

**Village of Hoffman Estates
Sister Cities Commission Minutes
July 16, 2025**

Members in Attendance

Lillian Mosier, Chair
Jill Wood-Naatz, Vice Chair
Marcia Frank
Fanja Raoelijaona-Michel
Cindy Ruszay
Terri Lamberti
David Chameli
Diana Murray
Mimi Wise
Lisa Christie
Vanya Castle
Melissa Marscin

Members Absent

Anita Flanagan
Jeff Howard
Robin Jacobi

Staff Liaison

Debbie Schoop

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Lillian Mosier called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Terri Lamberti, seconded by Mimi Wise, to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2025, meeting. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Lillian updated the Commission regarding Ken Campbell and Karen Dohn. She also mentioned that Bob's memorial service is Sunday, July 20. We also received a check for \$100 from his neighbors and they asked that the money be put towards whatever the Commission decides to do in Bob's memory.

Lillian sent an email to the Mayor inquiring about representation from the Village for the trip to Angouleme next year.

5. STAFF LIAISON'S REPORT

Debbie advised that work on the parking lot will continue through November, however, she was assured that there should be no problem for our October event. She will keep us updated.

Debbie distributed copies of the proposed 2026 Sister Cities budget. She mentioned that small changes were made and voted on via email. Some of the changes were allocations for our 30th anniversary and special projects. The proposed budget will be presented to the Village Board for approval in October/November.

Motion by Terri Lamberti, seconded by Marcia Frank, to approve the proposed the 2026 budget. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

6. CURRENT SUB-GROUP REPORTS

A. Signature Exchanges

1) Culinary/Bon Appétit -

Debbie shared the Save The Date information for the French Dinner on October 24, 2025. She also showed a copy of the registration we will send beginning on September 1.

Jill advised that the Bon Appetit will be held on April 9, 2026. There was much discussion regarding the length of stay of the 3 girls and 2 boys that will be participating and Jill suggested a stay of 9 days instead of 7 so that there is time for host families to spend with students. It was recommended that the dates of April 4 through April 13 of 2026 be sent to Sylvain for his thoughts.

2) Runners Exchange

Lisa reported that the exchange went very well and that they already have a runner for next year. Lillian mentioned the wonderful job that Lisa and her committee did for the event. Lillian expressed that the runners who go to France should be involved with our Commission the following year, whether as a host family or other special activities.

B. Other Exchanges

1) Sports -

Karen Dohn gave Lillian Bob's book that he used for the Soccer Exchange. She said it was incredibly detailed and organized.

2) Comic -

David contacted Brigid O'Keefe at the Library for any updates. She advised she is still looking at April of 2026 to schedule an event

Terri contacted Mayrena Guerrero, the Principal at Lincoln Elementary, to set up a meeting regarding our comic artists making a visit to one of their classrooms next year. Terri explained what our Sister Cities Commission is about. She will try to set a meeting for the week of July 28. The artists are arriving on March 25 and departing on April 1, 2026. Terri contacted Danielle and mentioned that our timeframe coincides with C2E2.

C. Special Projects

Marcia Frank reported that Lillian and her will be meeting with Susie Whipple to discuss the upcoming Wine and War event that will take place on November 14 from 6:30-9:30 pm. Lynn Brand and Susie Whipple will contact Debbie regarding contracts. Registration for this evening will begin on October 1.

There was discussion regarding reduced ticket costs for members and spouses that work during this event. Motion by Mimi Wise, seconded by Cindy Ruzay, that members and spouses pay \$25 per person for this event only. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Marcia advised that the sub-committee will present suggestions for 2026 at the next meeting.

D. French Evening

Lillian, Marcia, Jill, Debbie and Jeff had a food tasting with the caterer, Catering Made Simple, for the French Evening. Everyone thought the food was very good and only slight changes were made to the original menu. There will be roast pork served instead of the roast turkey. The caterer is providing tables, silverware and china free of charge. Greg was made aware of our timeframes.

Lillian reminded everyone that now is the time to visit vendors and restaurants for gift cards to insert in the baskets.

7. OTHER

Lillian discussed the reimbursement to the Tourtelot's for the medical expenses they covered during the Soccer exchange. The plan is now for a check to be sent to the Village from the Comité de Jumelage and then the money repaid to John and Kathy Tourtelot.

The initiative regarding the dementia friendly community project will be discussed further in the coming months with Danielle.

The current Official Protocol between our Sister Cities was reviewed and David Chameli will be reviewing the old one and will have suggestions at the next meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Marcia Frank, seconded by Lisa Christie, to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. Voice taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Diana Murray.

*The next meeting of the Sister Cities Commission will be 6:30 PM on August 20, 2025,
in the Frank Alexa Room at the Village Hall.*