



- I. Welcome and introductions
 1. The meeting started at 5:32 pm.
 2. In attendance were Steven, Mai, Tracey, Ed, Eric, Hani, and Anne-Sophie
- II. GHIC financials:
 1. Bank account (general): \$10,856.28
 2. Bank account (RWISA): \$17,716.84. Tracey confirmed HFM commitment. We discussed ways to invest the RWISA money. Donna Wright suggested we talk to her financial advisor.
 3. City account assigned to GHIC: \$11,700 (7/1/23 – 6/30/24)
 4. Expenses so far: \$846.71. Hani to revisit based on payments to Footcandle, etc. that he missed.
- III. Old Business
 1. FFF/YIFS 2023: Attendance was not great. We need to change the day and time for the event (suggestion: we may have more kids being able to attend on a Saturday) and come up with more **ways to advertise it**. Hani's goal is to **bring the YIFS back to the schools**. Tracey will update the school list so we can reach out to the right people.
 2. GHIC rack card: Please take some and distribute them, as they are a great way to show what the GHIC is about.
 3. Altenburger land delegation: (1) 12 people traveled from Germany to Hickory and attended Oktoberfest, among other events. (2) Tracey received positive feedback. (3) Grant is approved for the WPSCA's 30-year anniversary celebration.
 4. Hickory High School band commitment: Anne-Sophie will follow up to make sure check was received and that our name is in the programs for their events. Hani stated that he delivered the check personally to the HHS front office.
- IV. New Business
 1. GHIC Christmas dinner: planned for **Thursday December 14, 2023 at Thai Lotus** (we will have our December meeting there)
 2. Corning will give the GHIC \$7,000 next year. We will have them as our main sponsor for the various GHIC events. Their research and development department has committed to giving the GHIC \$2,500 for this year, which can be applied partially to the Christmas concert.
 3. International Christmas Concert: **Saturday December 16, 2023**. This event is always a big success. Hani will ask what kind of contribution they need, but would like to give them \$2,000 instead of the usual \$1,000.
 4. Hmong New Year: **November 23-26, 2023**. Mai will apply for a grant to help with expenses. November 12: Hmong **Gate Opening Ceremony at 12 noon**. We are all invited.
 5. Great Decisions Discussions 2024: the first session will take place on Tuesday January 30, 2024.
 6. TEDxHickory 2024: Due to TED flagging multiple TEDxHickory 2023 talks, we might not plan an event for 2024.
 7. STEM Trek 2024 will take place on April 20, 2024. The STEM Trek budget is \$2,300. Let's start **brainstorming ideas** for giveaways and/or contests.
- V. Adjourn
 1. There being no more topics of discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm.

Anne-Sophie DaCosta, 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."