



GHIC Monthly Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2025

Hickory Furniture Mart

2220 US Hwy 70 SE, Hickory, NC 28602

5:00pm – 6:00pm

I. Welcome and Introduction of guests

The meeting started at 5:00pm.

In attendance were Steven Chuang, Ed Tashjian, Hani Nassar, Eric Brandon, Eddie Marlowe, Tracey Trimble, Nancy Greiner, Anne-Sophie DaCosta, Melanie Mora, and Youth Council member Connor Dowdle.

II. GHIC financials (as of 3/19/25)

- a. General Bank account (BoFA checking): \$12,462.79
- b. RWISA Bank account (BoFA checking): \$1,372.26
- c. RWISA Business CD (First Horizon): \$20,000.00. Matures 6/24/25
- 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 3/19/25: \$10,647.20
- g. We briefly discussed shifting funds to the Community grants in order to be able to allocate \$3,000 in grants, up from \$2,000.

III. Old Business

- a. RWISA – Centro Latino nomination update presented by Tracey: JoAnn Spees will be receiving the RWISA Award for Centro Latino. Tracey mentioned having a press release to advertise the presentation of the Award on **May 6 at City Hall. PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND at 6pm.**
- b. [GHIC shirts](#): Some shirts have been received and need to be picked up. The [link has been reopened](#) if you still wish to order shirts (up to \$50 – free to you). **Deadline to order is Saturday April 19 2025.**
- c. Hickory FC promotion update from Nancy: Deluxe Printing will help with the design of the autograph card since they work with the organization. We discussed having a GHIC table at the game on May 28 as World Football Day is on May 25th.
- d. Llamas de Hickory: The contract has been signed, the GHIC is contributing \$500 for 6 games (April 11, April 23, May 20, July 6, August 9 and August 21 at 7pm) – We may set up a GHIC table at some or all of the games in addition to advertising in the program.
- e. STEM TREK (April 15-17 2025): STEM West received a \$50,000 grant from Google to organize the event. **We need volunteers** for this event to direct people around the venue, among other tasks. About 5,000 students will be attending. Hani will contact Pepsi to see if they are willing to provide drinks. Hani will send a survey to see who is available and when.
- f. GHIC brochure: Connor brought a revised mockup of the rack card and emailed it to all GHIC members to **review and offer suggestions**. Please check your email and look at the PDF sent by Connor.

- g. GHIC business cards: We will be adding a QR code on the new business cards ordered by members. We discussed best positioning for the QR code in order to be read correctly. (The following individuals requested new Business Cards: Eddie, Connor, Nancy, Anthem, Ella, Steven, and Hani. The following individuals did not request new business cards: Eric, Anne-Sophie, Ed, and Tracey.)
- h. Corning Foundation Grant: We plan to apply for \$5,000.
- i. TEDxCatawba (June 14, 2025 from 9am to 3pm at the Drendel Auditorium): We can request free tickets as well as we are sponsoring the event, but we will only ask for the number we need.
- j. Western Piedmont Sister Cities Association: A group of student musicians will go to Altenburger Land in August.

IV. New Business

- a. Model United Nations – Should we try to bring it back? Ed lead a discussion at the end of the meeting, brainstorming ideas on how to bring back this program for high schoolers. Some schools that may be a good fit for MUN are UCHS (University Christian High School located on the LR campus) and CVCC. Nancy and Melanie, who have participated in the program before, mention that planning will take at least a year to have a successful event.
- b. GHIC Grant – Nashville in the Carolinas: Hani handed out the grant application for members' review. There is already one applicant for Mexico, as the auditions are open to everyone.
- c. GHIC non-discrimination policy statement on our website is as follows: *"The Greater Hickory International Council (GHIC) is an all-voluntary organization and does not discriminate in the selection of officers or advisory board member on account of race, age, color, gender, national origin, physical or mental disability, or religion or otherwise as may be prohibited by federal and state law."* We all approved the policy.
- d. GHIC Email addresses: The format is yourfirstname@HickoryIC.com. Emails sent to your GHIC address are directly forwarded to your regular email.
- e. Nancy Greiner mentioned NC School's superintendent Mo Green's visits to local schools for his ["Mo Wants to Know"](#) listening tour. Nancy invites our members to participate in the discussion and share their comments or concerns.

V. Adjourn

There being no more topics of discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.

Anne-Sophie DaCosta, recorder

**Next meeting is on April 17, 2025 starting at 6:00pm in the 1st floor meeting room of the PBML.
The room is not available before that time.**

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."