



COD Foundation Board of Directors Meeting

February 19, 2025 – 3:00 PM

Cravens Center

College of the Desert, Palm Desert Campus
43500 Monterey Ave., Palm Desert

OR

ZOOM (Special Circumstance, Guest, Public Only):

<https://collegeofthedesert-edu.zoom.us/my/julimaxwell?pwd=0jSyRqI8Ye6KqaKqIbAgqjWaplwanh.1&omn=89926983480>

Meeting ID: 648 245 1590
Passcode: 7394

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>.

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 meeting. All requests should be directed to the COD Foundation office in advance via email to codfoundation@collegeofthedesert.edu.

A man with glasses and a blue shirt stands with his arms crossed on the left. A woman with glasses and a denim shirt sits on the right holding a laptop. They are in a modern building with arches and a railing.

Agenda



**Wednesday, February 19, 2025
Foundation Board of Directors Meeting**

3:00 - 4:30pm

Location: College of the Desert Palm Desert Campus, Cravens Center Multi-Purpose Room

Zoom link: [https://collegeofthedesert-edu.zoom.us/my/julimaxwell?](https://collegeofthedesert-edu.zoom.us/my/julimaxwell?pwd=b0tLbzNRWWWhyL284NHo2MmtnUXE5UT09&omn=89926983480)

pwd=b0tLbzNRWWWhyL284NHo2MmtnUXE5UT09&omn=89926983480.

Meeting ID:648 245 1590. Passcode: 7394

(Guests and Public Comment Only)

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COLLEGE OF THE DESERT FOUNDATION MISSION: College of the Desert Foundation acts as advocates for the College and secures financial support enhancing educational opportunities for all students.

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COLLEGE OF THE DESERT MISSION: College of the Desert provides excellent educational programs in basic skills, career and technical education, certificate, transfer preparation, associate degrees, noncredit and distance education, which are continuously evaluated and improved. Our programs and services contribute to the success, learning and achievement of our diverse students and the vitality of the Desert Community College District, surrounding areas and beyond.

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Persons with disabilities may make a written request for a disability-related modification or accommodation, including for auxiliary aids or services, in order to participate in the Board meeting. Requests should be directed to the Office of the College of the Desert Foundation ("Foundation") as soon in advance of the Board meeting.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

1.1 Roll Call: Barbara Foster Monachino, Barbara Fromm, Bill Chunowitz, Carol Fragen, Christine Anderson, Dale Landon, Diane Rubin, Donna MacMillan, Ed Gubman, Elisabeth Dick, Jaishri Mehta, Jane Saltonstall, Jenell Vandebos, Jim Greene, Joan Lamb, Marge Dodge, Norma Castaneda, Paul Hinkes, Ramraghi Fuller, Rob Moon, Shari Stewart, Tom Minder. NON-VOTING: Val Martinez Garcia, Corbyn Wild, Mary Jane Salchez-Fulton, Juan Falcon

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 Board of Directors Meeting of February 19, 2025 with any additions, corrections, or deletions.

3. MINUTES

3.1 Approval of the January 22, 2024 Foundation Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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/my/julimaxwell?pwd=b0tLbzNRWWWhyL284NHo2MmtnUXE5UT09&omn=89926983480>. 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.

5. SPECIAL ACTION ITEM

5.1 Election to the Board of Phillip Niblo

6. MISSION MOMENT

6.1 Update on COD Paramedic Program

7. REPORT ITEMS

7.1 Board of Trustee Liaison Report - Mary Jane Sanchez

7.2 Acting Interim Superintendent/President Report - Val Martinez Garcia

7.3 Student Representative ASCOD Vice President - Juan Falcon

7.4 Board Chair Report - Diane Rubin

7.5 Executive Director Report - Catherine Abbott

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

8. ACTION ITEMS

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

9.1 Update on Transition to New Investment Advisor - Kirstien Renna

9.2 First Read - Alvin Schonfeld as a Foundation Board Member

9.3 Foundation Upcoming Events

10. ADJOURNMENT

10.1 Next Meeting: Board of Directors Regular Meeting on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 3:00 PM at Multi-Purpose Room, Cravens Student Services Center

10.2 Adjournment

Minutes for Approval

Foundation Board of Directors Meeting (Wednesday, January 22, 2025)

Generated by Juli Maxwell on Wednesday, January 22, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Meeting was called to order at 3:00pm

Action, Procedural: 1.1 Approval of Investment Advisor

Call to Order/Roll Call: 1.2 Roll Call

Members Present: Barbara Foster Monachino, Barbara Fromm, Bill Chunowitz, Carol Fragen, Christine Anderson, Dale Landon, Diane Rubin, Ed Gubmam, Jaishri Mehta, Jim Greene, Joan Lamb, Marge Dodge, Norma Castaneda, Paul Hinkes, Rob Moon, Shari Stewart, Tom Minder

Members Absent: Donna McMillan, Jenell VanDenBos, Ramraghi Fuller on Zoom

Non-Voting Members Present: Kaden Olson

Non-Voting Members Absent: Corbyn Wild, Catherine Abbott

Guests: Amber Libertini, Elena Moiseeva, Amanda McCarthy, Eddie Hernandez

Carol Fragen joined the meeting at 3:07pm

Elisabeth Dick joined the meeting at 3:08 pm

2. AGENDA

Procedural: 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)

Action, Procedural: 2.2 Confirmation of Agenda: Approval of agenda for the Foundation Board of Directors Meeting of January 22, 2025 with any additions, corrections, or deletions.

Agenda was approved as presented.

3. MINUTES

Action, Minutes: 3.1 Approval of the November 20, 2024 Foundation Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Bill Chunowitz made a motion to approve the minutes and Jim Greene seconded.

Minutes were approved as presented.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Information: 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/my/julimaxwell?pwd=b0tLbzNRWWWhyL284NHo2MmtnUXE5UT09&omn=89926983480>. 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.

5. SPECIAL ACTION ITEM

Action, Information: 5.1 Election to the Board of Elisabeth Dick
Jane made a motion to approve Elisabeth Dick as a COD board member.
Motion Carried.

Elisabeth entered the room and introduced herself to the board.

6. MISSION MOMENT

Information: 6.1 Stepping Out Essay Winners
Roberto Ramos introduced himself and read his essay to the Board.
Alexandria Miller introduced herself and read her essay to the Board.
Fe Esquerda introduced herself and read her essay to the Board.

7. REPORT ITEMS

Reports: 7.1 Board of Trustee Liaison Report - Mary Jane Sanchez-Fulton
Mary Jane commended the Board for Stepping Out for COD being a wonderful event.

Reports: 7.2 Acting Interim Superintendent/President Report - Val Martinez Garcia
Val Martinez Garca commended the students that read their essay and shared some of his own background. He then commended the Board on Stepping Out for COD and for their commitment and generosity to COD. Val reported that admission is up 17%.

Reports: 7.3 Student Representative ASCOD President - Kaden Olson
Kaden reported working towards an initiative to bring more information to students with faculty and staff interviews with the PIO to post on YouTube.

Reports: 7.4 Board Chair Report - Diane Rubin
Diane Rubin thanked staff and Stepping Out Committee for all their work. Diane thanked the Finance and Investment Committee on their work on the financial investment advisor. Diane spoke about Cathy's leadership in the foundation and in raising funds. She reported that Cathy remains resolutely focused on the mission while fostering mutual respect from the staff, she is fair and impartial.

Reports: 7.5 Executive Director Report - Catherine Abbott
Catherine Abbott was absent from the meeting and Eddie Hernandez gave the report on her behalf. Eddie reported that March 5, 2025 the internship fair on Indio campus will be held. The campus tours kick off on February 4, presented by Joan Lamb and the Rutherford Foundation.

Reports: 7.6 Directors' Reports (Reports may be submitted by emailing the Foundation at codfoundation@collegeofthedesert.edu)

Rob moon reported that the President's Circle membership drive currently has \$140,000 in donations and pledges with the goal of \$225k. The first event of the year will be Pizza and putting on March 15. Next year President's Circle plans on doing a farm tour.

Marge Dodge reported that Academic Angels added a new committee member, Flo Wolff. Membership renewals went out in December and staff will continue to contact those that have not responded. Spring Luncheon will be at The Springs on May 1. On February 20 there will be a mixer at Pierro's Pizzavino. A grant from Coeta Barker will pay for three students in the Learning to Lead program.

Jane Saltonstall shared with the Board the resume of Phillip Niblo, as a first read to become a board member.

Chris Anderson reported that we had a Legacy Leader that just passed, Mark Monica, and told the Board a little about his life.

8. ACTION ITEMS

Action: 8.1 Presentation and acceptance of the financial statements of August 2024 - November 2024

Kirstien presented the financial statements to the Board.

Barbara Fromm made a motion to approve the financial statements as presented, Jim Greene seconded.

Moton carried

Action: 8.2 Approval of Investment Manager

Paul Hinkes shared that the decision was made to switch from 3 investment managers to one. Committee went out for RFP and received 21 proposals from all over the country. Committee ranked the proposals then came up with the top 8 to investigate further.

Each company came to Palm Desert to meet with the Committee and from those 8, 2 were selected and they came again, and committee chose which one they would like to recommend to the Board. Kudos to Tom Minder, Ed Gubman and Joan Lamb, and Kirstien. The recommend is to place all of the investments to Ferguson Wellman. They are based in Portland, and they are a very impressive firm. They are in the top 100 (no. 10 on the list of the best investment firm according to 2024 CNBC Financial Advisor 100 list. They also gave the Foundation a great fee.

Paul Hinkes made a motion that the Board approve Ferguson Wellman as the investment manager for the Foundation.

Motion carried.

Action: 8.3 Approval of Bylaws

Barbara Foster shared with the Board the reasons that the bylaws were updated. One important change was that officers can now serve 2, two-year terms.

The bylaws were approved with small corrections.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Discussion: 9.1 Stepping Out Recap - Bill Chunowitz/Carol Fragen, Eddie Hernandez
Bill and Carol thanked the board for their full support of the event. Bill thanked the staff for all of their hard work and passion for what they do. The event raised \$700k.

Discussion: 9.2 Invisible Valley Recap and P.A.V.E

Rob Moon shared the event was very successful and that the Camelot Theater did a lot for the Foundation and Elena really was the force behind it. Mary Englebrand-Pohlad wanted this to be shown in the valley and the Foundation did that for her.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Procedural: 10.1 Next Meeting: Board of Directors Regular Meeting on Wednesday, February 19, 2024, at 3:00 PM at Multi-Purpose Room, Cravens Student Services Center

Procedural: 10.2 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:46pm



Phillip Niblo Bio

Philip Niblo

Bio

I work as a Financial Advisor at FLC Capital Advisors. My primary responsibilities include managing relationships, building investment plans, crafting financial plans, and tax planning. I have over 8 years of experience as a financial advisor and 9 years working in community banking. In Community Banking I worked at Wells Fargo and Bank of America. As a Financial Advisor I previously worked at Raymond James and Merrill Lynch. I attended College of the Desert then transferred to University of Redlands graduating with a bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in accounting. I have obtained the CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ (CFP®) accreditation from the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards. I also hold the Series 7 General Securities Representative and Series 66 Uniform Combined State Law Examination licenses.

I find great satisfaction in being able to tell clients they can spend more in retirement and advising them on the most tax-efficient sources to draw from. Tax planning excites me! My goal is to provide the most tax efficient ways to give clients retirement income they need. I utilize my experience in providing wealth management advice and building long-term relationships to assist clients with custom strategies tailored to their needs.

I am a lifelong Coachella Valley resident and still reside in La Quinta. I have a fiancé Deyssi and a young daughter Sofia. I enjoy immersing myself in the community, spending quality time with my family and working on my house. I like to refer to myself as an "Unlicensed Electrician".

I am also a board member of the Desert Estate Planning Council and a member of the Financial Planning Association.



Alvin Schonfeld Bio

Alvin Schonfeld Bio

I grew up in the suburbs of Cleveland. After graduating from Shaker Heights high school I attended the university of Pittsburgh where I received a bachelor of science degree

Then went to medical school at Midwestern University in Chicago. Following graduation from medical school, I entered the United States Army medical corps and did all of my post doctor training, including internship, residency in internal medicine and fellowship in pulmonary disease. I left the army with the rank of major and as chief of the pulmonary disease service at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu.

I then entered private and academic practice in Chicago starting at Midwestern University, where achieved the rank of associate professor of medicine. We then moved to Colorado, where I taught at Rocky Vista University as professor of medicine.

In the early 90s following a trip to Grenada, my wife Susan, and I started to do charity work for their hearing-impaired community. After several years of obtaining hearing aids, medical equipment and surgical supplies, in 1993, I was named as Grenada's honorary Consul in Chicago. This allowed me to be part of the consular Corp in Chicago where I met one of the Israeli Consul General's. He suggested that I start attending water and agricultural technology conferences in Tel Aviv every year. As a result of my attending those conferences, I was able to obtain numerous types of agricultural and water technology equipment for Grenada.

In around 2016 the Prime Minister of Grenada, as a way to thank me for my long service to Grenada but also knowing that Grenada's further involvement in Israel would lead to betterment in Grenada, I was nominated to be Grenada's first ambassador to Israel. In 2018 I presented credentials to the president of Israel and have remained accredited as Grenada's ambassador to Israel since that time.

I've been married to my wife, Susan for 44 years. We have three children and two grandchildren.

Hobbies include travel, golf, skiing, swimming, and tennis

Alvin Schonfeld



UPCOMING EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS



FEBRUARY
27

President's Circle Special Tour of Indio
Campus - Gold and Above - 9am

MARCH 5

COD Career Fair
10am - Indio Campus

MARCH 16

President's Circle "Pizza and Putting"
11am at Shadow Mountain

APRIL 10

Academic Angels Mixer
5pm location TBD

APRIL 23

BOD Annual Meeting
3pm - Indio Campus

APRIL 28

P.A.V.E #3
3pm at Barbara Foster Monachino's

MAY 1

Academic Angels Spring into Summer
Luncheon - Time and Place TBD

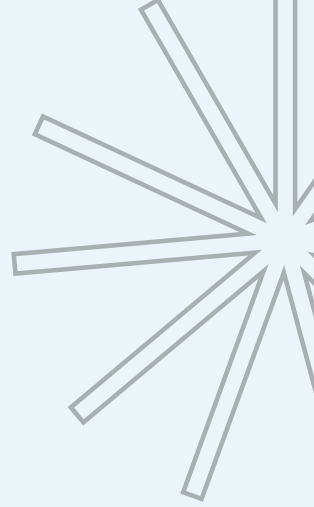
MAY 3

Legacy Leaders Event
Time and Place TBD



COLLEGE
of the DESERT
FOUNDATION

CAMPUS TOURS



THURS., FEBRUARY 20

TUES., MARCH 25

TUES., APRIL 1

WED., APRIL 9

TUES., APRIL 15
