

**NOTES**  
**Hickory International Council**  
**Thursday, May 21, 2015, 5:30 pm**

A regular meeting of the Hickory International Council (HIC) was held on Thursday, May 21, 5:30 pm, in the Keiser Community Room at the Arts & Science Center of Catawba Valley.

**Members Present:** Hani Nassar, Marion Love, Marc Swinnen and Karl Wolfe

**Members Absent:** Toshiaki Satake, Maria Jose Daily, Jack Crawford, Becky Mich and Ken Humphreys

**Guests Present:** Allen Jackson

**Staff Present:** Minutes Clerk Anne Starnes

A quorum was **not** present.

**Call to Order:** Hani Nassar, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:45 pm and welcomed everyone present.

**Approval of April 16, 2015 Minutes:** Minutes of the previous meeting were distributed to members in advance, but could not be approved due to the lack of a quorum. Marion Love noted that a guest's name, Masayuki Murakami, was omitted from the April minutes.

**Introduction of Guests & Board Membership Changes:** Karl Wolfe said Catawba Science Center staff member Duane Strelow is interested in joining the HIC, possibly in July.

**Old Business:**

**HIC Financial Statement** – Mr. Nassar requests an updated financial statement from the City prior to each monthly meeting. He reviewed the donations received to underwrite the recent International Film Festival for Children (IFFC). Payments pending include Folkmoot, IFFC, and the HMA exhibit.

**BSA-International Youth Council Update** – none

**IFFC Summary/Evaluation** – The 2015 International Film Festival for Children (IFFC) was held Monday, April 27 through Thursday, April 30, 2015, at three locations in the county. Some confusion occurred when the Hickory Public Schools students did not come for all of their afternoon sessions, which Mr. Nassar explained. He said more students could have attended, and that next year he will work this out in advance.

Mr. Nassar thanked HIC members for assisting during the festival. He shared a one-page festival flyer, prepared by Allen Jackson. The flyer includes each short film title and a thumbnail photo for each, along with a link to the film, or website, for viewing.

Mr. Nassar asked members for feedback for next year, particularly, what went well this year, and what could have gone better. Dr. Love suggested the teachers could take more ownership, to be prepared to present the film intros and discuss them afterwards. Mr. Nassar said the superintendents have requested the IFFC event create the least amount of work possible for their teachers, and comparisons of the three systems should be avoided. Mr. Jackson said he prefers that the HIC members introduce the films and lead a structured discussion afterwards.

This year, the school systems chose which films they wanted to show at their individual sites. For next year, Mr. Nassar and Mr. Jackson have discussed showing the same films at all three sites, so a single DVD would be created, and prepared well in advance. Mr. Nassar said the funds are available, so someone could be hired to prepare the DVDs next year, instead of Mr. Jackson preparing it. Marc Swinnen suggested the systems be given all possible films to choose from, with the understanding the top ten would be selected for the festival. Mr. Nassar said he would prefer handling it the same way as last year, when the three superintendents were asked to discuss and decide on the final film list. Mr. Jackson said it could also be handled like the Footcandle's film festival planned for fall 2015, with the films available on-line and a group of Footcandle members viewing and rating them. He said the superintendents would not need to meet together, but could preview the films on their own and then rate them with comments; the feedback and comments would be useful in building the film DVD. Mr. Nassar said that, in his experience, each school system is different and their opinions often vary. Mr. Jackson said the process should be kept as simple as possible, and a veto choice could be added, just in case a school system feels strongly a certain film should not be included. He said the Footcandle members rating the fall festival films would finish soon, and he could then judge how well the process had worked. Overall, Mr. Jackson said everyone present agreed that there would be one common set of films next year, but the question of how to select the films remains.

Mr. Nassar said that different school systems took different levels of responsibility this year, which was fine. Dr. Love asked what materials the teachers received in advance. Mr. Nassar said they received the list of films and guidelines, the film's purpose, and the country producing it. The teachers selected questions to ask their students. For next year, Dr. Love offered to create a teacher package, providing information on the film production, country, etc., for teachers to use before the film festival, afterwards, or not at all. She would like Kathryn Grandganett to assist her, and possibly some BSA-IYC members. Mr. Nassar thanked Dr. Love for offering. It was noted the film list would need to be set even further in advance, so that she will have time to develop the teacher materials. Dates for the 2016 film festival have been proposed to the school superintendents, and Mr. Nassar is waiting for confirmation. Once the 2016 dates are set, a timeline can be developed.

Mr. Jackson said the SALT Block Auditorium projector had worked well this year, but the remote did not; the sound was better this year, but sounded muffled near the stage. He said one of the films did not have equal sound quality to the others, and it was very noticeable on the auditorium's sound system.

Mr. Nassar said there were some issues in the logo competition, with students submitting their artwork images on different sizes of paper, which made them difficult to scan. He will address this next year.

Dr. Love said the Arts Center's Building Manager requested the school liaisons be clearly advised of where to drop off/pick up students and park their buses next year. Mr. Jackson said they should use the North Entrance and bus parking lot, on the library side of the building; buses should not come into the circular drive in front of the auditorium. Mr. Nassar will check with the Arts Center early next year to make sure the bus plan is the same.

Steve McCurry Exhibit Update – The Steve McCurry photography exhibit at HMA, originally scheduled for September 2015-January 2016, will now be an eight-month exhibit, through May 8, 2016. Possibly, additional funds will be provided from the HIC. Dr. Love and Jack Crawford have had further discussions on the idea of a Scouting photography workshop during the exhibit, for a merit badge. She said if the workshop is expanded to include Venturer and Explorer Scouts, 14-years plus, it could be co-educational. They will bring additional information to the June meeting. Mr. Nassar said members would also discuss providing additional funding.

Folkmoot USA Update – The Folkmoot performance in Hickory will be on Sunday, Sunday, July 19, 7:00 – 9:00 pm in the SALT Block Auditorium. He spoke with Folkmoot USA's new Executive Director regarding tickets and prices; they will provide 300 tickets, 250 adult and 50 children. The auditorium seats

400, and complimentary tickets will be given to sponsors and guests. Ticket prices will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 & under, and the website EventBrite is again being used for online ticket sales. All children who actually attend will be reimbursed \$5 on the credit card used. The HIC members, Taste Full Beans and the Arts Council will also sell tickets. Mr. Nassar will set up the EventBrite ticket page, and he will have brochures and posters soon. Karl Wolfe will create Folkmoot advertising on Facebook, with a link to EventBrite for tickets.

Dr. Love said she and Jack Crawford discussed asking International Youth Council members to assist at the Folkmoot event this year.

Mr. Nassar said he requested 10 tickets for the HIC members/guests interested in attending Folkmoot's Closing Ceremony on Sunday, June 26 at Lake Junaluska.

Great Decisions Update –There was no update on the Great Decisions program, scheduled for Tuesday nights during September and October 2015.

**New Business:**

Informed Citizens Briefing & Spring Legislative Reception – Mr. Nassar said the City would hold a Citizens Briefing & Legislative Reception on June 4. The deadline to RSVP is May 29.

HIC/Footcandle Foreign Film – Footcandle's foreign film night in June was discussed, and Thursday, June 25 was proposed. Mr. Jackson said the list of international short films nominated for Oscars in the past two years would all be considered, along with those used for the IFFC, with 90-minutes compiled for the evening. Mr. Nassar said Folkmoot would be promoted to Footcandle members attending on June 25 and July 8-9, with tickets available for sale.

WPCOG Sister Cities Program – Mr. Nassar was contacted recently regarding the Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) Sister Cities program; concerns were expressed that the Sister Cities program will be dismantled, and Mr. Nassar was asked if the HIC might be interested in taking it over in the future. The governments provide \$20,000 for the Sisters Cities program, through WCOG. Altenburg, Germany is Hickory's Sister City. Mr. Nassar said the conversation held was very preliminary, and it will continue. Marc Swinnen said that in Europe, countries typically have signs posted to recognize their partner Sister City, but Hickory has nothing recognizing their relationship. Mr. Nassar said that prior to the June HIC meeting, he and the City of Hickory would discuss the request, and he will have more information.

Other – Mr. Jackson said the Footcandle's Fall Film Festival would be held September 25-27, and there will have an international component.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be on Thursday, June 18, 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.

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Hani Nassar, Chair  
Hickory International Council

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Anne Starnes, Minutes Clerk