

NOTES
Hickory International Council
Thursday, August 17, 2017, 5:30 pm

A regular meeting of the Hickory International Council (HIC) was held on Thursday, August 17, 2017, 5:30 pm, in the BB&T Meeting Room of the Arts & Science Center of Catawba Valley.

Members Present: Hani Nassar, Karl Wolfe, Aaron Kohrs, Toshiaki Satake and Eric Brandon

Members Absent: Gretchen Oetting, Ibiyemi Carrol, Justin Davis, Claire McCrea, Marion Love, Ira Roberts and Marc Swinnen

Guests Present: Efrain “Fez” Palafox, Steven Chuang and mayoral candidate Hamilton Ward

Others Present: Minutes Clerk Anne Starnes

A quorum was **not** present.

Call to Order: Hani Nassar, Chair, convened the meeting at 5:35 pm and thanked everyone for attending. He said that without a quorum present, the members could not take action on any agenda items.

Approval of July 20, 2017 Minutes: Minutes from the previous meeting were distributed to members in advance. Without a quorum present, the minutes were not approved.

Introduction of Guests, Board Membership Changes and Special Announcements: Guests attending the meeting were introduced.

Current Membership Status – Mr. Nassar said Karl Wolfe will soon be moving to the Flat Rock area. In the future, Mr. Nassar said that Mr. Wolfe, Marion Love, Fez Palafox, Becky Mich, Jack Crawford and any others who are not currently active HIC members will be moved over to the Advisory Board. He said the persons included on Advisory Board are not current HIC members, but they assist the HIC and offer advice as needed.

Old Business:

HIC Monthly Financial Statement – Mr. Nassar discussed the \$13,000 HIC budget, saying a total \$12,513 remains in the City budget and \$6,719.21 remains in the Int’l Film Festival budget (formerly called the SpringFest budget). He said a budget of \$15,000 was requested for FY 2017-18, but only \$13,000 was approved by City Council. He explained how the additional \$2,000 would have been used to support HIC programs this year.

Folk moot USA Summary – Folk moot was on Sunday, July 23, 2017, with two performances held in Drendel Auditorium again this year, a public show at 3:00 pm and a private show at 6:00 pm. Mr. Nassar said the 3 pm show was very well attended, with approximately 300 persons attending. The 6:00 pm show was not as well attended. The 6:00 pm show was sponsored by Pepsi, CommScope, Frye Regional Medical Center, and Carolina Pathology Associates, and the sponsors gave away all but 100 tickets at no charge. He requested that Aaron Kohrs assist with additional marketing through social media next year. Mr. Nassar said the Folk moot staff was pleased with both of the sessions held in Hickory this year. A

good article with numerous photos was published in the *Hickory Daily Record* after the event. Members discussed using these photos for next year, to better market it, well in advance.

Great Decisions Discussions – Great Decisions will be held on Tuesday evenings, September 5 through October 24, 2017, in the Keiser Community Room. Mr. Nassar is still seeking guest speakers for the sessions, and only a few seats are open.

Final HIC Brochure – Mr. Palafox shared copies of the new HIC brochure. Only a portion of the 2,000 copies were printed, and the remainder will be ready soon. Mr. Kohrs said he shared the brochure with members of the Hickory Community Relations Council recently, and they thought having a brochure for their own council would be a good idea.

International Seminars & Activities Update – Mr. Kohrs reported on the recent “Sail the Seven Seas” seminar, which was attended by about 30 people. He discussed the event and some of the comments attendees made afterwards.

Mr. Kohrs said he agrees with a suggestion made last month that a sub-committee should be formed to develop future seminar ideas. He said the hardest part is finding a “hot topic” for seminars, and then identifying good speakers. He suggested North Korea a good topic for the next seminar, since a lot of people are discussing it now. Mr. Nassar asked him to continue leading the seminar series, but to also create a sub-committee with members interested in serving.

Mayor Wright Farewell – Mr. Nassar said the HIC wants to honor Mayor Wright, and noted that ideas were discussed during the July HIC meeting. He said the discussion was tabled in July, since Marc Swinnen was not present to discuss his ideas. Mr. Nassar plans to discuss the HIC ideas with City management staff soon, and hear what they are planning themselves, so there will not be a duplication of effort.

Connecting with Diverse Populations – Ibiyemi Carrol planned to discuss ideas for a collaboration with the HIC, Hickory Young Professionals (HYP) and Community Relations Council (CRC), but he was unable to attend the meeting.

New Business:

Solar Eclipse – The solar eclipse is on Monday, August 21, from roughly 1:11 to 4:03 pm, with the total eclipse at 2:39 pm. Mr. Nassar is having an employee event at his business that afternoon. He discussed the importance of eye safety during the eclipse.

4th Quarter Foreign Film Ideas – The Footcandle Film Society’s 4th quarter foreign film will be screened in October or November. Earlier, Mr. Swinnen suggested a film for the 4th quarter, and Mr. Nassar requested other members also share their ideas.

HIC Grants – Prior to the meeting, Mr. Nassar and Gretchen Oetting discussed the upcoming HIC grants. He said grant applications would likely be submitted right after the HIC meeting in October, so HIC members will have two months to consider and act on the grant submissions, October 20 to December 22, 2017. He shared the HIC website information from last year, and said members interested in assisting this year should contact Ms. Oetting directly. Last year, the sub-committee chose to fund three grants, with the third one funded from the SpringFest budget.

International Christmas Concert – The concert will be held on Saturday, December 16, 6:00 to 8:00 pm in Drendel Auditorium. Having a guest group participate in the concert is a possibility, along with the Romanian Baptist Church choir. Mr. Nassar will check to see if the music director has already lined up another group to participate, and Mr. Palafox offered to speak with a couple Latino groups that he knows of here. Mr. Nassar suggested the second group might perform after intermission, but the music director will decide. It was suggested the concert information be shared with local churches for their bulletins again this year.

Other Business: Cynthia Ferrell recently moved back to Hickory, and members hope she can re-join the HIC soon.

Next Meeting: There will not be a meeting in September. The next meeting will be on Thursday, October 19, 2017, 5:30 pm, in the Moretz Board Room, 2nd floor of the Arts & Science Center.

Adjournment: Mr. Nassar thanked everyone for attending. 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