

Foundation Board of Directors Annual Meeting (Wednesday, April 24, 2024)

Generated by Dotty Durney on Thursday, April 25, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

1.1 Call to order

- The meeting was called to order at 2:48pm

1.2 Roll Call

- Members present: Chris Anderson, Norma Castaneda, Bill Chunowitz, Marge Dodge, Jerry Fogelson, Barbara Foster Monachino, Carol Fragen, Ramraghi Fuller, Jim Greene, Ed Gubman, Paul Hinkes, Joan Lamb, Dale Landon, Jaishri Mehta, Tom Minder, Rob Moon, Diane Rubin, Jane Saltonstall, Shari Stewart, Jenell VanDenBos, Jake Wuest
- Members absent: Barbara Fromm, Donna MacMillan, Jim Williams
- Guests presents: Rod Garcia, Laura Hope, Val Martinez Garcia, Jocelyn Vargas, Christopher Martinez, Angie Puerta
- Staff present: Catherine Abbott, Amanda McCarthy, Eddie Hernandez, Elena Moiseeva, Liz Chambers, Gailya Brown, Juli Maxwell, Kristien Renna, Mike Hofacre
- Recorder: Dotty Durney

2. AGENDA

2.1 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 two-thirds vote of the members of the legislative body present at the meeting, or, if less than two-thirds of the members are present, a unanimous vote of those members 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 in subdivision (a)

2.2 Confirmation of Agenda: Approval of agenda for the Foundation Annual Board of Directors Meeting of April 24, 2024 with any additions, corrections, or deletions.

- Agenda was approved as presented.

3. MINUTES

3.1 Approval of the March 27, 2024 Foundation Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

- Tom Minder made a correction to 7.2 "Review and Approval of Proposed Check Signing Policy" to read "Chair-Elect as a signer" removing the word "possible."
- Tom Minder edited 8.3 "Litigation Update" for the last two sentences to read, "We will know more in April after the statutory offer expires. If we win the case, it is possible that she will be responsible for court fees and costs after the statutory offer."
- Jake Wuest moved to approve the corrected minutes, and Carol Fragen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously and the was approved.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

4.1 Public Participation and Public Comment: In person and remote public participation is allowed and will be accepted in person, by email to codfoundation@collegeofthedesert.edu and submitted for the record during public comment or by using the raise your hand function by joining the Zoom link <https://collegeofthedesert-edu.zoom.us/j/4672516547?pwd=0Fpr4LqvSJ0tTo3B3CefhCEogXBU8t.1&omn=81773316098> Meeting ID: 467 251 6547 Passcode: 162621. There is a time limit of three (3) minutes per person. All comments must be submitted or brought forward prior to the end of the public comments section. Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities: Persons with disabilities may make a written request for a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to participate in the Board meeting. All requests should be directed to the Foundation Office in advance via email to codfoundation@collegeofthedesert.edu.

- There were no public comments.

5. MISSION MOMENT

- V.P. Val Martinez Garcia and Joyce Vargas presented information regarding the Roadrunner Essentials programs. Students Angie Puerta and Christopher Martinez related how the various Roadrunner Essentials have helped them throughout their time at COD and removed roadblocks to their education. They thanked the Board members for their efforts to benefit these programs.

6. REPORT ITEMS

6.1 Board of Trustee Liaison Report - Ruben Perez

- Trustee Perez was not in attendance.

6.2 Vice President Administrative Services Report - Rod Garcia

- He'll be traveling to Portland next month with President Hope, Jacob Knapp, and Catherine Abbott for meetings with Jordan Schnitzer. Among the items to be discussed are the Letter of Intent, acreage of the property, square footage of the building, the lease, and short- and long-term plans for the facility. He reiterated that Mr. Schnitzer will be covering all building, operating, and maintenance costs. Faculty will be consulted on design of instructional spaces.
- Norma Castaneda asked what the Board members' messaging should be around the golf facility if they are asked. He and President Hope explained that the College's turf management and golf programs will not be affected by the closure of the golf center. President Hope will be communicating this during her upcoming speaking series "Happy Hour with Hope," where she'll be engaging with local community and business leaders.
- The College has a new agreement with the City of Palm Desert regarding the public library. The City has a 5-year lease and they are making upgrades to the facility.

6.3 Interim Superintendent/President Report - Laura Hope

- She shared a brochure, "Paving the Way Forward 2024" that focuses on enrollment recovery. The College is slowly making a comeback with regards to enrollment.
- She shared a handout, "The Economic Value of College of the Desert," which showed a total annual impact of \$378.1M.
- Announced that the College has selected Casino Management to be its first baccalaureate program. They are working with the Agua Caliente tribe and will bring other tribes into the discussions regarding design of the program.
- V.P. Val Martinez Garcia has been named as new V.P. Student Services. The search has begun to find his replacement as V.P. Instruction.

6.4 Board Chair Report - Diane Rubin

- Outlined all the accomplishments of the Board and the committees over the past year.
- Thanked all the committee chairs, the Foundation staff, President Hope, and Cathy.

6.5 Executive Director Report - Catherine Abbott

- Thanked the committee chairs for all they've done this past year.
- Announced that 4th-semester Nursing student, Diane Von Kaenal will be awarded a car by Fix Auto at the dealership's grand opening on May 3.

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

6.6.1 Advancement and Stewardship - Rob Moon

- The first President's Circle event of next year will be a showing of the movie, "Invisible Valley" at the Palm Springs Cultural Center (formerly the Camelot Theatre) in early December.
- Beginning next year, the President's Circle will become an ad hoc committee. The kickoff event will be in the fall.
- So far this year, President's Circle revenue is nearly \$149K compared to a total of \$104K last year.

6.6.2 Academic Angels - Marge Dodge

- The Spring into Summer lunch last week was a huge success. President Hope and V.P. Garcia spoke about the new Jordan Schnitzer art museum, and the College's Architecture department shared information about their tiny house program.
- The committee is sponsoring three Learning to Lead students in the Leadership Coachella Valley program. The committee will cover the \$1,500 cost of the program for each student, plus will award a \$1,000 scholarship to each student at the conclusion of the program.

6.6.3 Finance and Investment - Jake Wuest

- At last week's meeting, the committee approved the February financials and the Gift Sustainability Fee. At that meeting, the committee also discussed updates on the Heitman Estate, the Foundation's need for a new golf cart, and a first draft of next year's budget. Conversation was had around the investment policy statement, which they hope to bring to the Finance committee and the Board in May.

6.6.4 Legacy Leaders - Chris Anderson

- The final Legacy Leaders event this year will be a brunch at the McCallum Theater on May 5 at 12:30pm. Following the brunch will be COD's production of Guys and Dolls at 2:00pm.
- Presented the Prism Award to Barbara Foster Monachino.

7. ACTION ITEMS

7.1 Election of New Officers for 2024-25

- Jane Saltonstall presented the slate of officers for next year: Chair - Diane Rubin; Chair-Elect - Tom Minder; Treasurer - Paul Hinkes; Secretary - Barbara Foster Monachino; Parliamentarian - Barbara Fromm. A motion was made by Bill Chunowitz to elect the officers as read and Norma Castaneda seconded. A roll-call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

7.2 Review and Approval of February Financial Statement

- Mike Hofacre reviewed the February Financial Statement. Joan Lamb moved to approve the statement and Bill Chunowitz seconded. A roll-call vote was taken, and the motion was approved unanimously.

7.3 Review and Approval of Gift Sustainability Fee

- Kirstien Renna presented the Gift Sustainability Fee policy and schedule. Jake Wuest moved to approve the policy and Paul Hinkes seconded. A roll-call vote was taken, and the motion was approved unanimously.

7.4 Review and Approval of 990 Returns

- Kirstien Renna presented the 990 forms. She noted that the tax accountant needs to make some minor, non-substantive edits (specifically correcting the spelling of Ruben Perez' name, correcting Board officer titles, and a potential correction to the benefits amount listed for the Executive Director). Barbara Foster Monachino moved to approve the 990s and Chris Anderson seconded. A roll-call vote was taken, and the motion was approved unanimously.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

8.1 Stepping Out Report Co-Chairs

- Norma Castaneda thanked the Board and the staff for all the hard work. She reported that we reached our goal of \$650K and that we had 98% participation from our Board.
- Jenell VanDenBos thanked everyone for their contributions. She was very happy with the number of new donors who signed on.
- Mike Hofacre reported that we have actuals and verbals totaling approximately \$655K including a pledge from Jordan Schnitzer for \$150K over the next three years. Our recorded expenses to date come to \$215K but we know there will be more to come.

8.2 Foundation Revenue Spotlight

- Eddie Hernandez gave an overview of revenue from business donations, Legacy Leaders, and grants.

- Updated the Board on the success of the campus tours. Of the 95 guests we had this year came multiple Academic Angels and President's Circle memberships, as well as a sponsorship for Learning to Lead, and over \$70K in scholarships.
- Elena Moiseeva reported on membership numbers and revenue over the past 10 years.

8.3 Upcoming Events

- Friday, May 3 at 11:00am - Fix Auto Grand Opening, where they'll be presenting a car to our Nursing student, Diane Von Kaenal.
- Sunday, May 5 at 12:30pm - Legacy Leaders Champagne Brunch at the McCallum Theater
- Tuesday, May 7 at 4:00pm - Student Speaker Forum at the Pollock Theater on the COD Palm Desert campus
- Tuesday, May 21 at 4:00pm - COD graduation at Acrisure Arena in Palm Desert.

9. ADJOURNMENT

9.1 Next Meeting: Board of Directors Regular Meeting on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at 3:00 PM at Multi-Purpose Room, Cravens Student Services Center

9.2 Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 4:47pm