



## GHIC Annual Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2023

Hickory Furniture Mart  
2220 Hwy 70 SE, Hickory, NC 28602

The annual meeting started at 9:30AM. In attendance were Hani Nassar, Tracey Trimble, Ed Tashjian, Eric Brandon, Jenny Nguyen, Eddie Marlowe, and Anne-Sophie DaCosta. Not in attendance were Steven Chuang, Caroline Sprinkle, and Lucas Packard.

Hani discussed the current status:

- Financials (account balances, expenses): Expenses to-date: \$7,809.67 in general account and \$9,357.50 in RWISA account.
- The current GHIC programs continuing in 2024 are Footcandle Film Festival / Youth Film Festival, Christmas Concert, Great Decisions Discussions, STEM Trek, Foothills Kids Magazine (maybe \$1,000), and Rudy Wright International Service Award. On hold are Pangea MUN and Folkmoot. We have had minimal participation in our annual grants and screening international films.
- For new business, the following ideas were discussed:
  - Update GHIC brochure: We decided to make it a one-page brochure (Rack Card style instead of trifold with QR code linking the website). No need to include the programs.
  - Eddie mentioned that the [Llamas de Hickory](#) need a sponsor. The group agreed to sponsor the team for \$1,000 for the remaining 4 games plus all of next year's games, and to have a presence at the Crawdads Stadium as much as possible.
  - Replace the sunset programs with TEDxHickory (Hani wants at least \$750), formalize STEMTrek (\$600), expand Great Decisions past the current 8 weeks (once every two months past the 8 weeks), support the new Folkmoot vision (financially until it is clear what their plan is), get more involved in HMA's and CSC's international programming, LR's Visitor Writer Series, student exchanges & study abroad, Police engagement programming, and WPCOG Sister Cities initiatives (maybe \$500).
  - Recruit individuals of international background (LR faculty, LR staff and students, Hmong & Latino community members) – The Hmong New Year Festival takes place in November, so we discussed reaching out and sponsoring the event.
  - Consider assigning a Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion liaison/advocate: The group deemed it was not necessary considering the composition of our board but we should not lose sight of its value.
  - New sponsor approach: Hani mentioned making "one ask" for the whole year instead of asking money for each individual event. Some sponsors are interested such as the Beaver Family Foundation. Others aren't such as Pepsi of Hickory.
- Meeting summary & adjourn: Hani briefly covered our discussion points and brought up our 3-year strategic plan. What do we want to achieve? Everyone on the board is invited to share their vision at our next meeting in June!  
The meeting was adjourned at 1:45pm.

Secretary: Anne-Sophie DaCosta.