

Hickory International Council
Thursday, May 19, 2011
5:30 p.m.
Patrick Beaver Memorial Library

A meeting of the Hickory International Council (HIC) was held on Thursday, May 19, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. at Patrick Beaver Memorial Library in the second floor conference room.

HIC members present: Hani Nassar, Marion Love, Bawol Cabiri, Betty Petersen, and Marc Swinnen

HIC members absent: Jack Crawford, David Moore, Toshiaki Stake, Rosemarie Klingspor, Marie Connelly, Kathryn Grandgenett, Becky Mich, Vanina Joulin-Batejat, and Laura Coker

Others present: Liz Conine, Ramona Hodge, and Minutes Clerk Patty Williams

A quorum was **NOT** present; therefore, no official action could be taken.

- I. Approval of the minutes of April 21, 2011. No action was taken.
- II. Introduction of guests and Board Membership Changes
- III. Old Business
 - A. HIC Grant – International Video Collection – During the last meeting it was discussed to give the \$1,000 HIC grant to the Library to purchase an international video collection through The Global Film Initiative. The purpose of this is to provide access of international films to schools and the library. For \$1,000, 10 films can be purchased. All of the films come with a study guide. It was the consensus of the members present that this is a suitable award for this year. Mr. Nassar stated that he will write a letter to the school superintendents letting them know that the films will be available. The HIC must spend the money by June 30.

Discussion of the available films ensued. Ms. Conine —films shown in schools must be approved. Mr. Nassar will encourage members to come to the next meeting so that an official vote can be taken before June 30.
 - B. Spring Fest 2011 – review—On Monday, Marion Love, Hani Nassar, Marc Swinnen, Karl Wolf, and Jack Crawford met with the HMA group to review Spring Fest. Evaluations by vendors were discussed and good responses were received. Dr. Love gave out copies of the completed forms. HMA had fewer vendors than last year but the HIC had about the same number. Some HMA vendors believed that there were fewer attendees this year; however, there were close to 4,000. Some vendors stated that they were not selling as well as previous years; however, others sold more than last year or they made more money. The HMA made more money in 2011 (20% commissions) than previous years. No exhibitors or vendors had problems with the festival hours. Mr. Nassar said that

monetarily, HIC has about \$1,000 left over. The money will be used to support the Folkmoot event since it was advertised as part of the “festival” activities.

Mr. Nassar reported that the HIC budget has been approved on first reading in the amount of \$8,650 (\$10,000 was requested).

Dr. Love asked everyone for their opinions of Spring Fest 2011. Ms. Conine felt it was great and appeared to be well organized. The only negative was the people with booths in front of the Arts & Science Center and in the food court who felt isolated. Mr. Cabiri heard complaints about the food being expensive. The food vendors had to pay 20% of their proceeds. Some people didn’t like the pay stations, Ms. Conine said. that this is the way HMA has always managed the money for “Art on the Avenue”. Ms. Hodge felt it was a good to have someone wandering around the festival as a troubleshooter. She added that she was all over the place and stayed busy most of the time on Friday evening.

Mr. Swinnen said it worked very well to have ROTC members volunteering. He suggested that the stage be moved next year and build the rest of the festival around it. The hay bales / seating donated by Chip Huffman (Ace Hardware) worked well. Mr. Swinnen said the passports went over well; however, some people had trouble finding the countries. More signage is needed.

Mr. Cabiri commented that the word “mud” cloth was offensive to some. He suggested that “dye” be used in place of “mud” next year if that booth is present again.

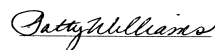
- C. Folkmoot - July 24 @ SALT Block Auditorium—No Folkmoot tickets were sold during Spring Fest, but 100 brochures were given out. Folkmoot is working on a poster. An information sheet about Folkmoot was distributed. In reviewing the balance sheet further, Mr. Nassar pointed out that Mary Sizemore has reported that there is actually \$2,710 left over from Spring Fest (including last year’s unspent donations). However, there is some discrepancy that is being resolved. Donations must be spent first. Dr. Love will discuss options related to Folkmoot with Kathryn Grandgenett. The group will need to get together next week to discuss this matter. It was agreed to meet on Sunday morning May 22 at 9:00 a.m. at Panera Bread.
- D. Work Plan Revision—Mr. Nassar reviewed the objectives of the HIC Work Plan beginning with Spring Fest. He said that little support has been received from the membership over the years to put on a festival that takes four months to prepare for. The Council could dissolve or it can engage in fewer activities which are high in quality. HIC cannot continue to have Spring Fest as it is now. The Hickory Museum of Art is willing to take over Spring Fest. HIC can support HMA. If the HIC decides to go in that direction with Spring Fest, then the Council can continue with Footcandle, Model UN (LRU will probably take it over in 2013),

Community Connections and Great Decisions. The budget for Spring Fest is \$3,000. Mr. Nassar has spoken with the Mayor and City Manager and they agree that we should revisit the work plan due to the fact that we no longer have a staff liaison.

Dr. Love explained that when she was involved with setting up the HIC years ago, establishing rotating terms for members was discussed. That was a key to her agreeing to serve the first time; however, terms did not become part of HIC when it was created. When Dr. Love became involved again, she promised herself that she would step back at the end of three years. Her three-year time period will end this September. She wants to go through Folkmoot and expects to attend HIC events, but she will not serve in a leadership position after September. Mr. Nassar is also looking at his future commitments. He stressed that the HIC cannot maintain its current activity level without extreme support from board members and that is not happening at present.

After further discussion, it was the consensus of the members present that if HMA wants to take over Spring Fest, then they should do so. HMA has staff to help with it whereas the HIC does not. Everything else on the work plan is doable with a small group.

- E. Mr. Nassar showed the “One World, One Community” proclamation from Mayor Wright. HMA has agreed to place the proclamation in a public viewing area.
- F. New Business (6:45 – 7:00)
 - a. International Film Series—Footcandle has ordered a 35 mm Russian film called *The Concert* to be shown on June 30. It is upbeat and funny. It will be available through Netflix June 14.
 - b. Bulletin Board Responsibilities & Assignments—the bulletin board is done every month for two weeks. Currently it displays Spring Fest photos. Someone is needed to do the bulletin board in June on either World Refugee Day or Folkmoot. Mr. Cabiri and Mr. Swinnen volunteered to do the June bulletin board featuring Folkmoot.
- G. Next Meeting: June 16, 2011
- H. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.



Patty Williams, MMC
Minutes Clerk