

VILLAGE OF HOFFMAN ESTATES
CULTURAL AWARENESS COMMISSION (CAC)
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday August 5th , 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 Jean Stone Bonnie Wurster Renee McMullen Arlene Montanez Mimi Ferlita Jennifer Dobbins (New Member)	Sandra Lahoz – not excused Karrie Miletic - excused
Staff Liaison – Patrick Seger Staff Liaison – Cathy Doczekalski	

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from June 3rd, 2025, were approved.

Kathryn moved to approve the minutes with one correction indicating that the *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.* Bonnie second the motion with the correction made by Renee that there would be a donation for the AKA CHIPP program. Voice vote: all in favor. Patrick to research Roberts' rules regarding the protocol for a commission member making a motion for meeting minute approval for a meeting that they did not attend.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

V. Old Business

Kathryn, per discussion at the last CAC meeting, decided to survey some of the participants from the Unity Day event regarding the pork on the stick and if they liked it. Of the 15 surveyed, 6 of them did not like them. As a result, Jean suggested that we look at some other options. Kathryn suggested Italian Meat balls. The commission discussed other options and Kathryn suggested that the commission table this discussion for a future meeting and focus on our upcoming events Hispanic Heritage, MLK Jr. Breakfast and Black History month.

Kathryn provided information regarding a potential entertainer for Hispanic Heritage Fiesta event. Michel Dominique, Music Director was provided to Ximena, who is leading the event. Ximena will research.

Patrick was asked to reach out to Jose Verduzco to play at the event for a fee of \$350. Ximena provided an update for the commission on the upcoming Hispanic Heritage Fiesta. The speaker is already confirmed for the event. Patrick to send out an entertainment contract for the speaker fee of \$250. Ximena has contacted several of the past restaurants about their interest in providing food for the event. Valli food was discussed, and Ximena said they may not do the tamales. Kathryn mentioned that if we don't do the Tamela's, they may not provide a pinata for free. Ximena suggested that perhaps they would do the Mexican rice from Valli instead of Tony's. Also, the guacamole will be purchased from Valli.

As Kathryn is the contact for Valli, Ximena will let her know what she decides so Kathryn can let her contact at Valli know. The hope is that Valli will still provide the pinata, if not the commission will need to purchase. This will be worked out between Kathryn and Ximena.

Ximena also suggested other food items from various restaurants: The Churros from La Estrella Bakery, Pupusas from Cheros restaurant and Empanadas from Lenos. She also asked if commission members would be able to pick up the food for the event. Several volunteers come forward:

Susan will pick up food from Valli, as finalized, and Jean will pick up the Pupusas from Cheros.

Arlene will pick up Churros from La Estrella Bakery as well as Empanadas from Lenos.

Kathryn will not be attending the event, however, will be dropping flowers prior to the event to Patrick and Cathy. Kathryn also said that Joel Beverly, from the Schaumburg township library, will be bringing the crafts for the event.

Ximena confirmed during the meeting with Cathy that the Hispanic flags and banners were available. Ximena also said she would like to donate for the event only a decorative Banner that she has used at other events. Susan will purchase tablecloths and bring prior to event and drop off at Village Hall to Patrick and Cathy. She will purchase 35 of a variety of colors (Red, Yellow, Orange, Blue, Green, White).

Ximena said the event starts at 2:00 p.m. and all members will be asked to come at 12 noon that day. Also, for those commission member picking up the food, please be at Village Hall between 1:00 and 1:30 that day with the food.

Jose if available, will be at the event at 2:00 p.m., and play his guitar as the participants come in. Food will be served at 2:30 and the mayor will be asked to welcome crowd at around 2:50 p.m.

Speaker will be starting at 3:00 p.m. with performances (Hispanic and Latino Dance groups) performing at 3:25 and until approximately 4:10 p.m. The program will close with the pinata celebration for the children attending. Kathryn suggested that Martin Lopez from the Martin Lopez Academy may be someone Ximena would like to consider as he can play the violin in the hallway as guests come into the event. Kathryn has his contact information and was willing to share. Ximena indicated that she would get back to Kathryn if she felt it was something they would like to do and if it would fit within the budget.

Patrick and Cathy as in the past will make arrangements to purchase ice, plates, utensils, soda, juice and water from Sams Club.

It was suggested that we have a poster as well as cards about the foods that will be served as the guests are coming into the food line area as well as on the food line. Cathy indicated that she will provide.

Cathy asked if she can get more information about the types of sauce that comes with several of the dishes as it would helpful to provide the name of the sauce and if it is hot or mild. Ximena to provide that information to Cathy. Ximena also suggested that he would like the Pico De Gallo to be in small containers similar to the other sauces. Ximena will be checking with the restaurant to see if they can put in small containers. It was agreed by the commission to have the guacamole served via spoon for guests that request such with chips.

VI. CHAIRPERSON REPORT

Discussion about MLK and Black History month

She suggested Gigi Coleman who is the great niece of Betsy Coleman the first Black Women to fly a plane. She is willing to speak for \$600 down from her normal fee of \$1,000.

Kathryn also listed options that the commission can consider for either MLK Jr event and or Black History Month. She listed several options.

They will be looking into Ric Lockhart and Chris Blackshere. Also Char as entertainment and One Choir.

Pastors suggested for the invocation and Benediction were Paster Ken Fields and Reverand Shirley Welch or Reverand April Wells. Gloria Covington former AKA Chaplin and may be someone who may be an option. Renee to provide contact information to Kathryn.

Commission members suggested that information about Gigi Coleman be sent to the commission members.

Also, Orange Crush as entertainers would be also one of the options.

Kathryn asked if any of the commission members would be willing to volunteer in the coordination of the MLK Jr. Breakfast or the Black History Month event. Hearing none, Kathryn suggested that Jenny, as a new member, would be great at volunteering. She agreed and she will join Kathryn in the coordination of the event with Kathryn.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

The Commission welcome new member Jenny Dobbins to the commission.

Jean participated in the Juneteenth event and had a conversation with Demetrius Gibson about funds that may be available through the Schaumburg township. Patrick and Jean to reach out to Demetrius about the potential opportunity.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Kathryn moved to adjourn the meeting and Bonnie seconded. Voice vote: all in favor. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Minutes submitted by Patrick Seger

The next meeting of the Cultural Awareness Commission (CAC) will be on Tuesday, September 2, 2025.