

THE VILLAGE OF HOFFMAN ESTATES
4th OF JULY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, August 14, 2025

In Attendance:

Mayor Bill McLeod
Amy Decker

Linda Scheck
Karrie Miletic

Excused:

Mark Wondolkowski – Police Department
Michala Souronis – NOW Arena
Craig Kuehne
Pawel Sienko
Ben Gibbs
Alicia Guerrero

Village Staff:

Dan O'Malley, Deputy Village Manager
Jon Pape – Assistant Village Manager
Sue Tompkins – Finance Department
Kevin McGraw – Public Works Department
Hallie Karle – Administrative Events Assistant – General Government

Guest:

Doctor Robert Steinberg - resident

CALL TO ORDER

Linda called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm and introduced Doctor Robert Steinberg.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Karrie moved to approve the minutes of **July 10, 2025,** meeting seconded by Amy, vote taken, motion carried, minutes approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Doctor Steinberg asked the Commission to consider “best practices” from neighboring festivals; Frontier Days, Palatine celebration when planning 4th Fest 2026. Doctor Steinberg commented that the stage is too small, does not support the speaker size necessary to be heard up the hill. Consider a bigger stage or larger speakers. He asked if the Commission received the fireworks music playlist in advance for approval. He felt the music was not patriotic or inspiring. He asked if we changed our vendor or if we altered the contract for 2025. Finale was all one color. Dan noticed the same, one-color finale, he will speak with the vendor. We typically receive the size of shells being set off but have not addressed color in the past. Doctor Steinberg also questioned positioning the stage a bit further south on the existing site. Doctor Steinberg was pleased to see additional signage this year; no tents and no smoking signs could be increased.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion moved on to agenda items

NEW BUSINESS

A) Fireworks and Parade Dates

Commission discussed the fest week. Carnival is typically onsite Wednesday departing Sunday (7/1-7/5 in 2026). Mayor Bill asked that we remember 2026 is the 250th anniversary of the USA. We should find ways to focus on the celebration. Perhaps move the parade to another day than the 4th? At the previous month's meeting the Commission voted to hold the full fest Friday, July 3rd and Saturday, July 4th. Jon suggested we look at larger displays to celebrate the 250th anniversary. Doctor Steinberg asked if we were able to track where we were drawing our audience from. Linda shared the tracking report from the 2025 4th Fest showing the top 2 zip codes we attracted were 60169 and 60192 – Hoffman Estates - with over 26,300 in attendance that we could track via cell phone. Commission discussed that with the Holiday falling on a Saturday in 2026 many will take the Friday, 7/3 off rather than the following Monday 7/6. After much discussion Amy made a motion, seconded by Karrie that we hold the fireworks on Friday, July 3rd and the parade and drone show on Saturday, 7/4. Vote taken, 3 ayes, Mayor Bill no, motion carried.

B) Drone show

Amy shared that the Boomers put on a drone show that she watched and thought there were more transitions, more patriotic displays. Problem with drone shows – they have a limited battery life. Dan will try to speak to additional vendors for the drone show.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee reports were tabled to next month's meeting when more Commissioners would be in attendance.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Meeting will be on September 11, 2025, at 4:00pm at Village Hall

ADJOURNMENT

Karrie made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mayor Bill, motion carried, meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Linda Scheck- Food /Volunteer Chair 4th of July Commission