



Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 17, 2022
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Virtual link

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8572551059?pwd=_dkhFakJzjbjNOOFJuMzVxS2hPdng0Zz09

I. Welcome and introductions

The meeting started at 5:05pm on March 17, 2022. In attendance were Anne-Sophie DaCosta, Ed Tashjian, Tracey Trimble, Eric Brandon, Matthew Rostan, Jenny Nguyen, Kristin Bui, and Hani Nassar. Not present were Steven Chuang, Eddie Marlowe, Colby Fields, and Nolan Ray. Colby had swim practice. Eddie's grandfather passed away on Tuesday March 15 and had some business to attend relative to the funeral.

II. GHIC financials:

- a. Bank account balance is \$11,906.78.
- b. City account balance remains untouched at \$11,700 with \$3,154.46 with incurred expenses to be submitted for reimbursement.
- c. Expenses and budget considerations Mar 2022 – June 2022: **We need to start thinking of GHIC expenses that need to be incurred in the next 3 months before the current City fiscal year ends.**

III. Old Business

1. GHIC Grants: STEM Trek changes to include an international component

The STEM TREK committee agreed to offer students and families an international engineering activity which is to build an international iconic structure in the form of towers, bridges, and important buildings. The GHIC board is tasked to come up with ideas for this activity. The STEM TREK purchased non-consumables composed of plastic cups, tongue depressors, and wooden cubes. Students and their families are to use these items to build one or more of the structures and submit their entry(ies) within two weeks to be eligible for prize money. The GHIC board approved the \$500 STEM TREK grant plus \$100 prize money for the best designed tower, bridge, and other structures. The best overall structure gets an additional \$50. Possible structures are Eifel tower, London Bridge, Tower of Pisa, Neuschwanstein Castle in Germany, Taj Mahal, The Pyramids, Sydney Opera House, and Royal Alcazar of Seville (Spain). **Hani to send a survey for top structures in each category.**

PLEASE TAKE THIS QUICK SURVEY BY THE END OF THURSDAY

MARCH 24 2022 <https://form.jotform.com/220821794454156>

2. Children's International Film Festival: Update (slots, name change, food component).

- i. The Footcandle Film Society has approved the merging of their film festival with the children's film festival.
- ii. There will be two sessions during the film festival week, one on Thursday PM and again on Saturday AM.
- iii. The name will be the Youth International Film Festival
- iv. The film length will remain at 15 minutes or less
- v. We will have an award for the best overall international film (audience favorite or judged event) and/or young film maker. Hani will discuss possibilities with Alan Jackson.
- vi. We will need to support the festival financially

3. Rudy Wright International Service Award: Update (final letter)

- i. Tracey sent updated letter to Hani and Ed. Hani made a couple of edits. **Hani will forward the letter with the meeting notes. Tracey to keep track of responses and pass on to Donna Wright for potential final edits.**
 4. GHIC website changes:
 - i. The website needs to be 100% correct.
 - ii. We should not send the business letters before the information on the website is accurate.
 - iii. **Hani requested that we all offer assistance in pointing out the areas on the website that need to be corrected or cleaned up.**
 5. MUN 2023 update
 - i. Mr. Kelly Keaver KKeaver@uchigh.com is the Model UN Advisor at University Christian High School. Eric will touch base with him to see if he can lead this effort for our MUN in 2023.
 - ii. Eric stated that the UCH Principal Bill Unverfehrt is leaving the school and possibly the new Principle will decide if MUN can be led by his staff member.
 - iii. Eric also stated that Dr. Cyndi Combs is still teaching MUN classes as an Adjunct Professor.
 6. FOLKMOOT 2022/2023
 - i. Elizabeth Teague took over the Folkmoot leadership.
 - ii. Folkmoot full events will not happen this year because they received the clearance too late to invite international groups. Thus there will not be a Hickory presence. Hani suggested we support the organization as we have done in the past. Hani will send the sponsorship opportunities so that we can collectively decide the support amount.
 - iii. Folkmoot will resume its full activities in 2023.
 7. GHIC Subcommittees
 - i. Hani indicated that he could not find the committee assignments that we chose at the Dec 11, 2021 retreat (but he did eventually find them 😊).
 - ii. **In the poll that Hani will send, he will include these committees and assignments. Please feel free to make any changes.**
 - iii. The selected committees are:
 1. Website
 2. Community Connections (inviting liaisons from businesses and organizations in our community).
 3. Community Conversations (International Films, Great Decisions)
 4. Programs (MUN, Youth Film Festival, Folkmoot)
 5. Community Grants
 6. Christmas (Concert and Christmas Social/dinner).
- IV. New Business
1. Eric Brandon asked about a grant in the form of an annual scholarship for need-based or merit-based international students at LRU. There are about 100 international students at LRU. **Eric to come up with guidelines.** In return, the student will need to (as an idea) present their home country at one of the Great Decisions sessions in the fall.
 2. In response to a question about the GHIC fiscal year, section 8.02 of the Bylaws states that the fiscal year of the Corporation shall run from the 1st day of January to the 31st day of December.
 3. The bylaws also state that there shall be one annual meeting where the minutes will be maintained in the Corporate book residing with our attorney.
 4. Hani showed images from Tracey's trip to Alaska. File is attached.
- V. Adjourn: There being no further discussions the meeting was adjourned at 6:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Hani Nassar
Greater Hickory International Council
www.hickoryinternationalcouncil.com
(828) 234-6330

*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.”