

Hickory International Council
Thursday, July 16, 2015, 5:30 pm

A regular meeting of the Hickory International Council (HIC) was held on Thursday, July 16, 5:30 pm, in the Moretz Board Room at the Arts & Science Center of Catawba Valley.

Members Present: Hani Nassar, Ken Humphreys, Marion Love, Marc Swinnen, Toshiaki Satake and Becky Mich

Members Absent: Karl Wolfe, Maria Jose Daily and Jack Crawford

Guests Present: Joe Getlein, Gretchen Oetting, Cynthia Ferrell and Efraim Palafox

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 April 16, May 21, and June 18, 2015 Minutes: Minutes from the three previous meetings were distributed to members in advance. There were no additions or corrections, and Mr. Nassar said the April, May and June meeting minutes were approved as written.

Introduction of Guests & Board Membership Changes: Mr. Nassar introduced Cynthia Ferrell, Efraim Palafox and Gretchen Oetting. Ms. Ferrell, attending her first HIC meeting, will consider becoming a member. Joe Getlein recently submitted his application to join. Mr. Nassar will inquire whether City Council has approved his application.

Old Business:

HIC Financial Statement – Members discussed the annual HIC budget. Mr. Nassar said the allocated fiscal year 2014-2015 HIC budget was \$11,500. He recently paid \$900 to the logo contest winners from the International Film Festival for Children. He said \$5,126.70 remained in the budget at the end of the last fiscal year, ending on June 30, 2015, and returned to the City. For FY 2015-2016, beginning on July 1, 2015, the City Council increased the HIC budget to \$15,000. It was noted the HIC generates income from various activities during the year, and typically returns funds at the end of each fiscal year.

BSA-IYC Update – The International Youth Council (IYC) is not meeting in the summer months; Dr. Humphreys said Jack Crawford would be busy with Boy Scouts camp activities for most of the summer.

HIC-Footcandle Foreign Film Shorts for July – Mr. Nassar said he and Allen Jackson discussed numerous short films for the quarterly international program in July and selected a variety, totaling 90 minutes. All of the film shorts are subtitled, and will be shown to Footcandle Film Society members on Thursday, July 23, 7:00 pm, at the Carolina Theater. He said HIC members all attend the international program free, since the HIC sponsors the Footcandle's quarterly foreign film night; members' guests will each pay \$5.

Mr. Nassar said the monthly Footcandle Film Society presents a movie for their members on the Wednesday and Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm, during the second week of each month. The HIC has membership for six free seats, available on a first-come, first served basis each month.

Mr. Nassar said the Footcandle Film Society plans to host a Film Festival in the SALT Block Auditorium on September 23, 24, & 25. HIC members will have an opportunity to purchase tickets early.

Steve McCurry Photography Exhibit – The dates for the Steve McCurry exhibit at Hickory Museum of Art will be extended; it will open in September 2015 and close in May 2016.

WPCOG – Sister Cities Organization – Mr. Nassar said the HIC was recently asked to assume coordination of the Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) Sister Cities program. Altenburg, Germany is Hickory’s Sister City. The current director is out of the country now, but he plans to attend the HIC meeting in August to explain what would be requested of the HIC. Mr. Nassar said he understands the director would continue coordinating the program, but it would be under the HIC umbrella instead of the WPCOG. The Sister Cities program receives funding of \$30,000 from area local governments.

Great Decisions 2015 Update – The Great Decisions program is full; two people dropped out, but two others took their places. All eight topics will be included this year. He said the first session is on the second Tuesday evening in September, and will be held at the Ridgeview Library; the other seven sessions will be held in the Keiser Community Room at the SALT Block. All of eight topics are listed on the HIC website.

Folkmoot USA 2015 – Mr. Nassar said Folkmoot USA would be at 7:00 pm on Sunday evening, in the SALT Block Auditorium. Ticket sales appear to be down, with 150 sold tickets confirmed. Day-of-event ticket sales at the door are always strong, and numerous complimentary tickets go to sponsors and supporters, so a good crowd is expected. Members discussed various marketing ideas to get the word out in the community, including purchasing a banner and putting out yard signs. The members present discussed event preparations and volunteered for various duties.

Mr. Nassar has fielded inquiries about having free bottled water for attendees during intermissions. Members discussed the request, and decided to continue providing free water for the Folkmoot performers, but not attendees. There are public water fountains in the building for attendees to use, and beverages cannot be brought into the auditorium. It was noted the bus drop-off location at the SALT Block is in the back of the building; buses should not come through the front driveway, or drop-off there. The performers may not know this, so Mr. Nassar will inform them in advance.

Dr. Love and Ms. Oetting will work together on Folkmoot promotions next year. Dr. Love proposed holding a planning meeting this fall to discuss member responsibilities for HIC activities in 2016.

Mr. Nassar secured 10 tickets for Folkmoot’s Candelight Closing Ceremony at Lake Junaluska on Sunday, July 26, and members attending discussed travel plans.

New Business: none

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on Thursday, August 20, 2015, 5:30 pm in the Moretz Board Room at the Arts & Science Center.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Hani Nassar, Chair
Hickory International Council

Anne Starnes, Minutes Clerk