



GHIC Monthly Meeting Minutes

July 17, 2025

PBML 2nd Floor Conference Room

5:30pm – 6:30pm

- I. Welcome and Introduction of guests
The meeting started at 5:37pm.
In attendance were Hani Nassar, Ed Tashjian, Eddie Marlowe, Steven Chuang, Anne-Sophie DaCosta, and Tracey Trimble. Our guest was Adrienne Lowman from Hickory Ballet and Performing Arts.
- II. International Dance Day – Annual partnership with [Hickory Ballet & Performing Arts](#): Adrienne introduced the HBPA to the board members and discussed their needs for recurring partnerships to finance their annual international dance event, which takes place inside their studio in Downtown Hickory. Each year, HBPA spends about \$1,200 to hire international dance teachers to come and teach free classes to celebrate Dance Day. Next year, the event will take place Saturday, April 25, 2026.
- III. GHIC financials (as of 7/17/25)
 - a. General Bank account (BofA checking): \$11,212.79
 - b. RWISA Bank account (BofA checking): \$1,372.28
 - c. RWISA Business CD (First Horizon): \$21,028.55
 - 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 6/30/25 (end of City fiscal year): \$15,364.92
- IV. Old Business
 - a. GHIC shirts: All members have ordered their shirts. Store is still open.
 - b. Hickory FC: We discussed the need to have a table at each game. We need to get more organized with one point-person for the event who would help coordinate volunteers.
 - c. Llamas de Hickory: Next games are August 9 and August 21 at 7pm. We do not have a table setup planned for those dates. For next season, we could implement the Wheel of Names like at Hickory FC and give away prizes (Crawdads jersey or baseball cap) at the time of the event to get more crowd engagement.
 - d. **GHIC brochure (Connor) – table until the August meeting**
 - e. GHIC business cards: We discussed placement of the QR code on the business card. Tracey mentioned that for the members who have the “older model” card, maybe it’s time to get a new set printed with the QR code and the updated GHIC mission statement.
 - f. Corning Foundation Grant summary: Received \$5,000 that will be distributed throughout the GHIC projects. Corning will be listed as a sponsor on all advertised events.
 - g. TEDxCatawba summary: The event was well-attended. GHIC was a sponsor at the \$1,000 level.
 - h. **Model United Nations (Eric) – table until the August meeting**
 - i. Youth International Film Showcase 2025: The [Footcandle Film Festival 2025](#) will take place September 19-28. Hani asked members who would be interested in screening and grading the films. This year, they are not specifically targeted toward a younger audience. Only members from the GHIC will be rating the international submissions. There are only 5 films for a total

duration of about 2 hours 30 minutes, so it shouldn't be a big commitment. Deadline for screening is end of August 2025. Hani would like us to be done by mid-August.

- j. Sister Cities Grant (Tracey): 28 delegates are scheduled to travel to Altenburger Land, Germany, mainly composed of the Hickory Music Factory and the Morganton JAM (Junior Appalachian Musicians).

V. New Business

- a. Annual Meeting / Retreat: will probably take place in January unless we can find a closer date. Ed suggested to have the retreat prior to the approval of next year's budget.
- b. Other

VI. Adjourn

There being no more topics of discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.

Anne-Sophie DaCosta, recorder

Next meeting will be on August 14, 2025 at 5:30pm in the 2nd floor meeting room of the PBML.

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."