



- I. Welcome and introductions
  1. The meeting started at 5:35 pm.
  2. In attendance were Tracey, Eddie, Ed, Eric, Hani, and Mai Bee Vue Lor (Mai – sounds like MY).
  3. Mai shared with the group her story having been in NC for 17 years coming from Washington State having moved there from the refugee camp in 1979. She's been very active in the Hmong community since arriving in NC. She is currently the president of the Hmong Southeast Puavpheej supporting the Hmong communities in NC, SC, GA, and FL. Mai is interested to be part of the GHIC Advisory Board.
  
- II. GHIC financials:
  1. BofA:
    - i. Bank account (general): \$14,282.70
    - ii. Bank account (RWISA): \$11,716.13
  2. City account: \$11,700 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024). Moving forward we will submit expenses more frequently than once annually. Frequency is based on when the expenses are incurred.
  
- III. Old Business
  1. Folkmoot: July 29 is a one-day event this year.
  2. FFF/YIFS 2023: 31 films to judge this year. Down from >600 in previous years since film-makers are being charged \$5.00 this year to submit. Some countries don't have a method to pay. Planning on showing around 10 films at the event for a total of ca. 90 minutes. Event date is Thursday September 21 at 4:30pm and again at 7:00pm (2 sessions).
  3. Marketing & Advertising:
    - GHIC rack card: The card (front and back) has been designed with some disagreement on the pictures. The QR card can also be moved to the bottom of the page. **Ed will send the card one more time for approval.**
    - Retractable banner: Tracey suggested different information than what's on the rack card so that people will be intrigued to learn more.
  4. Llamas de Hickory at the Crawdads: Have not had much success attracting the crowd to our table at the Crawdads. **We need something innovative that is Latin-oriented where people can win something, either immediately or via a drawing.**
  5. New member suggestions (DEI): We do represent a DEI community by virtue of our various cultures, but we also support DEI as it relates to opportunities for everyone. We just need to keep this information in the forefront as we make project decisions.
  6. Youth Council members: We will know in August if we have additional Youth Council members joining our council in addition to Lucas and Caroline who have indicated that they will remain on this council.
  7. [Hmong Southeast Puavpheej](#) (pronounced Bowapaing). Mai believes that for now she will be the only adult representing the Hmong. There is a potential that a youth Hmong person (Pakou) might be interested. She is in college. **Mai will check with her and let us know.**
  8. Local Media Panel workshop: Earlier, Tracey shared with the council a video recording. The workshop was interesting and informative as it allows the attendees to interact and build relationships with the media.
  9. CRC Multicultural Festival: Hani Emailed the CRC Chairperson Lakisha Ross Johnson on June 14, 2023 but have received no response so far.

10. Altenburger Land delegation in partnership with the Western Piedmont Symphony. **Tracey will consider the various event being planned and propose a grant possibility.** Most likely scenario is the Altenburger youth playing music during the Oktoberfest event.

IV. New Business

1. There was no new business to discuss.

V. Adjourn

1. There being no more topics of discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.

Hani Nassar, recorder

*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.”*