

Hickory International Council
Thursday, May 18, 2017, 5:30 pm

A regular meeting of the Hickory International Council (HIC) was held on Thursday, May 18, 2017, 5:30 pm, in the Moretz Board Room of the Arts & Science Center of Catawba Valley.

Members Present: Hani Nassar, Toshiaki Satake, Marion Love, Gretchen Oetting, Marc Swinnen, Ken Humphreys, Eric Brandon and Joe Getlein

Members Absent: Bella Fields, Claire McCrea, Ira Roberts, Jack Crawford, Ibiyemi Carrol, Aaron Kohrs, Karl Wolfe, Justin Davis and Becky Mich

Guests Present: Dale Hamilton, Luis Millan and Efrain “Fez” Palafox

Others Present: Purchasing Manager Bo Weichel and 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 April 20, 2017 Minutes: Minutes from the previous meeting were distributed to members in advance. Ken Humphrey moved, seconded by Joe Getlein, to approve the April 20, 2017 minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Introduction of Guests, Board Changes & Special Announcements: The guests attending were each introduced.

Dr. Ken Humphreys announced that he would be leaving the HIC immediately, due to medical issues. He will be involved in some HIC activities in the future, as is possible, but will no longer attend the monthly meetings. Members expressed their concern, and told him he would definitely be missed as a member.

HIC Member Oath of Office: Mr. Nassar said Becky Mich and Jack Crawford have not attended a meeting in a number of months, so neither of them has taken their oath of office as official members. Mr. Nassar has not spoken with Mr. Crawford yet, and it was noted that he did not participate in MUN this year; this was very unusual, since Mr. Crawford was very involved for many consecutive years. Ms. Mich’s work obligations do not allow her to leave their family car dealership to attend meetings. She will continue to assist with the Christmas Concert in December, but will not attend future meetings. Staff Liaison Bo Weichel said the City attendance policy is clearly stated on the HIC agenda each month. He said City Council should be informed of any board membership changes, since they appoint the members. Sending a letter of notification to any member, stating that they are being dropped from the Council due to continued absences, would be appropriate. The available seats on the Council are limited, so this would open a seat for someone who is interested in participating. It was noted that by-laws were not established for the HIC when it was created, which complicates matters. A letter of notification will be prepared, as discussed.

Old Business:

HIC Monthly Financial Statement – Mr. Weichel said \$4,277 remains in the City budget, with \$8,460 remaining in the SpringFest budget. Mr. Nassar discussed other expenses that need to be paid from the budget before year-end, including the MUN badge holders ordered by Dr. Humphreys. Mr. Weichel said all outstanding expense invoices must be submitted by July 14, 2017, but all purchased materials should be in-hand prior to June 30, 2017. He said the budget for next year would likely be \$13,000 again, not the \$15,000 that was requested.

Children's International Film Festival Summary – Members discussed the Children's International Film Festival, held April 24-27 at three sites in the county for students in grades 4-6. Mr. Nassar said everything went very smoothly at the two sites where he participated, coordinated by Catawba County Schools and Newton-Conover City Schools. Gretchen Oetting and Luis Millan discussed their experience at Drendel Auditorium, where Hickory City Schools and private school students attended. She said these students do not come prepared with questions to ask, but that was not a problem. Overall, everything went well, but on two days, they had technical difficulties and were unable to view all of the films as planned. In addition, the students were 20 minutes late on one day, due to a bus issue. The poster contest awards were announced, and one teacher attending shared with Ms. Oetting that they would like their art students to be invited to attend the film festival, as they participate in the annual poster contest. She asked the teacher to send her an e-mail explaining her request. Ms. Oetting suggested the HIC pick winners from each school, rather than just a few overall winners. Mr. Nassar noted it is a "blind contest" with no school names on the posters during the judging process, but this could be discussed at a later date. Members said that some of the films submitted for consideration (but not selected) this year were rather "dark" in nature. Mr. Nassar suggested making some changes to the submission process and film length for next year, so a future discussion is planned.

Crawdads Hispanic Heritage Night Summary – Mr. Nassar said the weather did not cooperate for the Crawdads game on Friday, May 12. The HIC's participation in Hispanic Heritage Night was cancelled, but the game was held, with a few HIC members attending. Ira Roberts threw out the first pitch. Mr. Nassar said it would be rescheduled for another weekend evening when a strong attendance is expected.

HIC/Footcandle 2nd Quarter Film Summary – *The Salesman* was the 2nd quarter film, with good attendance. Marc Swinnen proposed a highly rated 2016 Japanese film for the 3rd quarter, *Our Little Sister*. He suggested going on-line to watch a film trailer.

Folkmoot USA Update – Mr. Nassar said sub-committees are now established for each activity and event the HIC undertakes, and members need to be actively involved. Marion Love reviewed the tasks for Folkmoot. Mr. Nassar is responsible for most of the up-front tasks, while Dr. Love coordinates the majority of tasks on event day. The first show is the public one, at 3:00 pm Sunday, July 23, 2017, with a second "private" show at 6:00 pm; both shows are held in Drendel Auditorium. Dr. Love reviewed the various volunteers she needs for specific jobs, and will e-mail the information to members. She said many tickets are sold to Footcandle members on the evenings of their films, June 7 & 8, and July 12 & 13.

Members suggested eliminating the \$5 ticket price that is refunded to youth if they attend the event. There was agreement that charging a \$5 youth fee with no refund should not be a problem. Dr. Love asked which countries were performing this year. Mr. Nassar said groups from the Netherlands, Israel and an African group from Charlotte would come to Hickory this year, and he will e-mail the list to members. The Folkmoot organization is working on their promotional materials and poster now. Dr. Love said it would be good to receive them prior to the first set of Footcandle nights on June 7 & 8.

Great Decisions Discussions Update – Mr. Nassar said there are now only four seats open for Great Decisions. It will be held on Tuesday evenings, September 5 through October 24, 2017 in the Keiser Community Room on the SALT Block. He will distribute the books to any HIC members signed up to participate. One guest speaker is confirmed, and he asked members to suggest others, based on the discussions planned for this year.

HIC Brochure Update – Members discussed the new brochure, and Mr. Nassar noted that he could not open the file Fez Palafox sent him. He said he could either purchase the software that Mr. Palafox used (for approximately \$25) so he can work with the file, or contact a local printer who might be able to work with it. Mr. Palafox said Alex Lee's printing bid was \$110 for 1,000 copies on 80-lb., scored and folded. Eric Brandon shared a printing bid from A-1 Printing; their quote ranged from \$202 for 1,000 copies, to \$327, based on the type of paper. Mr. Nassar suggested working with Alex Lee, since they are a strong supporter of the HIC, and they offered a good price. There were no additional changes suggested for the brochure, except

for making certain the QR Code works correctly. Mr. Palafox was asked to enlarge the code, with higher resolution, which should help. Brochures will be made available at the upcoming Footcandle nights in June and July, and at Folkmoot. The amount of brochures needed was discussed, and printing 2,000 was proposed. It was also proposed to use the brochure version with non-tilted, or non-slanted, photos, and there will not be a white border. Getting permission from the persons in the photos was discussed. It will not be printed until Mr. Nassar sends the new HIC logo, which is high resolution.

Mr. Nassar moved, seconded by Marion Love, to request that Alex Lee print 2,000 copies of the brochure per their quote, using the slanted photos version, and to change the HIC logo to a higher resolution. Members discussed the motion, and Ms. Oetting clarified that many of them prefer the non-slanted photos; the slanted version goes too far toward the border, so they prefer the non-slanted version. The motion was brought to a vote, and only one member voted in favor.

Gretchen Oetting moved, seconded by Eric Brandon, to request that Alex Lee print 2,000 copies of the brochure per their quote, using the non-slanted photos version, and to change the HIC logo to a higher resolution. The motion carried by majority, with one opposing vote.

International Seminars & Activities – Ms. Oetting proposed that Aaron Kohrs be reimbursed for his expenses incurred to conduct the seminar, “Global Trade Gala: An Evening of International Exchange,” that is being held at the library this evening. Mr. Nassar said the expenses total approximately \$175, for speaker fees, yard signs and refreshments. He noted this was one reason for requesting a larger budget for next year, in order to pay speaker fees to persons participating in seminars, especially when they come from out of town.

Gretchen Oetting moved, seconded by Marion Love, that the HIC will reimburse Aaron Kohrs for expenses incurred to conduct the seminar, “Global Trade Gala: An Evening of International Exchange,” on Thursday, May 18, 6:00 to 7:30 pm, at Patrick Beaver Memorial Library. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

Mayor’s Farewell – Mr. Nassar said that former Mayor Rudy Wright was instrumental in the formation of the Hickory International Council, and continued to be very supportive of activities through the years. In light of Mayor Wright’s recent passing, Mr. Nassar suggested the HIC do something to recognize him, and asked members to consider how this could be done. He said it would be discussed again at the next meeting.

Other Business: none

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on Thursday, June 15, 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