

**Village of Hoffman Estates
Sister Cities Commission Minutes
June 18, 2025**

Members in Attendance

Lillian Mosier, Chair
Jill Wood-Naatz, Vice Chair
Marcia Frank
Anita Flanagan
Jeff Howard
Fanja Raoelijaona-Michel
Cindy Ruszay
Terri Lamberti
David Chameli
Diana Murray
Mimi Wise
Lisa Christie

Members Absent

Vanya Castle
Robin Jacobi
Melissa Marscin

Staff Liaison

Debbie Schoop

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Lillian Mosier called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Jill Wood-Naatz, seconded by Terri Lamberti, to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2025, meeting with the correction of the spelling of Melissa Marscin's name. Vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Lillian thanked the Village of Hoffman Estates and Village Board for the recent volunteer appreciation event at the Hideaway. Everyone agreed it was a great evening.

Lillian received a letter from the Mayor of Angouleme stating that he was pleased to receive the invitation to return to Hoffman Estates for the re-signing of the Twinning and will form a delegation to attend. Protocol was discussed. We will sign in 2026 in France and France will sign when they return here in 2027. Our Commission members should review the Protocol and return to the next meeting with any suggestions or changes to be made.

Lillian thanked Greg, John and Bill for completing their Bassett training. Jeff has agreed to take the course in the future.

Lillian spoke about the remembrance of Bob Dohn. Debbie had sent out information from the Hoffman Estates Park District regarding planting a tree, installing a plaque or bench. Discussion was held regarding the Peace Pole and possibly attaching a plaque to it. It was agreed that Lillian and Debbie would work on the wording for a plaque that could be placed in the Sister Cities display case in the lobby at a future date. Marcia will investigate the costs associated with planting a tree/trees as well.

5. STAFF LIAISON'S REPORT

Debbie and Lillian will work on a budget proposal for 2026 and forward it to the Commission for their approval prior to our July meeting.

6. CURRENT SUB-GROUP REPORTS

A. Signature Exchanges

1) Culinary/Bon Appétit - No report.

2) Runners Exchange

Lisa briefly spoke about the runners' arrival and the upcoming exchange. She confirmed the details of the potluck being held at Rogan's on June 28 at 1 p.m.

B. Other Exchanges

1) Sports - No report.

2) Comic

Terri Lamberti has been communicating with the Gail Borden Library in Elgin regarding working with them on future possible event for comics. She will also contact Lincoln and Timber Trails schools as well. David Chameli will draft a letter to Danielle about looking for 2 artists from Angouleme to come here for the next C2E2 event. David also spoke with Kathy Tourtelot and Brigid O'Keefe from the Schaumburg Township Library and will put together some suggestions for a possible event to be held there in April of 2026.

C. Special Projects

Lillian related that she has been in contact with Susie Whipple, owner of "Taste Your Senses", to determine her interest in participating in the commission's "Wine and War" program on November 14, 2025. Susie will discuss wines guests will be tasting that evening, as well as providing background information and answering questions relating to them. Susie's fee for the evening will be \$125 per hour (\$375 for 3 hours).

Discussion was held regarding the time of the event, pricing, and moving forward with the participation of Susie Whipple. The Commission decided that the time of the event should be 6:30-9:30 p.m. and the ticket price be set at \$45 per person.

Motion by Marcia Frank, seconded by Terri Lamberti, to hire Susie Whipple for the Wine & War program at a cost of \$375; that the ticket price be set at \$45; and the time of the event will be 6:30 pm to 9:30 p.m. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

D. French Evening

Lillian has arranged a food tasting for Tuesday, June 27, 2025, with Greg with Catering Made Simple. Jeff, Marcia, Jill, Debbie and Lillian will attend. Lillian will update the list of baskets for the French Dinner for our next meeting. As of today's date, there are approximately 31 or 32 baskets.

7. OTHER

Lillian discussed the recent soccer exchange that we hosted, and the issue of an outstanding medical bill owed by the parents and/or the Angouleme Sister Cities. The student received medical attention while here and no one has reimbursed the host family for the expenses. It was agreed that Danielle should be the one to contact the parents of the student and arrange for payment to be made. If the parents do not pay, the Angouleme Sister Cities should reimburse.

Lillian also showed the gift-wrapped boxes that she is working on to display items at our upcoming French Dinner.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Anita Flanigan, seconded by Lisa Christie, to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m. Voice taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jeff Howard.

*The next meeting of the Sister Cities Commission will be 6:30 PM on July 16, 2025,
in the Frank Alexa Room at the Village Hall.*