



GHIC Monthly Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2026

**Hickory YMCA Maple Room
701 1st St NW, Hickory, NC 28601**

- I. Welcome & roll call.
The meeting started at 5:30pm. In attendance were Connor Dowdle, Alexandra Rye, Parish Rye, Victoria Morales, Nancy Greiner, Eric Brandon, Ed Tashjian, and Hani Nassar.
- II. June 25 meeting minutes were discussed and approved.
- III. GHIC financials as of 7/15/26:
 - a. Checking (Bank of America): \$12,657.69
 - b. RWISA Business CD (First Horizon): \$21,523.96. CD (3.70%) issue date 6/12/2026. Maturity date 01/08/2027.
 - c. City funds assigned to GHIC for FY 25-26: \$11,700 (7/1/25 – 6/30/26)
 - d. City funds assigned to GHIC for FY 26-27: \$11,700 (7/1/26 – 6/30/27)
 - e. Expenses 7/1/25 through 6/30/26: \$12,976.67
 - f. Expenses for the city's FY 25-26 were submitted. Expecting a check for \$11,700 by the end of July.
- IV. Part I: Old Business
 - a. International Film Showcase 2026: It was reiterated that the film judging by the GHIC board needs to conclude by August 28. There are 13 international films to be judged totaling 8 hours. The breakdown is 3 feature films, 3 children's films, and 7 shorts. Alexandra request access to film judging.
 - b. GHIC Grants update: Two new grant request were received. They are CIAO Hickory (Italian Festival 2.0) and LR University (International Choir & Wind Ensemble Tour). Both grants were unanimously approved.
 - c. Corning Foundation Grant update. The application is almost complete. It only needs confirming the 2027 budget.
 - d. Hickory FC update. The cards have been printed. The team did not make the playoffs. It did not work out for some of the members to attend the GHIC meeting because they left town after not making the playoffs.
 - e. Model United Nations Conference update. Hani will be talking to Glenn McGee regarding the use of the LR facility. Connor will approach John Zimmerman of NCSSM one last time to determine if they are interested to offer the facility at no charge.
 - f. Promotional items. No more promotional items are planned for the time-being, but we still need marketing material such as the roll-up banner. A tagline for the GHIC was debated for a long time, and at the end we agreed to think it over and come back at the next meeting with ideas. Some of the debated taglines were:
 1. Promoting goodwill in the international community
 2. Promoting the goodwill and understanding of our international community.
 3. Promoting our international community
 4. Embracing our international community
 5. Showcasing our international community
 6. Connecting our international community

Note: I asked ChatGPT for input, and here are the top 3 taglines it offered:

7. **Connecting Cultures. Strengthening Community.** *(clear, memorable, and reflects nearly every part of the mission)*
8. **Building Bridges Across Cultures.** *(classic, timeless, and emphasizes goodwill and mutual respect)*
9. **Global Connections. Local Impact.** *(highlights the international focus while emphasizing benefits to Greater Hickory)*

All taglines proposed by ChatGPT are listed at the end of the minutes.

- g. Local language service providers page. Need to add information for Arabic and Taiwanese. Victoria to create a listing.

V. New Business

- a. GHIC Email and Business Cards to Advisory Board Members. There is an option to have a GHIC email address linked to your personal email address if interested. Also, an option for a business card and GHIC T-shirt. For the T-shirt, the GHIC will pay the first \$50. Hani will send the T-shirt store link to Alexandra and Victoria.
- b. Other: The LR Tennis team is adding more international students from Austria, Germany, Ireland, and Peru. We may need more flags. Eric will look into it. We also discussed the need to have large LR TENNIS magnets on the vans when the team plays away. The costs will be investigated. All of this needs to be approved.

VI. Adjourn: The main GHIC meeting concluded at 6:40pm.

VII. Part II: Rudy Wright International Service Award (RWISA) brainstorm (6:30pm – 7:00pm)

Here are some of the options we discussed to make for a successful award:

- a. Attributing the RWISA name to **each** of the grants given out annually.
- b. Selecting **one** of the awarded annual grants as THE RWISA WINNER (after reviewing the project reports)
- c. Discuss options with the individuals/organizations who put in the seed money for this award (Hani to approach).
- d. Promotion is key to receiving meaningful applicants.
- e. The discussion continues.
- f. The meeting was adjourned at 7pm

Next meeting will be on August 20, 2026 at 5:30pm at the YMCA Maple Room

Greater Hickory International Council

Mission Statement

The mission of the Greater Hickory International Council is to promote goodwill, cultural awareness, cooperation, education, and mutual respect through partnerships and community events.

All taglines proposed by ChatGPT

A strong tagline should be short, memorable, and reinforce the mission's themes of connection, understanding, and global community. Here are several options in different styles:

Warm & Community-Focused

- Connecting Cultures. Strengthening Community.
- Building Bridges Across Cultures.
- Where Our Community Meets the World.
- Bringing the World to Greater Hickory.
- Global Connections. Local Impact.

Mission-Driven

- Promoting Understanding. Inspiring Connection.
- Celebrating Diversity. Building Understanding.
- Fostering Friendship Through Culture.
- Uniting Communities Through Cultural Exchange.
- Connecting People. Inspiring Understanding.

Aspirational

- Together Across Cultures.
- Many Cultures. One Community.
- Opening Minds. Connecting Worlds.
- Creating Global Connections, One Community at a Time.
- Inspiring Global Understanding, Locally.

Partnership-Focused

- Building Partnerships. Enriching Communities.
- Partnerships That Connect the World.
- Together for a More Connected Community.