

MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL GREAT PEPPERS MEETING
OF THE
CHILI APPRECIATION SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL, INC.

September 9, 2000

Minutes of the Chili Appreciation Society International, Inc.'s Great Peppers Meeting held in Denver, Colorado on September 9, 2000.

The meeting was called to order by Mel Fitzhenry, President. Preston Shaw, Secretary, recorded the minutes.

The following Directors were present:

Mel Fitzhenry, Director
Preston Shaw, Director
Jim Stateczny, Director
Johnye Harriman, Executive Director
Guy Smith, Director
Myrl Coultas, Director
Cindy Reed, Director
Jim Ezell, Director
Jimmy Taylor, Director
Vickie Childers, Director
Mike Strack, Director

Reports

Johnye Harriman, Executive Director, gave the Credentials Committee report: 62 current pods present and 4 pods absent. (See attachment Schedule A)

John Montgomery of the Colorado Chili Pod gave a welcome to the 2000 Great Peppers meeting.

Mel Fitzhenry, President, addressed the group and welcomed all delegates and guests to the meeting.

☛ Motion was made by Robert Bell to approve the minutes of the prior meeting. Seconded by Sue Ann Grieve.

Motion passed: (Unanimous)

Happy Hinman introduced and requested CASI affiliation of the ACES Pod, San Antonio, Texas.

☛ Motion was made by Al Austin to accept ACES Pod. Seconded by Pat Irvine.

Motion passed: (Aye 71, Nay 0, Abstain 2)

Russ Harriman introduced the Spice Up California Pod, Rohnert Park, California and requested CASI affiliation.

☛ Motion was made by Louis Gonzales to accept Spice Up California Pod. Seconded by Hut Brown.

Motion passed: (Unanimous)

Rancho CASI de los Chisos Report

Jimmy Taylor

Jimmy Taylor reported on the ranch improvements and submitted a drawing of the CASI property. Photos of the new concession pavilion located between the judging area and the presentation stage were presented. Also the new areas around the judging area were shown. A new parking area was created. A new camping area was established on the hillside above the creek. A possible second entrance could be constructed allowing for a separate spectator entrance.

Comments regarding the dust control were addressed by Jimmy Taylor.

Pat Irvine asked about the source of funding for these new projects. This construction was approved and budgeted by the CASI Board and paid for through the General Fund.

OLD 320 Report/Alcaldesa

Doug Seelig

Doug Seelig gave a report on the Old 320 monument/marker. Two quotes have been received: one is a granite monument, and the other bid was based on a metal monument similar to the historical markers located along the highway.

Both quotes exceed the \$2704.00 accumulated in the prior year to purchase a monument.

Seelig discussed a possibility of either scaling down the purchase or having fundraisers to fully fund this project.

☛ Motion was made by Larry Burress for all OLD 320 members present to meet at 5:30 p.m. today to discuss the OLD 320 issues. Seconded by Gerry Harris.

Motion passed: (Aye 67, Nay 0, Abstain 3)

Robert Bell addressed the group and requested that funds originally in the water well fund be used to construct the OLD 320 monument.

- ☛ Motion was made Robert Bell to transfer enough money from the water well fund to the monument fund to fully pay for the project. Seconded by Ralph Hay.
Motion passed: (Aye 57, Nay 1, Abstain 7)

Janie Bauer requested that a limit be added to the motion for funding the monument and Jim Stateczny reported that the water well fund had been combined with the Life Membership Reserve and the General Fund should provide the necessary money to purchase the monument.

- ☛ Motion was made by Janie Bauer to fund \$1845.00 to the OLD 320 monument fund. Seconded by Dick Deitos.
Motion passed: (Unanimous)

- ☛ Motion was made by Doug Seelig to cancel the meeting of the OLD 320 members scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Seconded by Larry Burress.
Motion passed: (Unanimous)

TICC Report

Mel Fitzhenry

Mel Fitzhenry reported on the 1999 TICC event and what a success it was. All cooks should be encouraged to cook in the OLD 320 area.

We anticipate TICC 2000 to be an even larger event this year.

An award of \$250 will be presented to some cook in the OLD 320 area.

Concerns for this year are:

1. Dust control
2. Traffic control and restriction in the traffic of the camping area.
3. We must conserve space and consider others when parking
4. We have scheduled a water truck to be onsite.

Janie Bauer suggested that a larger variety of sizes be available for the contestant shirts.

Sammie Plant asked if Great Pepper and regional referees, who do not attend, could be mailed their shirts?

Al Austin asked if any left over shirts could be donated to the Terlingua school?

Tallymaster Report

Elton Homesley

Guy Smith thanked Elton Homesley for his excellent efforts.

Elton Homesley reported that qualified cards have been sent to over 350 cooks, 457 cook-offs have been sanctioned and \$751,000 has been raised for charity.

CASI's new growth areas are the states of New York, West Virginia, Minnesota, Maryland, Florida and California.

Other comments:

1. A cook-off calendar is being drafted.
2. All forms are being reviewed for changes
3. Judging ticket will be sent out with packets
4. No cost increase in the packet fee is expected.

Membership Report

Mike Strack

Mike Strack reported that we have 1417 current members of which 452 are life members. Past members are being invited back to CASI along with 763 reminder cards to current members for October 1, 2000 renewals. Annual members are mailed a welcome letter and membership card.

Membership Trends are:

1996 1142
1997 1250
1998 1342
1999 1357
2000 1417

Trends per state were also presented.

Credit card membership is available through our website via the cooperative agreement we have with Gunpowder Foods.

An International Membership fee of \$30.00 per year has been established. No Life-Time International memberships are available at this time. A Corporate Membership category has been created and will be publicize in the Terlingua Trails.

Sponsorship Report

Jim Ezell

Jim Ezell discussed his goals as Sponsorship Chairman, which are:

1. Increase sponsor involvement at TICC.
2. Recover all past investments in property improvements with corporate donations.
3. Raise \$50,000 per year within 4 years.

For TICC 2000 sponsorship commitment in product and cash will approach \$60,000 with other new sponsors coming on board early next year.

Terlingua Trails Report

Myrl Coultas

Myrl Coultas reported that CASI is producing and circulating 2600 monthly issues. Judging tickets are being added to the packets. The average packet cost is now \$4.70 each.

The days prior to the 15th of each month are very busy for the Trails publisher; therefore any advance communication would be helpful.

When submitting a packet request via e-mail, be certain to include an U.S. Postal address for the return mailing of the packet.

Chilicity Report

Cindy Reed and Vickie Childers

Cindy Reed and Vickie Childers reported that newspapers in the Big Bend area would be featuring TICC 2000 during October 2000 and November 2000.

Press releases will be complete by September 30th and will be sent out with press kits to anyone that requests them.

There will be photo and film journalist on site this year. And we will be able to view the Cook-off America production filmed at TICC 1999 during the months of January and February 2001.

CASI will again be collecting toys and school supplies for the area children.

CASI has helped with several area fundraisers recently such as serving chili for local politicians, to teaching chili cooking classes, to raising money for the OLD 320 fund.

The 2000 TICC poster was displayed and well received by all.

Treasurer's Report

Jim Stateczny

Preston Shaw presented the Internal Audit of the 1999 financial records and the 1999 Great Peppers meeting.

Jim Stateczny presented the financial statements for the prior year, discussed income, expenses, revenue growth, sponsorships and charitable donations occurring in 1999.

The emergency donation to (3) area students was discussed and was well accepted. Ranch improvements were discussed and it was verified that these improvements were made with sponsorship contributions through the General Fund.

The CASI website has received 70,000 inquiries.

A consolidated effort is being made to create a CASI data base for all members to access.

Report of the Executive Director

Johnye Harriman thanked the group for its support. The note books that were prepared for each Great Pepper were discussed and the delegates acknowledged that this would be a useful system for the CASI officials. Communication between the CASI Board and the membership is very important and it is also critical that we have knowledgeable head judges, referees and table monitors at all events. A table monitor workshop will be conducted later in the day.

Cook-off promoters are encouraged to look forward in the proper planning of events. During the past chili year 39 cook-offs were placed on probation and many of these for failing to properly advertise in the Terlingua Trails.

A special thank-you was issued to husband Russ for his support and understanding.

New Business

Jim Stateczny made a presentation concerning a new event to be considered for Friday November 3rd. Currently on the Friday prior to the chili competition at TICC a Hot Wing competition and a Bean competition has been held. The following recommendations were made:

1. We add a third event on Friday with possible options being a Pork Rib cook-off or a Salsa competition.
2. Using sponsorship dollars, \$2500 in prize money would be paid in each event.
3. A CASI National Scholarship Fund be established and the fund would be the recipient of the revenue generated at all three Friday events.
4. Hut Brown has agreed to chair the scholarship fund if it is established.
5. This would be a National Scholarship program with candidates being eligible through any CASI pod submission.

6. These scholarships would be in addition to the current scholarship given to Terlingua area students.

Some comments were:

1. Ray King recommends that a minimum scholarship of \$1000 be set.
2. Pat Irvine suggested the scholarships be available nationwide to high school graduates.
3. Russ Harriman suggested that the scholarship committee should operate outside of the CASI Board.
4. Susie Shaw suggested that each pod be allowed to hold a cook-off for the benefit of the scholarship fund.

- z Motion was made by Elton Homesley to establish a CASI National Scholarship. The fund would be the recipient of revenue generated from the Friday special events and scholarships would be awarded at \$1000 a year for 4 years. Seconded by Hut Brown.

Motion passed: (Aye 70, Nay 2, Abstain 1)

- z Motion made by Hut Brown to allow Tom Williams, Terlingua, Texas to address the Great Peppers. Seconded by Preston Nickle.

Motion passed: (Unanimous)

Tom Williams spoke of what an impact that CASI was having in the Big Bend area. CASI brings in quality visitors to the area and prosperity to local businesses. CASI is also very good to the school age children of the area. They receive food, clothing, school supplies, Christmas gifts, but most of all they receive a chance to see the world with an education and an opportunity. Tom Williams extended his sincere thanks to the CASI Board, Great Peppers and all of the CASI membership.

- z Motion was made by Jim Stateczny to amend the order of business to allow for the election of directors prior to the site selection for future Opens, Regionals and Internationals. Seconded by Hut Brown.

Motion passed: (Unanimous)

Site Selections

Site Selection for 2001 Opens, Regionals and Internationals, waiver requests and Great Pepper Meeting location.

- z Motion was made by Alan Dean to hold the Eastern Regional Open on October 21, 2000 in Baltimore, Maryland. Seconded by Dick Dietos.

Motion passed: (Unanimous)

- z Motion was made by Arnie Guadalupe to hold the Puerto Vallarta International Open on April 28, 2001. Seconded by Tanna Jones.

Motion passed: (Aye 41, Nay 23, Abstain 7)

- z Motion was made by Larry Burress to hold the Chilimpiad North American Open in San Marcos, Texas. Seconded by Sue Ann Grieve.

Motion passed: (Aye 69, Nay 0, Abstain 3)

- z Motion was made by Nick McGarity to allow qualifying of the Top 5 cooks at Texas Men's State, Grapevine, TX if more than 300 entries are present. Seconded by Bill Cook.

Motion passed: (Aye 70, Nay 0, Abstain 3)

- Motion was made by Don Walker that the Southwest Regional Open be held Memorial Day weekend in Wichita Falls, Texas. Seconded by Vickie Childers.

Motion passed: (Unanimous)

- Motion was made by Lyman Wilkerson to hold the 4 Corners Regional Open in 2001. No date or location had been chosen. Seconded by Tom Klugg

Motion passed: (Unanimous)

- Motion was made by Bo Prewitt to hold the Mid-South Regional Open in Fort Smith, Arkansas on June 16, 2001. Seconded by Susie Shaw.

Motion passed: (Unanimous)

- Motion was made by Larry Oliver to move the Florida State Championship to Santa Rosa County Florida for the years beginning 2001. Seconded by Renee Moore.

Motion passed: (Unanimous)

- Motion was made by Janie Bauer to hold the Washington D.C. Open at a date and location to be announced. Seconded by Dick Dietos.

Motion passed: (Aye 54, Nay 11, Abstain 6)

- Motion was made by Jerry Hunt to reduce Louisiana's qualifying point level to 6. Seconded by Mike Strack.

Motion passed: (Unanimous)

Houston, Texas will host the 2001 Great Peppers Meeting and the Great Peppers were treated to an outstanding presentation by the Houston Pods. HOUSTON HAS LANDED!

- Motion was made by Tom Klugg for the Arizona Pods to host the 2002 Great Peppers Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. Seconded by Pam Diffin.

Motion passed: (Unanimous)

- Motion was made by Preston Nickle to hold the 2003 Great Peppers Meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas. Seconded by Bo Prewitt.

Motion passed: (Unanimous)

Other Business

The Pops Place Cook-off held on June 10, 2000 was discussed by Sally Lee indicating she did not know the cook-off would be ruled illegal.

- Motion was made by Sally Lee to restore the points awarded at the evening cook-off held at Pops Place on June 10, 2000. Seconded by Nick McGarity.

Motion failed: (Aye 21, Nay 44, Abstain 4)

Election of Executive Director and Directors

- Motion was made by Hut Brown to elect Johnye Harriman by acclamation. Seconded by Bill Pierson.

Motion passed: (Unanimous)

The Great Pepper of the Year was announced. CASI is proud to select Alan Dean as the Great Pepper of the Year.

For the 2000/2001 CASI year the following Directors were elected:

3 year terms Jim Ezell and Mel Fitzhenry
2 year terms Mike Strack and Renee Moore

A recap of the Vote totals:

Jim Ezell	68
Mel Fitzhenry	45
Mike Strack	44
Renee Moore	40
Vickie Childers	35
Ray King	20
Ken Rodd	19
Walter Caldwell	12

There being no further business, the meeting, on motion duly made, seconded and carried, was adjourned.

President

Secretary