



- I. Welcome and introductions
 - i. The meeting started at 5:38 pm.
 - ii. In attendance were Tracey, Ed, Hani, Britnee, Steven, Eric and Anne-Sophie

- II. GHIC financials (as of 1/14/24)
 1. Bank account (general): \$8,714.09
 2. Bank account (RWISA): \$18,717.76
 3. City account assigned to GHIC: \$11,700 (7/1/23 – 6/30/24)
 4. Expenses through 1/14/24: \$8,739.96

- III. Old Business
 1. International Christmas Concert 2023 summary and 2024 changes: we need to come up with a ticketing system in order to comply with the fire code. Options include:
 - Have two concerts, one from 5pm to 6:30pm geared toward a younger audience and the other performance more for adults. But we will have to leave plenty of time between concerts for attendees to find parking and get in and out of the venue.
 - Paid ticketing with Eventbrite: this will allow us to limit the number of attendees and to not have to turn people away at the door. The money collected from ticket sales can be donated to the church.
 - Free tickets with Eventbrite. The downside is that some people may order tickets and not attend; we will have to limit the number of tickets that can be ordered per person.
 - We will set aside free tickets for the Romanian Church attendees.
 - We will send the Eventbrite link to our mailing lists.
 2. Great Decisions Discussions 2024 record attendance: 35 people have signed up for the weekly meetings.
 3. TEDxHickory 2024: More & more unlikely to take place this year. We will revisit for 2025.
 4. STEMtrek 2024 is scheduled for April 20, 2024: we discussed ordering clear drawstring bags with the GHIC logo as giveaways.
 5. Llamas de Hickory at the Crawdads: Do we continue the support in the future? We are still brainstorming ideas to engage the crowds. Giveaway ideas include Llamas merchandise (hats, jerseys...) and plush lamas with a GHIC bandanna.
 6. Tommy Luckadoo – Honorary Consul Estonia – Jan 22, 2024 from 2:30-5:00: Opening reception at the old Corning building (new App State campus). Special guest: Christian Prikk, Estonian ambassador. Our meeting with them was cancelled as they had a meeting at Windak, a company in Conover.

- IV. New Business
 1. External funding request was sent to the City of Hickory for 2024-2025. (See attached)
 2. Eric mentions [International Week at LR](#). Each day focuses on a different region or continent with tables and events at the Cromer Center. Hani brings up sponsoring the event; Eric mentions helping international students pay for their tables' props and other needs.
 3. Tracey will send a Media Alert on Tuesday, January 23 to promote the [RWISA grant](#). (See attached). Maybe Hal Rowe can do a radio segment in the morning to advertise it.

4. Britnee mentions the Challenger's International Festival which will take place on the campus of St. Stephens High School at the end of March 2024. More details to come. Britnee recommends having a booth representing the GHIC at the event.

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 promote goodwill, cultural awareness, cooperation, education, and mutual respect through partnerships and community events.