

Hickory International Council
Thursday, April 20, 2017, 5:30 pm

A regular meeting of the Hickory International Council (HIC) was held on Thursday, April 20, 2017, 5:30 pm, in the Moretz Board Room of the Arts & Science Center of Catawba Valley.

Members Present: Hani Nassar, Ira Roberts, Marion Love, Gretchen Oetting, Marc Swinnen, Ken Humphreys, Ibiyemi Carrol, Aaron Kohrs, Karl Wolfe and Eric Brandon

Members Absent: Bella Fields, Claire McCrea, Toshiaki Satake, Jack Crawford, Justin Davis, Becky Mich and Joe Getlein

Guests Present: Stephanie Huitron (LRU), Ralph Griffin (LRU), Ines Mueller (Centro Latino), Anna Hall (Macaroni Kid), Dale Hamilton, Luis Millan, and Michael Praats (County Reporter, *Hickory Daily Record*)

Others 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 thanked everyone for attending.

Approval of March 16, 2017 Minutes: Minutes from the previous meeting were distributed to members in advance. Marion Love moved, seconded by Ira Roberts, to approve the March 16, 2017 minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Introduction of Guests/Board Changes: The guests attending introduced themselves.

HIC Member Oath of Office: Mr. Nassar said that Becky Mich and Jack Crawford would take the oath of office as members the next time they attend a meeting. He discussed the City Code printed on each monthly meeting agenda, explaining the City's position on meeting attendance.

Old Business:

HIC Monthly Financial Statement – Mr. Nassar said \$6,811.16 remains in the City budget, available through June 30, 2017, and \$8,459.95 remains in the SpringFest budget. Dr. Love suggested providing copies of the financial report to members in the future.

Members discussed how the remaining City budget would be spent, including activities such as MUN expenses, the recent sponsorship of the W. Pied. Symphony performance, printing new HIC brochures, the seminars conducted by Aaron Kohrs, and any other necessary expenses suggested by members during the next two months. Ken Humphreys said the supply of name badge holders was depleted during the recent MUN program, so he will order more from this year's budget.

HIC Grants – The final check presentation of the three 2016-17 HIC Community Grants was made, and a photo was taken for the press release. Stephanie Huitron and Ralph Griffin of LRU, and Ines Mueller of Centro Latino, received a \$250 check, providing seed money for the project "LRU Startup Academy." The program is being conducted through LRU's Center for Commercial and Social Entrepreneurship. Photos from the program can be viewed on (Centro Latino) Facebook.

HIC/Western Piedmont Symphony Concert Summary – Mr. Nassar said the HIC was a sponsor of the Tesla Quartet performance on concert on Saturday, April 8, with 80 tickets available for \$10 each. He said attendance was disappointing, with only 150 of the usual 180-200 total seats sold for the performance. Anna Hall explained her experience in trying to purchase discounted tickets on-line, saying the way it was set it up created a difficult, frustrating process. Ibiyemi Carrol attended, and said the choice of music was not very interesting and that many people left during the intermission. It was noted the concert publicity did not advertise the music selections on the program that evening, which would have been helpful.

Folk moot USA Update – The Folk moot performances will be held on Sunday, July 23, 2017. Mr. Nassar has not yet talked with the organization’s leadership, but he expects to soon.

Great Decisions Update – Registrations remain at 25 participants, with no new ones since the previous meeting. Great Decisions will be held on Tuesday evenings, September 5 through October 24, 2017, in the Keiser Community Room in the West Wing building on the SALT Block.

HIC Brochure – Members reviewed the final version of the brochure. They discussed the weight of paper to use and number to print, and agreed to print it without the white border edge. Mr. Nassar plans to print them in time for the Crawdads game on Friday, May 12, and printing quotes for 1,000 brochures were discussed. Ira Roberts will inquire if he can put a supply of brochures at the Target Distribution Center in Newton, where there are numerous members of the Hmong community. Mr. Nassar said the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Corporation would also be good places to distribute the brochure. Karl Wolfe noted he is still unable to read the QR Code on the brochure, and suggested the issue is either the print resolution or the code itself should be enlarged.

International Seminars & Activities – Aaron Kohrs distributed information on the next seminar he has scheduled, “Global Trade Gala: An Evening of International Exchange.” The seminar will be held on Thursday, May 18, 6:00 to 7:30 pm, at Patrick Beaver Memorial Library. He discussed the three speakers and their topics for the evening.

Mr. Kohrs also discussed a “friend raiser” fund-raising sale being held at Unique World Gifts on Thursday, May 11, 5:30 to 8:00 pm. He encouraged members to attend, and to participate by preparing an international dish to share that evening.

Children’s International Film Festival – Mr. Nassar discussed the upcoming festival next week, April 24-27, 2017, at three sites in the county, for students in grades 4-6. He said the three school systems have now selected the films their students will see during the festival. Volunteers will be needed to help at Drendel Auditorium and members signed-up to help. Dr. Love discussed exactly what they would be doing on the four mornings of the festival. Mr. Nassar will e-mail the schedule to members tonight.

Members were asked to remain after the meeting and assist in selecting four winning posters for each of the three grade levels. During the festival, cash prizes will be given to the 12 students designing the winning posters.

MUN Summary – Ken Humphreys reported that the recent Model UN program expenses came in \$714.39 under budget this year.

New Business:

Hispanic Heritage Night at the Hickory Crawdads – There will be an HIC marketing table during the Crawdads game on Friday, May 12, starting at 5:00 or 5:30 pm. Gretchen Oetting volunteered to help.

The new brochure will be available to hand out, and members previously discussed holding drawings for free Folkmoot tickets that evening.

HIC/Footcandle Film Society – Mr. Nassar said “The Salesman” won the Oscar for Best Foreign Film this year, and was suggested as the second quarter international film for the Footcandle Film Society. Alan Jackson is working to secure the film. Dr. Love noted that a sub-committee was established to work on recommending the four international films shown each year, including Marc Swinnen, Ira Roberts and Justin Davis.

Other Business: none

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 18, 2017, 5:30 pm, in the Moretz Board Room, 2nd floor of the Arts & Science Center.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Hani Nassar, Chair
Hickory International Council

Anne Starnes, Minutes Clerk
City of Hickory