



GREATER HICKORY INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

GHIC Annual Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2025

5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Hickory Furniture Mart

2220 US Hwy 70 SE, Hickory, NC 28602

I. Welcome and introduction of guests:

The meeting started at 5:15pm.

In attendance were Ed Tashjian, Hani Nassar, Eric Brandon, Eddie Marlowe, Tracey Trimble, Nancy Greiner, Youth Council members Connor Dowdle and Ella Sprinkle, and Anne-Sophie DaCosta.

II. GHIC financials (as of 1/15/25):

- a. General Bank account (BofA checking): \$11,859.20
- b. RWISA Bank account (BofA checking): \$1,372.22
- c. RWISA Business CD (First Horizon): \$20,000.00
- d. RWISA Bank account (First Horizon checking) \$110.00
- e. City account assigned to GHIC: \$11,700 (7/1/24 – 6/30/25)
- f. Expenses through 1/15/25: \$9,078.65

III. Review of GHIC programs 2024

Obsolete programs:

1. Pangea MUN
2. Folkmoot: has become a one-day event at the end of July in Waynesville. GHIC agreed to grant \$500 to the event providing we are listed as a sponsor in their program.
3. TEDxHickory: after ten successful years, it has come to an end. [TEDx Catawba](#) will be replacing it in June. We discussed becoming a sponsor to add visibility to our organization.

Current Programs:

1. [STEM TREK](#) will take place April 16-17 at the Convention Center. Google has donated \$50,000 for this event.
2. Youth International Film Festival: we need to reach out to Curriculum and Instruction and school principals in order to bring the films back to the schools. We discussed aiming for an older audience (high schoolers) who are learning a foreign language.
3. LR International Education Week: Eric proposed to reduce the amount of the grant we provide to \$500.
4. International Christmas Concert: no changes proposed as this is always a successful event for the community.
5. Great Decisions: no changes to the format. The goal is to get a younger crowd to attend.

6. [GHIC grants](#): we discussed adding two more \$500 grants for individuals, community organizations and educational events.
 7. [RWISA](#): We need to find a worthy recipient. We are scheduled to deliver the Scholarship and plaque at Hickory City Hall on May 6 at 6pm.
 8. Llamas de Hickory: Eddie will reach out to the Crawdads to see what kind of sponsorship levels they offer. We decided not to have a table set up for the 2025 season like we did in previous years, but maybe to do something during one of the games that would promote the GHIC. We also limited the sponsorship to \$500 or \$750.
- IV. GHIC Brochure: We need to delete obsolete programs and add new ones on our rack card. Connor and Ella will be heading the possible revamping of the GHIC rack card. Ed and Nancy to support.
- V. Potential New GHIC Programs:
1. [Hickory FC](#): Nancy had a very positive meeting with the organization. They think the autograph card sponsored by the GHIC is a great idea. Deluxe Printing charges \$450 to print the cards, and a banner displayed at the games costs \$350. Hani proposed to sponsor Hickory FC for \$1000.
 2. [Sister Cities](#): Tracey discussed the possibility of the GHIC working in partnership with the WPSCA as our missions overlap/are similar.
- VI. Miscellaneous
- a. Advisory Board addition (LR/CVCC/App State faculty and students, Hmong & Latino community members, etc.): Think of people and organizations we can reach out to in order to further our reach.
 - b. New sponsors: If you know of possible sponsors, please reach out to them.
 - c. Business Cards: Hani asked who wanted business cards. Nancy, Eddie, Connor, and Ella requested some. We need to check with the other Youth Council Members.
- VII. Adjourn
- There being no more topics of discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Anne-Sophie DaCosta, recorder

Greater Hickory International Council

Mission Statement

"The mission of the Greater Hickory International Council is to act as a forum for the local and global international community and to act as a liaison between that community and the local governments in order to promote goodwill, mutual understanding, cooperation, education, and respect among citizens."