

VILLAGE OF HOFFMAN ESTATES
CULTURAL AWARENESS COMMISSION (CAC)
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday June 3rd, 2025

7:15pm – Conference Room – Village Hall

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kathryn McCord called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Kathryn McCord - Chair Susan Cooper Ximena Atristain-Bigurra Sandra Lahoz Jean Stone Renee McMullen Karrie Miletic (New Member) Jennifer Dobbins – Guest - Asia (daughter) – Guest - Bella (daughter) – Guest	Bonnie Wurster – excused Arlene Montanez - excused Mimi Ferlita - excused
Staff Liaison – Patrick Seger Staff Liaison – Cathy Doczekalski	

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from May 6th, 2025, were approved.

Kathryn moved to approve the minutes. Renee seconded. Voice vote: all in favor.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

V. INTRODUCTION

Karrie Miletic (New Member) is Superintendent of Community Outreach for the Hoffman Estates Park District. . She is an Arlington Heights resident; however, Hoffman Estates is her second home.

Jennifer Dobbins is a guest. She is a Registered Nurse and a 20-year+ resident of Hoffman Estates. Jennifer is accompanied by her two pre-teen daughters, Asia and Bella.

Documents were shared: May 6th Meeting Minutes; June 3rd Agenda; Boards and Commissions Member Info – Active Members; and Resolution Creating the Cultural Awareness Commission of the Village of Hoffman Estates.

VI. CHAIRPERSON REPORT

Unity Day was held on Saturday, May 31, 2025, at the H.E. Village Hall

Goal: Grow Unity Day participation so that it will be held at the NOW Center!

- Kathryn thanked the CAC for a very successful event; the food was superb; the GFWC (NW Suburban Women's Club) were great volunteers; the entertainment line-up was well received. Thank you notes have been sent to all entertainers and volunteers.

CAC provided feedback and discussed opportunities for Unity 2026:

- Entertainment
 - o Consider the Ukrainian group
 - o One Mexican group instead of two
 - o Reduce performance to less than 15 minutes
 - o Groups need to talk about the performances in an introduction
 - o Irish Dancers need to perform on hardwood floors, not carpet
 - o Fred Astaire Dance Studio may be a resource for a variety of Dances Around the World
- Food
 - o Umart: "Hot means Hot" - Pork on a stick must be hot when CAC picks up the order. Kathryn went to Umart to discuss this issue.
 - Some thought the pork was cold, tough, and chewy.
 - Chicken is a better option than pork, because many people do not eat pork.
 - o Estrella Bakery: Kathryn met with the team to pay by phone.
 - o Valli Produce: Vegetarian Spring Rolls were not ready by stated pick-up time; there was a 25 minute wait.
 - o Limit food to a taste, smaller portions – this is not a full meal.
 - o Research lighter food items.
 - o Replace Fried Rice option with possibly Filipino Pancit Bihon (rice noodles).
 - o Change Unity Day menu options to keep things interesting.
- Promotion
 - o Flyer: Include Children's Cultural Craft.
 - o State Multicultural Food Tasting (not a full meal).
 - o Need better signage.
- Space/Venue
 - o Open Lamb Room to accommodate additional seating that is needed.
 - o Need Hostesses (volunteers) to assist with seating.

- Reserved seating needed for VIPs (e.g. State/Local Officials).
- Logistics/Volunteers
 - CAC members need to lead specific sub-committees/tasks
 - Examples: CAC member to manage logistics; CAC Volunteer Coordinator needed to provide guidance to volunteers.
 - Volunteers want to contribute and work during the event.
 - Help in the kitchen was great! Four kitchen volunteers is the maximum.
 - We had more volunteers than tasks.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a. **CAC voted that we will not meet in July.**

b. **Hispanic Heritage Day – October 11th, 2:00 PM– 4:30 PM**

- CAC Leads: Ximena and Sandra.
- Article deadline is July 24th
- Flyer needed.
- Total Budget is \$2,800 includes \$800 for Entertainment and \$250 for Speaker.
- Theme: Bringing Cultures Together
- Speaker: Rafael Numez Cedeno, President of DAMA – Dominican American Midwest Association
 - Topic: Dominican Roots, Chicago Hearts – Building Unity Across Cultures
 - Wikipedia [Rafael Núñez Cedeño](#)
- *Ximena moved that Dr. Cedeno be the speaker for 2025 Hispanic Heritage Day and the topic is Dominican Roots, Chicago Hearts – Building Unity Across Cultures. Kathy seconded; all in favor; motion passed.*
 - Hoffman Estates will send contract for \$250.
- Entertainment: Salsa, Bolivia, Argentina
- Crafts: Craft for Hispanic Heritage Fiesta is the Pinata Bag. The Children will decorate them with Sandra Lahoz help and supplies were provided by the Hoffman Estates Park District. The Schaumburg Township Library will provide the Paper Mache' Flowers for the table decorations and the hanging flag garlands will be used again and Hispanic flag pics will adorn the tables in vases. Paper mache' flowers will be at the base like last year.
- Decorations: Kept flags from last year in flower vases. Last year, the Library contributed flowers, not crafts.

c. **January - Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast**

February - Black History Month

- Kathryn spoke to Granddaughter (Gigi) of Bessie Coleman – First Black Woman Pilot about being a Speakers at the next H.E. Black History event
 - Gigi's cost is \$1000, but she said that she wants to do the H.E. Black History event and she would work with H.E. CAC Chair, Kathryn.

- H.E. Speaker budget is \$200
- Tony Bradburn was the amazing 2025 MLK Breakfast Speaker. Part 2 of his lecture as a possible 2026 Speaker for Black History Month or MLK Breakfast.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Kathryn moved to adjourn the meeting and Karrie seconded. Voice vote: all in favor. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Minutes submitted by Renee McMullen on July 24th, 2025

The next meeting of the Cultural Awareness Commission (CAC) will be on Tuesday, August 5th, 2025.