

Foundation Board of Directors Meeting Minutes(Wednesday, March 26, 2025)

Generated by Juli Maxwell on Thursday, March 27, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Procedural, 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 Vandenbos, Jim Greene, Joan Lamb, Marge Dodge, Norma Castaneda, Paul Hinkes, Ramraghi Fuller, Rob Moon, Shari Stewart, Tom Minder. **NON-VOTING:** Val Martinez Garcia, Chip West, Corbyn Wild, Mary Jane Sanchez-Fulton, Juan Falcon

Members Present: Barbara Foster Monachino, Barbara Fromm, Bill Chunowitz, Carol Fragen, Dale Landon, Diane Rubin, Ed Gubman, Elisabeth Dick, Jane Saltonstall, Jenell Vandenbos, Jim Greene, Joan Lamb, Marge Dodge, Paul Hinkes, Ramraghi Fuller, Rob Moon, Shari Stewart, Tom Minder.

Members Absent: Norma Castaneda, Jane Saltonstall, Christine Anderson, Jaishri Mehta, Donna MacMillan

Non-voting Members Present: Val Martinez Garcia, Chip West, Christopher Martinez (on behalf of Juan Falcon)

Non-voting Members Absent: Trustee Sanchez-Fulton, Juan Falcon, Corbyn Wild

Guests: Catherine Abbott, Liz Chambers, Kirstien Renna, Elena Moiseeva, Amber Libertini

Recorder: Juli Maxwell

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 March 26, 2025, with any additions, corrections, or deletions.

The agenda was approved as presented

3. MINUTES

Action, Minutes: 3.1 Approval of the February 19, 2025, Foundation Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

The 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/j/julimaxwell?](https://collegeofthedesert-edu.zoom.us/j/julimaxwell?pwd=b0tLbzNRWWhyL284NHo2MmtnUXE5UT09&omn=89926983480)

[pwd=b0tLbzNRWWhyL284NHo2MmtnUXE5UT09&omn=89926983480](https://collegeofthedesert-edu.zoom.us/j/julimaxwell?pwd=b0tLbzNRWWhyL284NHo2MmtnUXE5UT09&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.

There were no public comments.

5. SPECIAL ACTION ITEM

Action, Information: 5.1 Election of Alvin Schonfeld to the Foundation Board of Directors

Bill Chunowitz presented Alvin Schonfeld to the board. Bill made a motion to approve Alvin as a board member for the Foundation.

Paul Hinkes seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

6. MISSION MOMENT

Information: 6.1 AI Presentation - Ron De Genova, Stephanie Bell Veneris

The team discussed their experience creating a documentary about wind farms in Palm Springs using AI tools. Ron and Stephanie, experienced filmmakers, collaborated with AI specialist Peter Laforte to produce "The Winds of Change." They recruited eight students and assigned each to produce a specific scene, combining traditional filmmaking with AI-generated content. The project used various AI tools for script writing, voice cloning, and video generation, with only Fred Noble's interview and one other scene being real footage. The team emphasizes that AI requires human interaction and prompting, making it a powerful tool for students to explore new possibilities in filmmaking. They plan to submit the film to the Palm Springs Shorts Fest and have created a case study documenting their process. This innovative project was funded by the COD Foundation.

7. REPORT ITEMS

Reports: 7.1 Board of Trustee Liaison Report - Mary Jane Sanchez-Fulton

Mary Jane was not present.

Reports: 7.2 Acting Interim Superintendent/President Report - Val Martinez Garcia

Val mentioned that the Board of Trustees has approved an ad hoc committee to address accreditation concerns from ACCJC. The committee is working with the Senate and the Association of Community College Trustees to facilitate trainings and board evaluations. The college is also planning to visit Austin Community College to explore new teaching and learning methods. Val reported that the commencement ceremony will be held on May 27th at 4 PM at the Acrisure Arena. Val introduced the new interim Vice President of Administrative Services, Chip West, who has been on campus for a month and is excited to work with the team.

Reports: 7.3 Interim Vice President, Administrative Services - Chip West

Chip introduced himself to the board as this is his first board meeting with the Foundation.

Reports: 7.4 Student Representative ASCOD Vice President - Juan Falcon

Christopher Martinez attended on behalf of Juan Falcon. Christopher reported on the success of the advocacy conference in Washington, DC, and the sponsorship of two students for the Leadership Coachella Valley program.

Reports: 7.5 Board Chair Report - Diane Rubin

Diane had no report.

Reports: 7.6 Executive Director Report - Catherine Abbott

Catherine reported that the Heitman Trust has been turned into an endowment, which will provide funding for foster youth in perpetuity. The foundation is not moving to the Multi Agency Use Library and will stay in Admin for the time being.

Reports: 7.7 Directors' Reports

Rob Moon - Advancement and Stewardship: Rob expressed gratitude for the staff's hard work and mentioned the upcoming events, including the farm tour and the polo matches. Rob reported on the President Circle, which had brought in \$163,000 and was aiming for \$225,000.

Marge Dodge - Academic Angels: Academic Angels also had updates, including a no-host event and a spring into summer lunch.

Paul Hinkes - Finance Committee: Paul discussed the investment protocols and the financials.

Chris Anderson's - Legacy Leaders report was given by Catherine Abbott: report included the addition of Diane Rubin and Bruce Durkey to the planned giving Advisory Group and the upcoming legacy leader reception.

8. ACTION ITEMS

Action, Reports: 8.1 Approval of December 31, 2024, and January 31, 2025, Financials

Kirstien Renna presented the financials for December 31, 2024, and January 31, 2025.

Jim Greene Made a motion to approve the financials as presented.

Ed Gubman seconded.

Motion carried.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Discussion, Information: 9.1 Review/Discussion - Proposed 25/26 Operating Budget Presentation - First Read

Kirstien Renna presented the 2025-2026 budget for the foundation, which includes a fundraising goal of \$1,016,168. The budget also includes projected investment revenue of \$1,830,000 and expenses of \$2,968,745. The development team has a plan to increase faculty and staff giving, leadership giving, and business engagement. The foundation also plans to continue its momentum with the new gala format for the "Stepping Out for COD" event and the "State of the College" event. The budget includes a challenge of economic uncertainty and potential Federal and State budget cuts to education. The foundation also faces challenges with investment fluctuations. The final budget will be voted on at the annual meeting in April.

Discussion, Information: 9.2 First Pass - Slate of Officers

The slate of officers for the upcoming year was presented by Bill Chunowitz, with Tom Minder as Chair, Barbara Forster Monachino as Chair-elect, Shari Stewart as Secretary, and Dr. Paul Hinkes as Treasurer. The election for these positions will take place at the annual meeting in April.

Reports: 9.3 Foundation Upcoming Events

The attendees were made aware of the event.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Procedural: 10.1 Next Meeting: Board of Directors Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 2:00 PM at Desert Willow Golf Resort, Palm Desert. Reception immediately following.

Procedural: 10.2 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50pm.