



- I. Welcome and introductions
 1. The meeting started at 5:30 pm.
 2. In attendance were Tracey, Ed, Eddie, Hani, Britnee, Melanie, and Anne-Sophie

- II. GHIC financials (as of 11/10/23)
 1. Bank account (general): \$10,840.50
 2. Bank account (RWISA): \$18,717.14. Includes HFM check. Hani consulted with two financial advisors regarding investing the RWISA money in order to sustain it for the coming years. Both recommended the [Vanguard money market fund](#) currently at 5.25%. Hani will also consult with Donna's advisor John Link at a later date.
 3. City account assigned to GHIC: \$11,700 (7/1/23 – 6/30/24)
 4. Expenses through 11/10/23: \$4,676.42

- III. Old Business
 1. GHIC Christmas dinner – scheduled at Thai Lotus (2601 N Center St, Hky NC) on Thursday December 14, 6pm-8pm. This event is free to the GHIC members. We will be playing the [Dirty Santa](#) game. If you are interested in participating in the game, bring a wrapped, gender-neutral gift between \$15-\$20 to the dinner.
 2. International Christmas Concert – scheduled in the [Salt Block Auditorium](#) on Saturday Dec 16 6pm – 8:30pm. Corning gave us a grant of \$2,500. We agreed to give the Romanian Choir a grant of \$2,000 this year to help them cover the cost of food and other expenses. The Kaiser Community Room being unavailable on that night for the after-concert buffet, Hani will inquire if the Museum's COE Gallery can be rented instead.
 3. Hmong Southeast Puavpheej: Gate Opening Ceremony summary – The mayor of Newton being sick on the day of the event, Tracey was asked to cut the ribbon at the ceremony and was presented with a commemorative plaque for her leadership and dedication. Tracey mentioned that a [Hmong cultural center](#) is being built in Newton and will cover four states: North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.
 4. Great Decisions Discussions 2024: Booklets will be ordered in November. The sessions will start on Tuesday January 30, 2024 and continue every Tuesday through March 19, 2024. Each session will start promptly at 6pm and end at 7pm. The venue is The Hickory Room in the Lenoir Rhyne University Student Center. Here is some information about this program https://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/index.cfm?act=gd_group&group_id=1618540. If you are interested in participating, please let Hani know.
 5. TEDxHickory 2024: Still in limbo. Next year's event, if it is going to take place, will be in November.
 6. STEMTrek 2024: Scheduled for April 20, 2024 at the Science Center. 2025 will be a bigger year for STEMTrek. The plans are to invite the [Oak Ridge National Lab](#) trailers to Hickory, so we will be renting part of the Metro Convention Center. We are planning field trips for all the surrounding schools to participate. The STEM Trek team is currently in talks with the area superintendents to organize this special event. Eddie mentioned inviting the [School for the Deaf in Morganton](#) as they have a Robotics program.

- IV. New Business
 1. Llamas de Hickory at the Crawdads: We are invested for the 2024 season (6 games). Ideas for crowd involvement for the 2024 season include a "Guess the Flags" game, guesstimating the

number of jellybeans in a jar, and a wheel-of-fortune style game to win special prizes like a signed Jersey, hat or baseball bat.

V. Adjourn

1. There being no more topics of discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:41pm.

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.”