



**Hickory International Council  
Thursday, April 18, 2013; 5:30 pm**

A regular meeting of the Hickory International Council (HIC) was held on Thursday, April 18, 2013 at 5:30 pm in the second floor conference room at Patrick Beaver Memorial Library.

**Members Present:** Hani Nassar, Bawol Cabiri, Jack Crawford, Ken Humphreys, Toshiaki Satake, Marc Swinnen, and Michael Kuchinsky

**Members Absent:** Ramona Hodge, Kyle May, and Becky Mich

**Others Present:** Karl Wolfe

**Staff Present:** Minutes Clerk Anne Starnes

A quorum was present.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the February 21, 2013 meeting were not approved at the March meeting, due to a lack of a quorum. Ken Humphreys moved, seconded by Marc Swinnen, to approve the February minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Notes from the March 21, 2013 meeting were distributed to members in advance. Marc Swinnen moved, seconded by Ken Humphreys, to approve the March meeting notes. The motion carried unanimously.

**Introduction of Guests and Board Membership Changes:** Mr. Nassar said the HIC resolution cannot be changed and HIC by-laws cannot be created. Previous discussions included dissolving the current resolution and creating a new one, or maintaining the council in its current form. The City keeps a record of all meetings held in the form of meeting minutes; members present and absent are noted minutes. In the future, Mr. Nassar said non-voting members would not be listed in the meeting minutes.

**Old Business:**

**TEDxHickory Summary** – Mr. Nassar said the TEDxHickory event was held on March 23 and was excellent. Ken Humphreys also attended, saying it was extremely well organized and worth attending. Next year, Mr. Nassar said the event would remain at the SALT Block Auditorium but hopes it will move to P.E. Monroe Auditorium at LRU in 2015.

**International Film Festival for Children (IFFC)** – Mr. Nassar said the IFFC will be held on Saturday, May 11, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon and 1:00 – 4:00 pm. City staff is working on a press release to send out to media immediately. Jack Crawford suggested he also put the press information in BSA’s “smoke signals” publication, which was appreciated. The auditorium holds 400 people and there is no charge to attend. Members previously discussed asking attendees to

each bring a can of food for donation to one of the local food pantries, but the press release does not mention it. It could possibly be included in future releases, or put on the event poster.

Activities for the children between the films might include Origami with Toshiaki Satake assisting, a magician, and international bingo. The 1-hour lunch hour will be busy, so activities are not needed. Mr. Nassar expects two vendors will be present for the lunch period and a guaranteed fee may be paid to them in addition to their sales. A logo competition for next year's festival will be announced at the end of both sessions. All film selections will be appropriate for youth. There are no confirmed sponsorships yet, but two are tentative. Mr. Nassar expects to cover the expenses of snacks/beverages, and all films through sponsor donations. Karl Wolfe offered to donate tape from Shurtape to give away. Volunteers are needed for both the morning and afternoon sessions of the film festival, and all day if possible. Members offered to assist.

Folkmoot USA 2013 Update – Mr. Nassar said that next week he will receive 250 adult and 50 child tickets for Folkmoot USA, plus event brochures, so publicity can begin soon. He has a confirmed \$1,500 sponsorship, the same donor as in 2012. As was decided, ticket prices are \$15 (adult), \$10 (senior), and \$5 (child). A senior is 65 and over; a child is 12 and under.

Newton-Conover City Schools International Festival – Revae Bostwick attended the March HIC meeting, discussing the International Festival on Friday, April 26, 1:00 – 3:00 pm, at Newton-Conover Middle School.

Footcandle Film Society – The next foreign film needs to be selected and members were asked for input. Last fall, the HIC developed a list of possible foreign films to use as a reference.

HIC Junior Membership Update – The HIC will seek junior members through the Boy Scouts organization when they distribute their next survey to high school students in August or September. Dr. Humphreys said he advised Richard Churn to add three career choices to the BSA survey: International Affairs, International Service, and United Nations.

HIC Grant Application – International Camp/BSA – Mr. Nassar excused Ken Humphreys and Jack Crawford from the room while members discussed BSA's grant application. Mr. Nassar said a Boy Scout from Egypt will arrive in early June and be here for six weeks; he will come for the summer session of BSA camps, with or without the HIC's \$500 grant. Prior to the meeting, members considered and voted by e-mail their support of giving a HIC grant of \$500 to assist in the international Boy Scout's expenses, with three members voting "in favor" and three "against" not including Mr. Nassar. The grant monies are for the support of international, educational activities. HIC members who voted against providing the grant believed the scout proposal was not strong on education, that a local school should receive the grant, and/or, that it did not affect enough local students educationally.

The members present discussed their support or objections at length, including their personal interpretations of how to use the HIC grant monies. Mr. Nassar reviewed why the second grant of \$500 remains available; a local educational institution would have been awarded the grant if they would have supplied additional information to the HIC. Since they did not supply the information as requested, they lost the grant.

Members agreed they would support awarding the \$500 grant to the Egyptian scout if Dr. Humphreys revises the BSA grant application, reflecting a more local initiative, aiming to involve more students, and with a stronger international tone.

Dr. Humphreys and Mr. Crawford returned to the meeting and the discussion continued. Mr. Nassar advised them of the tie-vote, noting that members voting “against” would like the grant to impact as many people as possible locally, and not to be used for one scout’s travel expenses.

Dr. Humphreys and Mr. Crawford more clearly defined how the international scout spends his time during his six-week visit to the U.S. Dr. Humphreys said the scout actually works while at camp, acting as the counselor for youth on the “citizenship in the world” merit badge program. The international scout teaches classes during camp, which include “international affairs” and “understanding other cultures.” He also goes home with a different scout each weekend to experience our local culture. While here, he will interact with all scouts attending camp, 400-500 per week, throughout the six weeks. Scouts from Catawba County and this region attend camp during one of the six weeks of camp. The student will be paid a token salary of \$100 per week to work as a teacher.

It was suggested the \$500 grant be directed toward paying the scout’s teaching salary. In addition, all local scouts impacted through his teaching should be counted, recorded, and submitted, and local scouts’ comments reflecting their interactions with the international scout should be recorded and submitted. The international student will also be asked to attend the July HIC meeting and discuss his experiences here. Dr. Humphreys will revise the BSA grant application and re-submit it.

**New Business:** Michael Kuchinsky will again lead the Great Decisions program in the fall. He proposed it be held on Tuesday nights again this year, beginning on September 10, continuing for six consecutive weeks. Mr. Nassar will order the course books and video, and send a copy to Dr. Kuchinsky so he can work on his presentation over the summer. Mr. Nassar will reserve the library’s first floor meeting room; if unavailable, he will reserve the Keiser Community Room.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 16, 2013, 5:30 pm.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

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Hani Nassar, Chair  
Hickory International Council

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Anne Starnes, Minutes Clerk