

**Hickory International Council**  
**Thursday, August 20, 2015, 5:30 pm**

A regular meeting of the Hickory International Council (HIC) was held on Thursday, August 20, 5:30 pm, in the Moretz Board Room at the Arts & Science Center of Catawba Valley.

**Members Present:** Hani Nassar, Karl Wolfe, Marion Love, Marc Swinnen, Toshiaki Satake, Alex Mezei and Becky Mich

**Members Absent:** Ken Humphreys, Jack Crawford, and Maria Jose Daily

**Guests Present:** Claire McCrae, Joe Getlein, Gretchen Oetting, and Cynthia Ferrell

**Staff Present:** Minutes Clerk Anne Starnes

A quorum was present.

**Call to Order:** Hani Nassar, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm and welcomed everyone present.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the previous meeting on July 16, 2015 were distributed to members in advance. There were no additions or corrections stated, and Mr. Nassar said the July meeting minutes were approved as presented.

**Introduction of Guests & Board Membership Changes:** Mr. Nassar welcomed guests Claire McCrae, Joe Getlein, Gretchen Oetting, and Cynthia Ferrell, all of whom are interested in becoming HIC members. Everyone present introduced themselves.

**Old Business:**

**HIC Financial Statement** – Mr. Nassar said the financial statement for July was not available. He said City Council increased the HIC budget for the current year, from \$11,500 to \$13,000. The current fiscal year ends on June 30, 2016.

**BSA-IYC Update** – There was no update on the BSA International Youth Council.

**Footcandle Film Society** – Members discussed the short foreign films program presented to the Footcandle members. Mr. Nassar said that nine short films were shown as their monthly program in July. Afterwards, he received a report from Allen Jackson, saying the majority of Footcandle members would like to have a program of film shorts presented to them each year. Mr. Nassar said that after the Academy Awards a program of film shorts would be planned, including the nominee films.

The HIC needs to select a quarterly foreign film for October. Marion Love said she e-mailed a suggestion earlier, and Gretchen Oetting suggested an older film from Macedonia, “Before the Rain”.

**Steve McCurry Exhibit Update** – The Steve McCurry photography exhibit at Hickory Museum of Art will open in September 2015 and close in May 2016. Dr. Love noted the HIC is a \$500 exhibit sponsor. She reported that HMA Educator Ginny Zellmer has planned two different workshops. In one workshop, participants will create sun prints, and in the other, they will make pinhole camera prints. The workshops are age-specific, a small fee will be charged, and the instructors are scheduled. Dr. Love has asked Ms. Zellmer to conduct each workshop twice during the exhibit, in the fall and spring, if possible.

Dr. Love said Steve McCurry's arrival in Hickory during September is now uncertain, but the exhibit will open as planned.

Mr. Nassar said Sandra Clay is helping Lisë Swenson with the exhibit, and recently contacted him regarding providing a Middle Eastern dessert, for up to 100 people, at the exhibit's Opening Reception. He knows of a bakery that could provide 180-200 dessert items for \$100, and suggested the HIC provide funds to cover the costs.

Hani Nassar moved, seconded by Marion Love, to provide \$100 to the Hickory Museum of Art for desserts at the Steve McCurry exhibit Opening Reception. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Love said the HMA staff has requested volunteer docents for the McCurry exhibit. Docent training will be provided to volunteers. Any interested HIC member, or others, should contact the museum.

WPCOG – Sister Cities Organization Update – The HIC was recently asked to assume coordination of the Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) Sister Cities program. The current director is Joaquim Koerner, and Altenburg, Germany is Hickory's Sister City. They were scheduled to hold a meeting recently, but Mr. Nassar has not yet received an update. He said if the HIC accepts responsibility for coordinating the program, Mr. Koerner would continue to oversee it, with a budget provided by the municipalities, but it would function under the HIC umbrella. Further discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

Great Decisions 2015 Update – A few seats are open now for Great Decisions. The program begins on Tuesday, September 8, and runs for eight consecutive weeks. The first week, it will be held in the Keiser Community Room on the SALT Block. The second week, it moves to the Ridgeview Library, and then returns to the Keiser Community Room for the remaining six weeks. Mr. Nassar said all eight discussion topics are listed on the HIC website.

Folkmoot 2015 Update – Mr. Nassar said Folkmoot was well attended, and as usual, many tickets were sold the day of the event. He said the performances were good. Again, attendees asked about having beverages available during the intermission. Mr. Swinnen and others noted there were no beverages available at the Lake Junaluska Closing Ceremony either, free or for sale.

Dr. Love said the staff at Tasteful Beans was a great help selling tickets in advance. She proposed having a small sub-committee next year, tasked with discussing advertising and ticket sales, plus how to handle the stage lighting, sound system, etc. Mr. Nassar said the stage and sound system in the auditorium would be upgraded soon. He requested that Dr. Love take responsibility for the Folkmoot Sub-Committee, and she agreed. She suggested forming the sub-committee during the October HIC meeting.

Mr. Nassar suggested that sub-committees also be formed for other programs the HIC conducts during the year, with the chairs reporting to the full HIC at monthly meetings. He said this would also be discussed at the October meeting.

### **New Business:**

Folkmoot Fall Event – Two of the groups scheduled to perform at Folkmoot in July were unable to come, due to visa difficulties. Folkmoot personnel contacted Mr. Nassar and proposed a school performance be held during the fall, so the Indonesia and Bangladesh groups could perform here. Details are minimal at this point, but as he learns more, he will share the details with school superintendents and HIC members.

September Meeting – There will not be a HIC meeting in September, since the Great Decisions program is being held weekly during September and October.

**Other Business:** Mr. Nassar said Claire McCrae is a current member of the City of Hickory’s Youth Council; their members volunteer and are assigned to serve on eight of the City boards, councils, and commissions during the regular school year. He said the HIC could decide if one or two Youth Council members should be appointed as representatives to the HIC, with each recognized as a HIC member with voting privileges, and included in the meeting quorum.

Hani Nassar moved, seconded by Karl Wolfe, to appoint up to two Hickory Youth Council members to serve on the Hickory International Council. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. McCrae left the meeting during the discussion. Mr. Nassar told members that Ms. McCrae had contacted him, proposing appointing one or two Youth Council members to serve on the HIC. She and Bella Fields are both Youth Council members, and are interested in being their representatives to the HIC. When the Youth Council met recently, they did not volunteer for the other available boards, councils, or commissions, in hopes they could serve as HIC members this year.

Hani Nassar moved, seconded by Marion Love, to request the City of Hickory appoint Youth Council members Claire McCrae and Bella Fields to serve as members of the Hickory International Council this year. The motion carried unanimously.

**Next Meeting:** There will be no HIC meeting in September. The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, October 15, 2015, 5:30 pm in the Moretz Board Room at the Arts & Science Center.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.

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Hani Nassar, Chair  
Hickory International Council

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Anne Starnes, Minutes Clerk  
City of Hickory