



NOTES

Hickory International Council Thursday, January 17, 2013; 5:30 pm Patrick Beaver Memorial Library

A regular meeting of the Hickory International Council (HIC) was held on Thursday, January 17, 2013 at 5:30 pm in the second floor conference room at Patrick Beaver Memorial Library.

HIC (voting) Members Present: Hani Nassar, Bawol Cabiri, Michael Kuchinsky, Toshiaki Satake, and Marc Swinnen

HIC (voting) Members Absent: Jack Crawford, Kyle May, Ramona Hodge, Betty Peterson, Becky Mich, and Ken Humphreys

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: Minutes Clerk Anne Starnes

A quorum was **not** present; therefore, no official action was taken during the meeting.

Call to Order and Approval of November 13, 2012 Minutes: Hani Nassar, Chair, convened the meeting at 5:30 pm.

The minutes were not approved, due to the lack of a quorum.

Action Items Update – Mr. Nassar and Deputy City Attorney Arnita Dula are in the process of preparing by-laws for the Hickory International Council; the by-laws will set the timeframe for election of chair, vice-chair, members, etc. They need to conclude their discussion.

Introduction of Guests and Board Membership Changes: Mr. Nassar said Ken Humphreys invited a guest to attend. He was interested in the council, but was apparently unable to attend.

Old Business:

Romanian Choir Christmas Concert 2012 – Summary – The concert was held on Saturday, December 8, 2012 with very good attendance. He estimated the auditorium at the Arts & Science Center was 90% full. It was a very good concert and quality performance, with a great turnout and refreshments afterwards. HIC paid for the stage decorations.

Model UN – Speaker and Preparations – Mr. Nassar has secured Dr. Michael Bitzer of Catawba College as speaker for Model UN this year; it will be February 26-27, 2013. According to Dr. Bitzer's resume, his specialty is American Politics, but they did not set his topic yet. Mr. Nassar

will send him the program and topics that student delegates will discuss so Dr. Bitzer may suggest an appropriate topic for his talk. Mr. Nassar was uncertain if a speaking fee should be expected. HIC will provide for his expenses and give him a gift. Members suggested Mr. Nassar address it directly, stating his expenses will be paid, but there is no additional budget for speaking fees.

HIC Grant Application 2012 and Award Press Release – Two grant applications were received this year. CVCC was advised that HIC would provide the grant they requested if they provide a more substantial evaluation process and review for their intended event. CVCC’s contact person told Mr. Nassar they would comply, but they have provided no further information. Southwest Elementary School will receive \$500 for their Multi-Cultural Day. Their event was scheduled for Friday January 18, but was rescheduled due to the pending weather; it will now be held on Thursday, January 24 at 6 pm. In addition to the real check, Mr. Nassar prepared a large “presentation check” for the event.

New HIC Brochures – Revision 2 – Mr. Nassar said he made a number of changes to the brochure, but needs input from members. He asked Karl Wolfe and Marc Swinnen to meet with him to review and further revise the brochure. When completed, the revised brochure will be on the website. Website revisions will also be made. Dr. Kuchinsky volunteered to assist if needed.

HIC Junior Membership - Update – Jack Crawford was not present and Mr. Nassar said there had been no further progress on plans for a junior membership. Richard Churn (Exploring Executive with Boy Scouts) attended an HIC meeting in the fall and shared the “Student Interest Career Survey” list that high school students receive. Mr. Churn said he was willing to add another choice to their survey to identify students interested in “International Affairs” who might become junior members of HIC. Mr. Nassar said someone needs to step up and take this project on; otherwise, it is uncertain if the junior membership will take place anytime soon.

New Business:

Work Plan 2013-2014 – Mr. Nassar said the Work Plan for the coming year will be presented to City Council in March. There will be a change of HIC leadership in July, he assumes. He reviewed the current 2012-2013 Work Plan.

The Model UN program is currently in its fourth year. HIC has paid \$3,000 or half of the expenses. It is scheduled to be taken over by Lenoir-Rhyne University at some point in the future, but not in 2013-2014. Ten to 12 schools typically participate, with 120-130 students attending.

The Unity Day, or Spring Fest, will not be repeated next year. In place of Spring Fest, an International Film Festival for Children (IFFC) will be held. Alan Jackson of the Jackson Group and the Footcandle Society will partner with HIC to plan and develop the event, likely on a Saturday in May. It will be held at the SALT Block Auditorium, free of charge for both children and adults. He and Mr. Jackson are considering films for the event. A similar event is currently held in Asheville, NC each year. Karl Wolfe visited Asheville’s website, which says they included eight short films in their event. It was a 10-day event, with more than 70 films from

over 20 countries, shown at various locations and times. Admission to most of their films was \$5 for children and adults. This is a good resource for information in planning the local event, and a one-day event in Hickory is a good place to start. Instead of having totally free admission, it could be a can of food with donations going to a local organization.

Dr. Kuchinsky suggested HIC might secure space in the library and invite Southwest Elementary School students to provide drawings or pictures related to World Peace for a display during the film festival. The display could also be in the same building as the films, or Hickory Museum of Art might participate. In addition, all elementary schools could be invited to participate.

Mr. Nassar said HIC needs to work on publicizing the annual Community Grants and send news releases earlier, as much as six months in advance. Only two grant proposals were received for the 2012-2013 year.

Folkmoot USA is having their 30th Anniversary during 2013. They plan to invite the “best” acts over the past few years to perform. Mr. Nassar said they have advised him they will return to Hickory this year. The event will be on Sunday, July 21, 2013, 7:00 pm in the SALT Block Auditorium. He hopes a sponsor will participate with HIC this year.

The Footcandle Society will continue showing a quarterly international film. HIC developed a list of proposed international films in late 2012; these can be referred too for future film selections, plus, new films could be added to the list. An international film selected by HIC was shown in December 2012. HIC needs to suggest an international film for March 2013 and advise Alan Jackson. New membership in the Footcandle Society was closed a few months ago, but they plan to reopen it in February. Mr. Nassar will e-mail HIC’s international movie list to members.

Great Decisions books are now available on line. Dr. Kuchinsky said he is willing to participate again; he and Betty Peterson worked well together. Dates need to be considered so planning can begin. He said it was a six-part series in the fall of 2012, but a seven-part series in 2011. They will likely keep it a six-part series. Dr. Kuchinsky will look at the topics, discuss it with Ms. Peterson, and consider dates.

Mr. Nassar will prepare the 2013-2014 Work Plan and present it to City Council in March. It will be the same as 2012-2013, but changing Spring Fest to International Film Festival for Children.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on Thursday, February 21, 2013, 5:30 pm.

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

Hani Nassar, Chair
Hickory International Council

Anne Starnes, Minutes Clerk