



**Hickory International Council**  
**Thursday, January 19, 2012**  
**5:30 p.m.**  
**Patrick Beaver Memorial Library**

A meeting of the Hickory International Council (HIC) was held on Thursday, January 19, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. at Patrick Beaver Memorial Library in the second floor conference room.

HIC members present: Hani Nassar, Betty Petersen, Becky Mich, Toshiaki Satake, Bawol Cabiri, and David Moore

HIC members absent: Jack Crawford, Marc Swinnen, Kyle Butler-May, Rosemarie Klingspor, Marie Connelly, and Vanina Joulin-Batejat

Others present: Ramona Hodge, Karl Wolfe, Michael Kuchinsky, and Minutes Clerk Patty Williams.

A quorum was present.

- I. Approval of the minutes of October 20, 2011.  
Mr. Moore moved, seconded by Mr. Cabiri that the minutes of October 20, 2011 be approved. The motion carried unanimously.
- II. Approval of the minutes of November 17, 2011.  
Mr. Moore moved, seconded by Mrs. Mich that the minutes of November 17, 2011 be approved. The motion carried unanimously.
- III. Introduction of guests and Board Membership Changes
- IV. Old Business
  - A. HIC Christmas dinner @ Betty Petersen's home December 15 – summary—it was a great event. Mayor Rudy Wright and his wife, Donna, were present as were Alderman Hank Guess and wife, Tammy.
  - B. Romanian Baptist Church Christmas Concert @ SB Auditorium Dec 17 – summary—the event was well attended and the refreshments were wonderful. Many thanks to Becky Mitch.
  - C. PANGEA Model UN @ LR March 7 & 8, 2012 – discussion. HIC member Kyle May is representing both the HIC and LRU.
  - D. Unity Fair – update – Mayor Wright wanted to expand on Spring Fest. A committee led by David Zagaroli is planning the event. This will relieve the majority of HIC members from taking the lead. Alan Jackson is handling publicity. Food vendors are being organized by Lake Hickory Country Club Chef. Lisë Swensson is handling artists and Hani Nassar is handling the financial contributions. Karl Wolfe is helping with the website. There is an event guide. David Walker is overseeing the overall plan.
  - E. Footcandle Society HIC film – discussion—HIC's membership to Footcandle Society has been renewed with six free entries to every movie, at least once a month. Three or four international movies will be shown each year. A movie from Iran, "A Separation" will be shown in March. Mr. Moore, who lived in Iran, said it is a very artistic society. Mr. Nassar showed a trailer from the movie and will email further information to members.

- F. HIC Grant application 2012 – discussion—Mr. Nassar distributed grant criteria which was prepared by Mr. Kuchinsky a year ago. Mrs. Hodge has also worked on grant wording which she described. Discussion followed. Mr. Nassar stated that there will be further review and input. The grant must be awarded before July 1. Mr. Kuchinsky said he believes the grant application criteria should encourage innovation and new programs.
  - G. New attendance guidelines – discussion – Mr. Nassar presented proposed attendance guidelines which describes two categories of member job descriptions—“Member Job Description (Voting Member)” and “Partner Job Description (Non-Voting Member)”. Mr. Moore suggested not using the word “Partner”. Using the word “Associate” was proposed. Residency requirements were discussed and it was determined that it is not a problem for members to live outside of Catawba County but Council activities must take place within the City of Hickory. The attendance and member classification guidelines will be discussed further and approved during the next meeting. Further suggestions should be sent to Mr. Nassar.
  - H. New HIC Mission Statement – discussion – With 2012 being the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the HIC, Mr. Nassar feels that the timing is good to update the mission statement. The current mission statement reads “*The mission of the Hickory International Council is to act as a forum for the local and global international community and to act as a liaison between that community and the city government in order to promote goodwill and improve the quality of life for all.*” Mr. Kuchinsky said that the current mission statement is vague. A suggestion was made to replace “*the quality of life for all*” with “*mutual understanding and cooperation*”. Discussion continued after which Mr. Nassar asked members to think about ideas to revamp the HIC mission statement. This will be considered further at the February meeting.
  - I. Point-of-View (POV) documentary films – discussion was deferred until a future meeting.
- V. New Business
- A. HIC Website – the website is not up to date right now. Karl Wolfe will work on it.
  - B. Folkmoot 2012 – Mr. Nassar stated that the Folkmoot group will perform in Hickory again this year on Sunday, July 22 from 7pm to 9pm at the SB Auditorium.
  - C. Great Decisions 2012 – Mr. Moore stated that a new booklet will come out in the next few months. Mr. Nassar said Great Decisions would have to be held in the latter part of the year. It should be stressed that it is not a class, but a discussion group. Mr. Nassar checked the Great Decisions website and found that the book is available now. He will order one for further discussion at the next meeting.
- VI. Next Meeting: February 16, 2012
- VII. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.



Patty Williams, MMC  
Minutes Clerk