp the PC membership benefits. Elena will be presenting the details at the full board meeting. Most of these changes to the benefits will go into effect next year, but changes to the PC committee will be in effect by the end of this year. We plan to have the first large PC meeting prior to the end of the year. He gave a status report of the PC membership: we currently have 47 lifetime members, 48 current active members, 18 payroll members, plus 25 remaining renewals. Thank-you letters have been sent to the members who have completed their renewal, and reminders have gone out to those who have yet to renew. The committee is looking into restructuring the lifetime membership status. These members don't necessarily donate on an annual basis, yet many of them attend the functions. This can cost us up to \$100/person and the

members frequently bring a guest, thus we lose \$200 per person per event. We are sending them all letters thanking them for having donated in the past and inviting them to donate again this year. Going forward, lifetime membership will be reviewed and standards will be set for how the designation is made. Also, they will be encouraging all Board members to become PC members. Gave update on expected meeting with Michael Green, director of PS Cultural Center regarding showing of Invisible Valley in the fall. Unfortunately, Michael was not available as expected, so the meeting with him and Mary Pohlrad didn't happen as planned. Instead, Tom will work with Mary and the Cultural Center to schedule a showing of the moving in Nov as a fundraiser for the Foundation. Rob envisions using the largest of the auditoriums for the showing, where we can host board members as well as students. He has been talking with Mary Pohlrad about speaking at the event, and we might also be able to have her son, the movie's director, speak as well. It has been decided that members who join the PC at the Silver level (\$2500 annually), will be given automatic membership to the Academic Angels club as well. Rob and Marge have devised a way that \$250 of the membership will be routed to Academic Angels, with the remaining \$2250 going to PC. These members will be invited to participate in both PC and AA events. Any guests who accompany a member will be asked for a \$100 donation and that money will go toward their membership if they decide to join. Additionally, Marge will expand the AA newsletter, titled The Roundup, to include PC and will publish it three times per year.

Marge Dodge: Renewal letters went out in December to all current and lapsed AA members. We currently have 66 lifetime members, which, like PC, has no revenue associated. Her committee will be looking at this to see how they want to move forward with the lifetime membership designation. 33 members have renewed, for a total of \$8250. An additional 13 have yet to renew, representing revenue of \$3250. Eddie and Elena will be following up with these members. Future renewal requests will go out three times in December. As Rob mentioned, we'll have a new approach to increase membership. The next AA mixer will be on March 3, potentially at the Nest. The owner, Dodi Henry, is a COD alumna (and homecoming queen!) and is also an AA supporter and donated \$500 at the most recent luncheon. The Spring into Summer luncheon will be held in April (date to be determined) and we're hoping to host it at the newly remodeled Desert Horizons Country Club. The title of the newsletter was discussed: the suggestion was made to call it the Roadrunner Roundup, but Marge explained why the committee did not use "Roadrunner." She said that roadrunner is used for the students and the College itself, and since the Foundation is separate from the College, they thought it best to differentiate by omitting "roadrunner."

Barbara Foster Monachino: No comments

Jane Saltonstall: No comments at this time.

Bill Chunowitz: No comments

Chris Anderson: Following the resignation from the Board of Charles Vinci, Chris has assumed the role of Chair of the Legacy Leaders committee. In the past, there hadn't been a report for Legacy, but she would like to change that going forward to share updates with this committee. Bill Chunowitz was recognized last time. Paul Hinkes was going to be recognized today, but since he is not in attendance, recognition will be made at the next Board meeting.

Barbara Fromm: (attending via Zoom due to illness) She was unable to meet with Cathy prior to today's meeting, so she will table her report until the next meeting.

6. ACTION ITEMS

6.01 Nominating Committee Materials Review and Approval

Jane Saltonstall shared bios of four potential Board members: Ed Gubman, Jaishri Mehta, Jerry Fogelson, and Ramraghi Fuller. She thanked the members of the committee who were able to join the various coffee and lunch meetings in order to become acquainted with these prospective members. Today, she will do a "first read" of the bios and conduct a high-level discussion regarding their suitability for the Board. If everyone is in agreement, we will induct the new members at the next Board meeting. She'd like to have them fully on board by the end of the season so we can capture the momentum of their enthusiasm before we break for the summer. All bios were read and discussed. Dr. Ed Gubman came to us to learn about ways to be involved. He has been very active on multiple boards, served on the Springs board as Treasurer and advised on the budget for One Night Only. He'll be doing a campus tour in the next couple weeks. Jaishri Mehta is about to retire from her position as professor at Mt. San Antonio College where she has taught for 25 years. Her subject areas were cybersecurity and information technology, and she also served on their IT board handling their legal issues. She has also been very involved in the hospitality industry as investor in multiple La Quinta Inn locations. She sits on numerous other boards. She's very interested in the Pantry. Her husband owns El Paseo Jewelers. Jerry Fogelson started Fogelson Properties which builds residential units and built Chicago's Central Station (residential and commercial towers). He was very involved in education, and created Fogelson Foundation and founded the School of Real Estate at Roosevelt University. He has sat on multiple boards in the past and continues to be on various boards still. Ramraghi Fuller's father used to be a board member of this foundation. She currently works at JP Morgan Private Bank where she is Executive Director. Her undergraduate degree was from UCLA, and she served as UCI EMBassador for two years. She was Board President for Coastline Community College and Treasurer for Newport Bay Conservancy. Her two focuses are conservation and education. These candidates will be presented to the full Board today if there are no objections. Lastly, Jane reminded the committee that there are two open officer positions on the Board to be filled for next year. Anyone who is interested should contact Diane Rubin, Cathy Abbott, or Jane. Chris reminded the committee that the Treasurer position is a two-year term.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.01 CLOSED SESSION - CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL (Government Code Section 54956.9): ANTICIPATED LITIGATION (Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9, subd. (d)(2) and (e)(1)) One (1) potential case Closed session was tabled and topic will be discussed with the full board.

7.02 Resignations and Leave of Absence from the Board of Directors

7.02.01 Charles Townsend Vinci - Resignation from Board of Directors due to health concerns.

7.02.02 Connie Lurie - Resignation from Board of Directors due to scheduling conflicts.

7.02.03 Marlene O'Sullivan - Leave of Absence from Board of Directors but would like to remain involved as possible.

Discussion took place as to the ideal number of members on the Board. We currently have 18 and will be at 22 if all four of the potential candidates are approved. Jane noted that we had targeted a total of 25, so we still have room if we find qualified candidates. She also commented that if we want to add more, we need to move quickly to get them brought in before we break for summer.

7.03 Stepping Out for college of the Desert Update

Catherine Abbott informed the committee that the offer we had made to Martina McBride has been declined. We have now made an offer to country artist, Clay Walker, and we hope to hear from him by this Friday. He had many hits in the 90s but has been less active recently. He still sells out venues seating approximately 1600 seats. We have a bigger venue this year than last year and we need to be able to fill the seats. We would lose our \$10,000 deposit if we were to change venues at this point.

7.04 The Springs Woman Presentation March 14, 2024

Jane Saltonstall informed the committee that the Springs Country Club hosts monthly luncheons which draw 60-120 attendees. The March luncheon will feature Pres. Hope, Cathy, and our Nursing Director, Sarah Fry. Jane can make seating arrangements so that Board members will be spread throughout the venue to make contact with as many members as possible. The event is open to the public; see the attached flyer for ticket information.

7.05 February 21, 2024 Board Meeting Agenda Items

No items suggested.

7.06 Informational/ Miscellaneous

Diane reminded the committee that State of the College will be held Feb. 29, 2024 at Toyota of the Desert in Cathedral City.

Kirstien Renna reported \$13,580 in actual revenue

and \$77,500 in pending pledges, bringing our expected total to \$91,080 thus far. Budget is \$100,000. There will not be a luncheon this year, rather charcuterie boards created by the COD culinary program will be at each table as a centerpiece and the program will consist of presentations by the Foundation staff and a panel of local businesses. We expect quite a few local municipalities and school districts.

We will do the walkthrough of the Child Development Center at 2:45pm today.

Two new trustees have been appointed to the Bond Oversight committee: David Ready and Bruce Bauer, both of Palm Springs. It will be nice to have representatives from Palm Springs to hear the good things being done with the bond money, including the Indio campus expansion and the CDC. New market tax credits (private and public money) have freed up approximately \$16M in bond money that can now be used elsewhere. President Hope suggested that May would be a good time for the Board to look at the expansion. She expects the College will be given the keys in early June.

8. ADJOURNMENT

8.01 Next Meeting: February 21, 2024, 1:30 - 2:45 PM

8.02 Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:26pm