



1. Monica Pagnini was again not able to attend. Side note: I will no longer include Monica in future communication.
2. GHIC financials:
 - a. Bank account - \$11,906.78
 - b. City account - \$11,700. This is the initial budget. I still need to expense \$ 3,154.46 in expenses between July 1, 2021 and today.
 - c. Annual Funding Request from the City of Hickory was submitted but there are two date errors that were corrected.
3. GHIC Grants. STEMTrek grant:
 - a. Anne-Sophie questioned any payment made to volunteers as stated in the budget. Hani responded that it might have been only to show that the budget is more than 2x the grant amount. Hani will ask the STEMTrek committee to update the budget.
 - b. Tracey was concerned that the international connection is missing even though this is an educational grant. Hani proposed to make the student home activity include an international component.
 - c. Tracey also asked if the event information/flyer can include a Spanish language version.
4. Rudy Wright International Service Award:
 - a. Tracey updated the guidelines and will send out the finished document within the next couple of days.
 - b. Tracey confirmed that Donna would like to be on the judge panel.
5. GHIC website: We need to continue to look at the website and highlight any needed changes. Wordpress will remain our website platform.
6. Children's International Film Festival / Footcandle Film Festival: The Footcandle Film Society has agreed to merge our festival into theirs and show the selected children's movies on the same weekend and, if possible, in a second slot. Anne-Sophie proposed to offer ethnic food for the directors/film makers/volunteers on one of the days of the festival. Tracey reminded the group about the young filmmaker/director award.
7. MUN 2023: Hani continues to receive requests from MUN schools regarding any upcoming events. Eric stated that he has not seen Dr. Combs lately and is not sure that she is still around. Eric will check. Eric also stated that the LRU Provost is resigning at the end of the spring semester. The question is if we will have an MUN activity at LR in 2023. Eric proposed we ask the MUN teacher at University Christian if they would take over the planning or future MUN conference which can still be held on the LR campus. Eric will investigate.
8. Communication with the foreign firms – Tracey has gotten no responses from the German firms she communicated with relative to the Western Piedmont Sister Cities Organization. Businesses seem to be too busy or uninterested. Hani was supposed to print them and sign them. Tracey offered to print them in color and drop them off to be signed by Hani. Hani will confirm the letter content and send to Tracey to print.
9. New Business (GHIC subcommittees), other.
 - a. Hani would like to reactivate the GHIC subcommittees that were once active, mainly the ones that dealt with each program we have plus the grants, Christmas dinner, and foreign films. We discussed them at the GHIC retreat last December but Hani would like to confirm your selections or add them if you were not present at the retreat.
 - b. Youth Council commitment: Matthew Rostan is a senior so he will be leaving the Youth Council and GHIC at the end of the school year. Kristin Bui and Jenny are junior level, so they

will remain on the Youth Council and GHIC for one more year. Colby Fields and Nolan Ray were not present to answer this question.

c. Eric had a question regarding the Community Grants which is if they will remain due by the end of March each year or if they could be a year-round activity. Hanı indicated that he likes the year-round option but that in this situation where there is no deadline, the committee will have to decide to award the grants on an individual basis and without the option of looking at many of them at one time and selecting the best ones. The decision on how to proceed will be the responsibility of the grant subcommittee who can discuss internally and submit a recommendation to the full board.

10. Adjourn: There being no further issues to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted;
Hani Nassar

*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.”