

Board Meeting Minutes

10/29/14

Present: Tom Bivins, Andrew Kannler, Lisa Battilana, Michael Lee, Stan Biasini, Vince Razionale, Jeremy Stephenson, Clay Whitney, Meri Spicer

Not present: Angela Miller, Rachel Fritz-Schaal, Jay Kerner

1. Approval of minutes from 10/01/2014 – Meri moved to accept the minutes as-is, Stan seconded the motion. Unanimous to accept.
2. President’s Report – how to handle non-toxigenic E. coli issue? Vince suggests that we may want to hire an expert like Scott Donnelly to write a comment on the FDA rule, to be submitted by the VCC so we have a voice on this issue on behalf of our members. Education and Regulatory committee will discuss at their meeting – to be scheduled by Tom. Several members expressed concern that the VCC was a marketing organization and may not have the knowledge base to weigh in on specifics of food safety regulation. What is the timeline to comment? Need to make sure our work is aligned with what they are working on.
3. Treasurer’s report – “the bottom line is the bottom line – and it looks pretty good.” Waiting on the last payment from the VDPC grant, \$10,000, should be in December. Some adjustments to be made to the budget and where things are allocated. Finance committee should be meeting within the next month, waiting on one member who hasn’t responded, just changed jobs. Need to schedule this meeting this month, the purpose of this committee is to allow for proper auditing of VCC books and finances as recommended by our accountant and other consulted finance professionals. Also waiting on one outstanding festival sponsorship. Question about ACS business membership – we have 5 memberships that we need to figure out how to distribute among members, perhaps to encourage more ACS entries.
4. ED Report
 - a. Terra Madre – 200,000 people! cheese got stuck in Germany at UPS, Italian customs wouldn’t accept the package. Was worth it without the cheese – Vermont was the only state represented there. Most valuable part of the show was talking with the Italians, they were consistently amazed at how many cheesemakers we have in such a small state.
 - b. grant updates – Tom finishing up the last bit of the grant for the cheese truck. it’s a match grant, and we’re asking for a \$75,000 grant, and we may have to provide \$37,500 (could be bank loans, in kind, etc). Could be just for tasting, not for selling for the most part. Deadline is today, this is just a first attempt to see if it goes over.
5. ACS sponsorship – Tom and Clay have been discussing how the VCC and Cabot can work together on an event in Providence, potentially honoring Cathy Strange’s 25 year anniversary with Whole Foods. Potentially we might sponsor the first-ever official reception after the awards. Jeremy had talked

with Stephanie from Culture about doing an event together, and she seemed to think that they might be able to do an event with us after all – that they weren't just doing an event with VBC. Jeremy will follow up. Board thinks that the best use of our time/resources/money is to focus on events to be held during the actual conference schedule.

6. Annual meeting – we have a tentative go-ahead to coordinate an annual meeting with VFN. Still researching spaces, but should have everything finalized in December.
7. Member survey and membership renewal letters reviewed, with some typographical and content edits.