



I. Welcome

The meeting started at 5:40pm. In attendance were Eric Brandon, Ed Tashjian, Tracey Trimble, Britnee Bensinger, and Anne-Sophie DaCosta. Tracey brought a special guest, Nancy Greiner who is a French professor at Alexander Central High School.

II. GHIC financials (as of 5/14/24)

1. Bank account (general): \$7,295.74
2. Bank account (RWISA): \$18,719.01
3. City account assigned to GHIC: \$11,700 (7/1/23 – 6/30/24)
4. Expenses through 5/14/24: \$9,749.31

III. Old Business

1. RWISA grant
 - a. Determine steps to secure eligibility
2. STEMTrek 2024
 - a. 230 students/parents attended. Anne-Sophie gave a brief recap. All attendees enjoyed the event.
 - b. Plans for 2025 underway at the Metro Convention Center with Oak Ridge National Lab Traveling Science Fair <https://travelingsciencefair.ornl.gov/>
3. [Llamas de Hickory](#) at the Crawdads
 - a. Marble jar and prize wheel ordered
 - b. Discussion for more crowd involvement: Tracey proposes to purchase Llamas jerseys and/or hats to give out as special prizes (maybe one per game? Tracey will talk to Douglas about a possible discount). Ed will create a QR code that will allow us to collect spectators' emails as they play one of our games (guess the number of marbles, for example). The purpose of this is twofold: to increase engagement and to collect a database to whom we can send a newsletter. We will have a poster with a QR code by our booth, and ideally post the QR code in our advertisement in the program. Here's an example of what it might look like. Please click on the link and check it out.
<https://hickoryinternationalcouncil.com/greater-hickory-international-council-sponsors-jersey-giveaway-win-a-llamas-jersey-or-hat/>
 - c. Need commitment from at least two volunteers at each event, **let us know what day/time you can man the GHIC table:**
Wednesday, June 5 @7pm – Hani, AS
Sunday, June 23 @2pm – Ed, AS, Nancy, Tracey
Thursday, July 25 @7pm – Hani, Eddie, Eric
Friday, August 23 @7pm – AS, Eddie
4. International Film Festival
 - a. Need action plan to involve schools same as pre-COVID. Nancy mentions reaching out to the World Language contact at the schools and the [DPI](#) and presenting the film festival as an ENRICHMENT ACTIVITY.

- b. Eric mentions The [Little Read](#) at the PE Monroe auditorium in LR as a possible venue for school children to watch the films. The theme is different every year.
 - c. We also talked about considering showing the films during the day at a few of the schools. The goal is to increase the number of people watching. We would show the films and then moderate a discussion group.
5. Corning Foundation Grant: Completed application. Waiting to hear by end of June.

IV. New Business

1. We thanked Britnee for her contribution to the GHIC this past year and presented her with a \$250 check. We wished her good luck and continued success.
2. Nancy is organizing a visit from 21 French students (juniors and seniors) and 2 teachers from [Pont-Audemer](#), France, to Alexander County from October 3 to October 16, 2024. She is looking for host families in Alexander County to receive them.

V. Adjourn

There being no more topics of discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm.

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.