

**Hickory International Council**  
**Thursday, January 20, 2011**  
**5:30 p.m.**  
**Patrick Beaver Memorial Library**

A meeting of the Hickory International Council (HIC) was held on Thursday, January 20, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. at Patrick Beaver Memorial Library in the second floor conference room.

***Prior to the monthly meeting, a Social Hour presenting “Unique World Gifts”, a fair-trade organization, was held between 4:45 PM and 5:30 PM.***

HIC members present: Hani Nassar, Marion Love, Kathryn Grandgenett, David Moore, Toshiaki Satake, and Rosemarie Klingspor

HIC members absent: Marc Swinnen, Marie Connelly, Jack Crawford, Bawol Cabiri, Becky Mich, and Vanina Joulin-Batejat

Others present: Betty Peterson, Michael Kuchinsky, Hickory Public Library Director Mary Sizemore, and Minutes Clerk Patty Williams

A quorum was present.

- I. Introduction of guests and Board Membership Changes
- II. Mr. Moore moved, seconded by Dr. Love to approve the minutes of December 16, 2010. The motion carried unanimously.
- III. Old Business
  - A. Great Decisions—Mr. Nassar explained that a decision was made between meetings to move Great Decisions to late August or early Fall after school has started. The reasons for the change were to make sure there was enough time to publicize the program and to secure individuals with special interest in the topics to be presented. Mr. Nassar has spoken to professor Ken Menkhaus at Davidson College who is interested in participating but would not be able to commit until the spring. Mr. Moore stated that he needs Great Decisions to be held at his convenience since he is leading this effort and that he is getting tired of rescheduling it. He added that he now wants to do the program in June and July on Saturdays from 4:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. Mr. Moore distributed his proposed schedule which shows the meetings beginning on Saturday, June 4 and ending on Saturday, July 30. Mr. Nassar stated that he is not willing to commit to this schedule before checking the suitability of experts and participants who may or may not be able to attend on these dates. Mr. Moore responded that he has led this program before and wants to do it the way he knows it will be successful. He doesn't believe that a specialist is necessary for every session. He added that this is the last chance he is offering to get Great Decisions started.

Mr. Nassar asked Mr. Moore to make a motion. Mr. Moore moved that the schedule for Great Decisions be approved as he has presented it. Dr. Love seconded the motion. In the discussion phase, Dr. Love stated that she knows that there are a variety of ways to do Great Decisions. One of the advantages of another program that she is familiar with, Great Books, is having two facilitators at each session. One facilitator controlled the other and they made sure the participants were reading carefully. Dr. Love said she sees a real advantage in having two facilitators. She expressed that there is value in having someone present who is articulate in the particular area of the world being discussed.

Mrs. Grandgenett expressed concern with the fact that Mr. Moore will not leave his number as the contact for information on the Great Decision program. This causes a problem because the library staff would have to become well versed in this program which is an HIC program, not a library program. She added that she feels that if Mr. Moore is the expert, then he must take the calls.

Mrs. Sizemore pointed out that the Library closes at 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Dr. Love said that offering Great Decisions in the summer on Saturdays is a problem because on Saturdays people are off and from 4:00 to 5:00 is a prime time for family activities. Mr. Kuchinsky wondered if Lenoir-Rhyne University or Catawba Valley Community College might offer summer classes, such as an American national government class, that this would fit in. Ms. Peterson said that Richard Eller at CVCC might be interested, but that the college doesn't get much funding in the summer. Mr. Nassar asked if anyone else is willing to take on Great Decisions if it doesn't work with Mr. Moore's schedule. Mr. Kuchinsky said he is not here during the summer and he will be working on a project for October too. Ms. Peterson stated that this is her weak area academically. Dr. Love suggested sharing the program amongst four or five individuals. Mr. Nassar would rather have Great Decisions happen than not happen at all. He wants to participate but not Saturdays at 4:00 p.m.

A vote was taken on the motion made to hold Great Decisions according to the schedule presented by Mr. Moore, but with the hours being 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. since the Library closes at 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

The following voted

AYE: Mr. Moore, Mr. Satake

NAY: Mr. Nassar, Dr. Love, Mrs. Grandgenett

ABSTAIN: Mrs. Klingspor, stating she does not have enough knowledge on the subject to vote

Mr. Nassar declared the motion defeated.

- B. Folkmoot meeting at HMA – Dr. Love reported that she has corresponded with the Folkmoot executive board in Waynesville about bringing international dancers to Hickory in July as part of the two week Folkmoot festival. On Dec 21, 2010, two Folkmoot members met with HMA and

HIC members for lunch in Hickory and toured the SALT Block auditorium. They were very impressed with the facility and with HIC. Folkmoot is interested in expanding the festival beyond the mountains to Hickory. We expect to hear back from them in February. There will be three international dance groups, each with 30 to 40 dancers. The two possible dates in Hickory are July 23 or July 25. Folkmoot is asking the HIC to help them advertise and to provide ushers. We can get the word out at Spring Fest. Folkmoot will sell the tickets and make reservations.

- C. Spring Fest 2011 – May 6 & 7—Dr. Love explained that on Friday or Monday everyone will receive an invitation, contact sheet, and other information from HMA. Over 130 people are being contacted. Everyone was encouraged to read the information carefully. The title of the event will be “International Spring Fest + Art on the Avenue 2011”. We will have a contest at the festival for a new name for the joint group. The event will have three primary areas—Artists’ Village (artists with wares for sale who will share info about their art form); World Heritage Arena (in the library garden, Unique World Gifts will have a major display and there will be drumming circles); World Café (Greek French German Sushi, etc...) Everyone was asked to please go through their contact lists when they receive the forms and recommend people that might fit in. Each HIC member needs to think about doing an exhibit at the Fest. Contact Dr. Love with information and see yourself as a major participant in this festival.
- D. PANGEA Model UN – March 9 & 10—the event is moving forward. A speaker has been selected—Mike Hegedus, a Hungarian, living in Charlotte. Facilities have been secured. Jack Crawford is working with the neighboring school systems. There are already 150-200 of the 300 students committed to attending Model UN.
- E. 2011 Community Conversations – Footcandle, other—Mrs. Grandgenett has met with Allen Jackson of Footcandle. They have shows on the second Thursday of each month and he wants to do something with the HIC. March 1 or May 7 has been suggested. HIC will collaborate with Footcandle on March 1. Allen Jackson doesn’t think DVDs are best to use which is all that can be used at the Arts Center Auditorium. He prefers using the Carolina Theatre in order to use higher quality 35mm films. Mrs. Grandgenett asked for suggestions for movies.
- F. Library Displays: January through June 2011- HIC features Cultures Around the World—The display case and bulletin board on the second floor of the library are available to the HIC to advertise council activities. There’s a display now with videos and books on other countries. Volunteers are needed to be in charge of the display for some months. Dr. Love volunteered to feature the movies in March. Jack Crawford will probably do Model UN in February. Someone should do Spring Fest—HMA is making the posters. The group went to look at the display area. Model UN in March. Ms. Peterson will do movies in February to advertise the March 1 movie. *Departures* (best foreign film), which is

Japanese, was suggested. Mr. Satake may be able to help with the display if *Departures* is selected as the film.

G. HIC grant ideas—Mr. Nassar stated that the HIC has \$1,000 to give away to a program that is educational and international in nature. Previous grants have been awarded to the Hickory High School foreign language department and to *Torn from Home*. The grant needs to be presented by June 30. It will be necessary to develop criteria for applicants. Mr. Kuchinsky suggested a grant to the Library to purchase foreign films. Mrs. Sizemore suggested paying for a year of multicultural programs for children. The summer reading program theme is international this year and programmers could be brought in. Mr. Kuchinsky offered to help with criteria.

IV. New Business

V. Next Meeting: February 17, 2011.

VI. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.



Patty Williams, MMC  
Minutes Clerk