

Hickory International Council
Thursday, November 15, 2012; 5:30 pm
Patrick Beaver Memorial Library

A regular meeting of the Hickory International Council (HIC) was held on Thursday, November 15, 2012 at 5:30 pm in the second floor conference room at Patrick Beaver Memorial Library.

HIC (voting) Members Present: Hani Nassar, Bawol Cabiri, Ramona Hodge, Ken Humphreys, Becky Mich, Betty Peterson, Toshiaki Satake, and Marc Swinnen

HIC (voting) Members Absent: Jack Crawford, Kyle May, and Michael Kuchinsky

HIC (non-voting) Members Present: Karl Wolfe

HIC (non-voting) Members Absent: Marie Connelly, Kathryn Grandgenett, Vanina Joulin-Batejat, Rosemarie Klingspor, and Marion Love

Others Present: Sophia Nassar, David Diestro, City Council member Jill Patton, and Minutes Clerk Anne Starnes

Call to Order: Hani Nassar, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes: Members received minutes of the previous meeting electronically in advance. Ken Humphreys moved, seconded by Bawol Cabiri, to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2012 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

In the place of their regular meeting on October 18, members held a 10-year Celebration on Thursday, October 25, to coincide with United Nations Day.

Introduction of Guests and Board Membership Changes: Mr. Nassar introduced City Council member Jill Patton; David Diestro, a participant in the City's Neighborhood College program; and his daughter, Sophia Nassar, a high school senior, the first HIC junior member.

Old Business:

HIC Grant Application 2012: Mr. Nassar received two grant applications and both were e-mailed to members prior to the meeting. The grants' project titles are: 1) Southwest Elementary Multicultural Celebration; and, 2) CVCC Multicultural Series. Grants will not exceed \$500 and the deadline to apply was October 1, 2012. Members discussed the two applications. It was noted CVCC could strengthen their evaluation process, stated on the application as being a count of event attendees. Asking attendees to complete evaluation questions was suggested. The Southwest Elementary proposal was accepted. Mr. Nassar will speak with CVCC about their proposal. Mr. Nassar said that next year the awards should be publicized earlier and hopefully more than two applications will be received.

New HIC brochures – work session: Mr. Nassar and Karl Wolfe met to update and revise the HIC brochure. The previous one was a two-sided panel card; the new version is a three-panel, two-fold style. Various comments were shared, including: for purposes of display in a rack, the HIC logo and/or a photo, such as the flag display, should move to the top of the front panel; add “international films” to the portion on Footcandle Film Society and use a poster of an international film instead of a photo; add “international dance” to the Folkmoot USA portion; and, add “global issues discussion” to the Great Decisions portion. Another suggestion was to add the names of HIC members, along with the country each represents. Mr. Nassar said International Spring Fest was not included, as it will not be one of HIC’s projects next year. A new idea is to have an International Children’s Film Festival. The intent is a brochure that is not time-dated, so it can be used for more than one year. Members were asked to send additional suggestions.

December Christmas dinner options: There is typically no regular meeting in December and a Christmas dinner is held in its place. Betty Peterson is willing to host the party. Instead of a Thursday, it will be held on Friday, December 14, with arrival between 6:00 and 6:30 pm.

Great Decisions, Sept. 11 to Oct. 23 – summary: There were up to 17 participants in Great Decisions this year. Mr. Nassar said the survey results were good and people enjoyed the program. He plans to give a copy of the book and DVD to the library. The book for 2013 is now available. Members discussed whether to move the program to the spring of the year, but decided to continue having it during September-October.

HIC 10-year Celebration – summary: A total of 18 people attended the HIC 10-year Celebration in October. The City of Hickory issued a proclamation and October 25th is now HIC Day. Members discussed having the City’s proclamation and plaque hung in either the library’s meeting room or downstairs lobby. Mr. Nassar will inquire.

Footcandle Film Society – next international movie update: The next international movie will be, “Intouchables,” a French movie with subtitles. Marc Swinnen said it was a very popular movie in France. Six total people may attend the Footcandle movies representing HIC.

HIC junior membership – discussion on next step: The next step needs to be decided. At the September meeting, Richard Churn, Exploring Executive with BSA – Piedmont Council, discussed his willingness to add another choice, such as “International Affairs,” to his Student Interest Career Survey. HIC will then receive the names of interested students, who will be invited to become HIC junior members.

Information on the new “junior membership” for students could also be added to the revised HIC brochure.

New Business: Mr. Nassar will invite Dr. Michael Bitzer, Catawba College, to be the speaker for Model UN next year; if he is not available, Betty Peterson agreed to speak. Model UN will be held March 26-27, 2013.

The Romanian Choir's Christmas Concert will be on Saturday, December 8, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, in the Auditorium at the Arts & Science Center. The event is free, with food provided following the concert. Mr. Nassar will e-mail the poster to members so they may print copies and help publicize the event.

Next Meeting – December Christmas Dinner: Members will gather on Friday, December 14, between 6:00 and 6:30 pm, for a covered dish dinner at Betty Peterson's home in Hickory. Mr. Nassar will send information on the "Dirty Santa" gift exchange that will follow dinner.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Starnes
Minutes Clerk