

Hickory International Council
Thursday, January 16, 2014; 5:30 pm

A regular meeting of the Hickory International Council (HIC) was held on Thursday, January 16, 2014 at 5:30 pm in the Moretz Board Room of the Arts & Science Center.

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

Members Absent: Ramona Hodge, Karl Wolfe, Michael Kuchinsky and Becky Mich

Staff Present: Minutes Clerk Anne Starnes

A quorum was present.

Call to Order: Hani Nassar, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the previous meeting on November 21, 2013 were distributed to members at the meeting. Ken Humphreys moved, seconded by Bawol Cabiri, to approve the November meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Introduction of Guests & Board Membership Changes: none

Old Business:

SW Elementary Global Initiative Update – Mr. Nassar said Southwest Elementary School’s Second Annual Multi-Cultural Day will be held on Tuesday, January 28 at 6:00 pm.

International Youth Council (IYC) -BSA Explorer Post Update – Jack Crawford updated members on IYC progress and distributed an outline of proposed activities. He said 24 students are participating. Most of them are also participating in the Model UN activities and have selected their countries such as Germany, Japan and Saudi Arabia. The IYC meeting will be held immediately following the HIC meeting tonight. At tonight’s meeting, students will elect officers, review their Model UN participation, and discuss potential service project ideas with an international tone. Members reviewed the proposed IYC outline of activities and suggested the International Film Festival for Children be added to the list, and possibly TEDxHickory. He advised students that a duty of the president would be to attend the HIC monthly meeting, or assign a representative to attend. Mr. Nassar asked Mr. Crawford to add him to the Youth Council-Explorer Post e-mail distribution list.

Romanian Baptist Church Concert Update – Mr. Nassar said the concert was well attended, with approximately 85% of the auditorium filled, likely about 350 people. Repairs to the auditorium ceiling were just completed before the concert. He said the Baptist church brought refreshments for the attendees and paid all expenses for the event, including bringing in musicians from Atlanta and Charlotte. Mr. Nassar proposed the HIC provide financial support to the effort.

Ken Humphreys moved, seconded by Jack Crawford, that the Hickory International Council provide \$500 in support to the Romanian Baptist Church toward the expenses of their concert in December 2013. The motion carried unanimously.

Model UN 2014 Update – The program will be held on March 11-12, 2014. Dr. Humphreys said that currently two schools plus the International Youth Council are signed-up to participate, or approximately 60 students, and said the Model UN chair believes a minimum of 100 students are needed for an effective event. If two more schools sign up, they should have enough students, but they need to commit by mid-February. The final planning meeting will be held on the last Monday in February. Jack Crawford noted some schools he expects to participate, and will make contact with them. Dr. Humphreys reviewed the components and format of the two-day program.

Dr. Humphreys reported that an International Scout will be coming this year, but their home country is not yet known. Mr. Nassar asked that the scout be scheduled to attend the HIC's July meeting.

TEDxHickory Update – Mr. Nassar said volunteers would be needed for the local TEDxHickory event on Saturday, May 10, 2014, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm in the SALT Block auditorium. He currently serves on the planning committee, and said applications are being received from people interested in speaking on a topic for up to 18 minutes during the event. Speaker topics are related to Technology, Entertainment, and Design. A total of 100 people may attend for a fee. Possibly some of the International Youth Council members could assist as volunteers at the event.

New Business:

IFFC 2014 Planning – Mr. Nassar said the 2nd Annual International Film Festival for Children (IFFC) will be held April 8, 9 & 10, Tuesday through Thursday, 9:30 – 11:30 am (middle schools) and 12 noon – 2:00 pm (elementary schools). Lunch will not be provided. Actual costs will be very limited this year and all three school systems' elementary and middle schools are participating. The 10 or so films shown this year will be no more than 15 minutes each, and representing different cultures. He said a representative has been assigned at each school to assist with the planning and movie selection. The school representatives will choose the films their students will see during the festival and will create a corresponding student curriculum for February and March, followed by the films in April. There are 400 seats in the auditorium, which limits student participation. Members agreed that no entertainment is necessary, but a transition type of activity might be needed. Members should let Mr. Nassar know if they can assist as volunteers.

HIC Website Platform Update – Mr. Nassar said the website would be upgraded within approximately six months. The cost is not yet known, but he asked for a quote. He expects to pay up to \$500 for the update.

Folkmoot 2014 Schedule & Ticketing – Mr. Nassar said the Folkmoot organization has proposed Sunday, July 20, 2014, 7:00 pm for this year's event. He hopes the tickets will be sold online (\$10 Adult and \$5 Child) with no fee charged to the consumer, and he hopes to have assigned seat numbers printed on tickets this year.

Other – Mr. Nassar reviewed the various HIC activities and projects during the year, and asked members if they would like to add or change any of them. Members were satisfied with the projects they currently oversee and participate in during the year.

Jack Crawford asked members to let him know of other service project ideas for the IYC.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on Thursday, February 20, 2014, 5:30 pm in the Moretz Board Room at the Arts & Science Center.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Hani Nassar, Chair
Hickory International Council

Anne Starnes, Minutes Clerk