

Hickory International Council
Thursday, August 21, 2014; 5:30 pm

A regular meeting of the Hickory International Council (HIC) was held on Thursday, August 21, 2014 at 5:30 pm in the Moretz Board Room of the Arts & Science Center of Catawba Valley.

Members Present: Hani Nassar, Marc Swinnen, Toshiaki Satake, Marion Love, Karl Wolfe, Alex Mezei and Michael Kuchinsky

Members Absent: Ken Humphreys, Jack Crawford, and Becky Mich

Guests Present: David Mofford

Staff Present: Minutes Clerk Anne Starnes

A quorum was **not** present.

Call to Order: Hani Nassar, Chair, convened the meeting at 5:30 pm and welcomed everyone present.

Introduction of Guests & Board Membership Changes: Mr. Nassar said Pedro Ramirez and Marta Arteaga of Mexico had planned to attend today, but were unable to come. Marion Love said they have lived in Hickory for years, and told them the HIC needs input from the local Hispanic community. Mr. Nassar said a Hmong representative would be welcomed, also.

Old Business:

Folkmoot USA Summary – Folkmoot was held on Sunday, July 20, 2014, 7:00 pm, in the SALT Block Auditorium. The performers this year were from Hawaii, Turkey and Romania. All members present attended and discussed the performance. Mr. Nassar said there were some issues during the event, with the sound system and music, and the organizers were advised of the issues. He said the SALT Block is also looking into ways to improve the sound system, which is original to the building's remodeling in the mid-80s and may possibly need some improvements.

Mr. Nassar said he and Dr. Love attended Folkmoot's "candlelight closing ceremony" the following weekend in Waynesville, NC. He said the Folkmoot organization recently received a donated building there, valued at \$1.3 million, so they now have a permanent physical location. He hopes the donation will strengthen the Folkmoot organization.

BSA-IYC Update – Mr. Nassar said no representatives were present to give an update on the BSA-IYC (International Youth Council), but he does communicate with the students and their parents.

Foreign Language Movie – Mr. Nassar said The Footcandle Society would screen the foreign language film "Ida" at the Carolina Theater, 7:00 pm tonight. He encouraged everyone to attend.

For the next foreign film, Marc Swinnen suggested "The Immigrant." It is a recent film, English/Polish, with actor Jeremy Renner.

A quorum was now present.

Great Decisions Update – There are 28 people signed up to participate in Great Decisions, and Mr. Nassar said there are no more openings. It will be held on Tuesday evenings, September 16 through October 21, 2014, in the Keiser Community Room in the West Wing building on the SALT Block.

2014 HIC Grant Application Update – Mr. Nassar said the 2014 grant application will be posted soon on the HIC website, and information will be sent to the school systems and local community. Karl Wolfe will also post it on the Facebook page. The application deadline will be at the end of November, and he expects to announce the 2014 grant recipients in late December or early January. Mr. Wolfe discussed how he sets up the Facebook ads he manages, and said that once the link is set up, it can be e-mailed to HIC members and others.

Dr. Love asked who is eligible to apply for a grant. Mr. Nassar said one recipient must be from Hickory and one from the county, or both can be from Hickory. Any group with a project that is in line with the HIC's mission, and with a budget at least double the amount of the grant request, may apply. Mr. Nassar said the HIC would award either two grants of \$500 or one of \$1,000. He said the budget would allow for increasing the number of grants, if members agree that more than two applications should be funded. He noted the \$500 grant awarded to the Boy Scouts two years ago is still on hold, as the International Scout has not attended BSA's summer camp for the past two years. The BSA was advised to keep the grant and apply it to their 2015 International Scout's camp participation.

New Business:

September Meeting – Mr. Nassar reminded members there will be no meeting in September, as members would be participating in Great Decisions.

Romanian Baptist Church Christmas Concert – The Christmas concert will be held December 20, 2014 in the SALT Block Auditorium, beginning at 6:30 pm, with refreshments to follow the performance. Mr. Nassar shared two versions of an event flyer, and asked for input. Alex Mezei asked if the flyer could also be posted on Facebook, to share with others. Mr. Wolfe said he would create an event link to share.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the three previous meetings were distributed in advance, but without a quorum, none was approved. With a quorum now present, they were again presented for approval.

May 15, 2014 Minutes – Michael Kuchinsky moved, seconded by Karl Wolfe, to approve the minutes from the May 15, 2014 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

June 19, 2014 Notes – Karl Wolfe moved, seconded by Marc Swinnen, to approve the notes from the June 19, 2014 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

July 17, 2014 Notes – Dr. Love noted the July meeting notes do not state that Marc Swinnen had also attended Cabiri's Memorial Service.

Dr. Kuchinsky moved, seconded by Karl Wolfe, to approve the notes from the July 17, 2014 meeting, with one correction as stated by Dr. Love. The motion carried unanimously.

Other Business: Members have discussed how to honor Bawol Cabiri at previous meetings. Since the last meeting, Dr. Love has again contacted his daughter to request further information, but she received no response. Members had discussed naming Great Decisions 2014 in Cabiri's honor, and Mr. Nassar said they had hoped to receive additional information about Cabiri's life to share with participants during the first session. Members have also discussed naming the Great Decisions program for Cabiri in the future, but no decision has been made.

Mr. Nassar noted that during the June meeting, Mr. Mezei had suggested posting information on Cabiri on HIC's Facebook page.


Dr. Kuchinsky suggested donations be made to the HIC for a memorial to Cabiri. The funds collected could then be donated to Patrick Beaver Memorial Library (PBML), directing their staff to purchase books related to the United Nations or Africa, or any subjects or topics that were of interest or importance to Cabiri. Possibly \$300 to \$500 could be collected. He suggested PBML be requested to also prepare a special bookplate for the books' front inside covers as a memorial to Cabiri. Mr. Nassar suggested the HIC could donate \$500 of the annual budget for this purpose, instead of collecting funds. He will check with the City to be sure this would be appropriate. Marc Swinnen said children's books should also be purchased. Dr. Love will touch base with a library staff member and share this idea with them.

Michael Kuchinsky moved, seconded by Marc Swinnen, that the Hickory International Council set aside \$500 from this year's budget as a donation to the Hickory library for the purchase of books, including children's books, on subjects that were of interest or importance to Cabiri, and requesting library staff to place a paper memorial plate in the front of each book. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Love suggested that the next foreign movie be an African film. Members agreed with the idea, which offers another opportunity to honor Cabiri. Mr. Swinnen will locate a few African film titles for the HIC and Footcandle Society to consider, and Mr. Nassar will discuss it with Footcandle Society organizers.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on Thursday, October 16, 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.



Anne Starnes, Minutes Clerk



Hani Nassar, Chair
Hickory International Council