



**Hickory International Council
Thursday, March 19, 2015; 5:30 pm**

A regular meeting of the Hickory International Council (HIC) was held on Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 5:30 pm in the Moretz Board Room at the Arts & Science Center of Catawba Valley.

Members Present: Hani Nassar, Ken Humphreys, Marion Love, Jack Crawford, Marc Swinnen, Becky Mich and Karl Wolfe

Members Absent: Toshiaki Satake and Michael Kuchinsky

Guests Present: Maria Jose Daily and Lisë Swenson

Staff Present: Minutes Clerk Anne Starnes

A quorum was present.

Call to Order: Hani Nassar, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm and welcomed everyone present.

Board Membership Changes: Alex Mezei has resigned from the Hickory International Council, due to his workload. Maria Jose Daily will complete the necessary paperwork to re-join the Council.

Approval of February 19, 2015 Minutes: Minutes of the previous meeting were distributed in advance. No changes or corrections were noted, and Mr. Nassar said the minutes were approved as written.

Old Business:

2014-2015 HIC Grants & Press Release – Mr. Nassar said the press release is prepared and will go to the media soon.

BSA-IYC Update – Jack Crawford shared a calendar of activities for International Youth Council (IYC) students. Prior to Model UN, students participated in the Stop Hunger Now project at St. Alban’s Church. One IYC member signed up to attend TED-x and discussion of it will be on the IYC agenda tonight. Mr. Crawford said the students’ roughly 1,400 service hours will be posted on the National Boy Scout website.

Open World Program Summary – Mr. Nassar said the Russian delegation had a great visit here, February 28 – March 8, 2015. They watched the film “Leviathan” while they were here and discussed their varied opinions. He said the HIC selects the international film for the Footcandle Film Society each quarter, including this one.

2015 Pangea Model UN Summary – The conference was held at LRU, March 9-10, 2015. Ken Humphreys is compiling expenses for the financial report, and he expects the event to come in under budget. Mr. Crawford said more students participated this year than in previous years, and he has leads on additional students and teachers for next year. Marion Love said the conference was very successful, and the teachers participating were very pleased. She said Belk Centrum worked well. There no issues with “live streaming” the keynote speaker. Mr. Nassar asked HIC members to pass along any comments on this year’s staffing personnel.

IFFC Update & Logo Competition – The International Film Festival for Children (IFFC) will be April 27-30, 2015. Newton-Conover Schools has decided which films they will show their students, but the other two systems have not decided yet. Initial logo selections have been made and remaining logos were set up in the Bank of Granite meeting room for HIC members to review after the meeting. Some logo entries still need to be eliminated from competition. The remaining logos will be scanned and e-mailed to members for voting and final selection.

FY 2015-2016 Work Plan Presentation and Summary – Mr. Nassar said the PowerPoint work plan presentation to City Council was well received. He proposed increasing the budget, to participate in the Steve McCurry exhibit at Hickory Museum of Art, but is not sure it will be approved. The HIC participates in numerous programs and projects throughout the year, and collaborates with various partners and sponsors, which enhances the funds provided by the City.

CVCC Celebration of Nations – Mr. Nassar said the Celebration of Nations would be held on Saturday, April 11, 2015, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, on the front lawn of CVCC. If it rains, the event will move to CVCC's multi-purpose building. There is no charge to participate or attend. Various groups will exhibit items representing their countries during the event. Tables and chairs will be provided, but the HIC would need to bring a tent. Mr. Nassar asked if HIC members have any items they would like to bring. He told Steve Hunt, the event organizer, that members would discuss it today and decide which country, if any, would be represented by the HIC.

Not all members were impressed with the event when they attended it in the past. Marc Swinnen suggested that members simply attend and provide information on the Council, rather than focus on only one country. Mr. Nassar asked if members would be available to work 2-hour shifts in the HIC's tent that day, and it appeared not. He will talk with Mr. Hunt again.

New Business: Lisse Swenson, Executive Director of Hickory Museum of Art, discussed the museum's sponsorship proposal for the HIC to participate in Steve McCurry's photography exhibit this coming fall. Ms. Swenson suggested the HIC vote today to give HMA \$1,500 in exhibit support, specifically for the design and printing of rack cards for the general public, and a brochure for teachers in the three school systems in Catawba County. She said they would eventually promote the exhibit to all Unifour school systems. Dr. Love asked her to clarify HMA's request, specifically what would be given to who, and when. Ms. Swenson said they would target 4th, 5th, 6th grade students, middle school and high school students, and college students. She suggested making an announcement to the teachers when they attend the IFFC, then distribute information on a testing or workday day in late May, and have information ready for the teachers when they return to school in August. HMA will also have information available on their website, so teachers can access it in the spring and summer for planning purposes, prior to the new school year. Dr. Love said the exhibit was designed to align with common core standards.

Mr. Nassar asked if they would accept an amount other than \$1,500 from the HIC, since \$500-1,000 was previously proposed to the City. He would also prefer the HIC sponsor a single exhibit item or activity. Dr. Love said Ms. Swenson suggested 10,000 rack cards could be purchased for \$700, but there would be two different rack cards – one for the public and one for teachers. He requested the HIC receive written information from the HMA, explaining different sponsorship levels, what sponsors receive, and how the funds will be used. She agreed to prepare written information and send it to Mr. Nassar.

Ms. Swenson requested that a member of the HIC serve on the planning committee, along with HMA and Camera Club representatives. The Camera Club is the major sponsor, and she said they have been asked to help raise up to \$20,000 for the exhibit. Jack Crawford suggested that the Camera Club approve having an additional sponsor's name and logo printed on the materials, since they are the major sponsor. Ms. Swenson said they had not yet considered that. She said they were thinking of printing a rack card for the public and one for teachers, and maybe a brochure for teachers.

Other Business: Mr. Crawford said he understands the international flag display at Patrick Beaver Library was installed when the HIC was created, and asked if they have been updated to represent countries of newer members. He said there is room there for more flags, and additional ones could be ordered for their display. Mr. Nassar will ask the library director for her opinion.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on Thursday, April 16, 2015, 5:30 pm in the Moretz Board Room at the Arts & Science Center.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm, and members moved to the Bank of Granite meeting room to review the contest logos.

Hani Nassar, Chair
Hickory International Council

Anne Starnes, Minutes Clerk