



GHIC Monthly Meeting Minutes

June 25, 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 Hani Nassar, Nancy Greiner, Steven Chuang, Tracey Trimble, Connor Dowdle, Peyton Scronce, A. Avangeline, Alexandra Rye, and Anne-Sophie DaCosta.
- II. May 21 meeting minutes were discussed and approved.
- III. GHIC financials as of 6/25/26:
 - a. Checking (Bank of America): \$14,258.91
 - 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 6/25/26: \$10,797.21
- IV. Part I: Old Business
 - a. International Film Showcase 2026 – Film judging update: A total of 43 films were selected for the festival, of which 13 films are international. The GHIC judges need to rate the international films by August 28 to select the overall winner (Judges' award).
 - b. GHIC Grants update: 10 grants were given out this fiscal year.
 - c. Corning Foundation Grant: Corning would like our programming to focus on education, cultural enrichment, and human services.
 - d. GHIC website: Needs to be more user-friendly, easier to navigate, and better links. Tracey suggested adding a "Grants" tab on top.
 - e. Hickory FC: Nancy proposes a scavenger-hunt type activity for the children attending, focusing on the different countries represented by the international players.
 - f. Model United Nations Conference: Hani will meet with Glen McGee, husband of the Lenoir-Rhyne president, to discuss a possible location at LR. Hani will also ask him to be a RWISA award judge.
 - g. Sister Cities: Will have a quarterly meeting instead of monthly. In October 2027, a group will be coming from Altenburger Land. A meeting will be held in August to discuss who is coming.
- V. New Business
 - a. Marketing stuff (flashlights, roll up banner stands, new needed items, etc.): We still need to design a roll up banner and order it. We also need brochure stands for our table and a QR code leading to our website.
 - b. Add to website a list of local language service providers (classes, translation services, interpreting, etc.): Anne-Sophie will be reaching out to people to populate the new tab on the website.
 - c. Youth Council Membership: Peyton, Avangeline, Chance, and Connor will be on the board for the year 2026-2027.

- d. Other: Tracey suggested combining International Dance Day and the Multicultural Festival, and adding more international food vendors.

VI. Adjourn (regular meeting)

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

Anne-Sophie DaCosta, recorder

Next meeting will be on July 16, 2026 at 5:30pm at the YMCA Maple Room

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

- a. Committee members: Tracey, Hani, Connor, Anne-Sophie
- b. Judges will be the above committee members, plus a few leaders from the community. These are Dr. Dale Menard, Landon Lane, John Teeter, Jeff Cline, Jeff Behmner, Angela Simmons. Glen McGee is being asked.
- c. A new idea emerged for the RWISA which is to name every grant we give out annually, the Rudy Wright International Service Grants. This will advertise the name much more frequently.
- d. Path forward for next meeting (goals, next steps, etc.):
 - i. Hani will confirm all community judges for the award.
 - ii. Group will contemplate the new idea of naming all grants after Rudy.

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."