

**Village of Hoffman Estates
Sister Cities Commission Minutes
August 20, 2025**

Members in Attendance

Lillian Mosier, Chair
Jill Wood-Naatz, Vice Chair
Marcia Frank
Robin Jacobi
Cindy Ruszay
Terri Lamberti
David Chameli
Diana Murray
Mimi Wise
Lisa Christie
Vanya Castle
Jeff Howard

Members Absent

Anita Flanagan
Melissa Marscin
Fanja Raelijaona-Michel

Staff Liaison

Debbie Schoop

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Lillian Mosier called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Terri Lamberti, seconded by Marcia Frank, to approve the minutes of July 16, 2025.
Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Lillian reminded the Commission that Hoffman Estates Mayor Bill McLeod will be celebrating 45 years of public service at a reception to be held at the Hoffman Estates Village Hall on September 15, 2025, at 6 pm. Letters reflecting on Mayor McLeod's service are being collected. Lillian provided R.S.V.P. details and encouraged Commission members to attend.

David Chameli reviewed the updated draft of the Official Protocol between the Village of Hoffman Estates and the Angoulême. Discussion ensued and members provided changes/suggestions. David will present an updated draft at the next meeting.

5. STAFF LIAISON'S REPORT

Debbie informed the Commission that Ed Cook donated another painting to be used at the next fundraiser event. Although no value was provided by Mr. Cook, Debbie will talk with Ed about a value. There won't be an auction of this picture.

Debbie also updated the Commission on the unresolved reimbursement for medical expenses covered by a host family at the recent Angoulême soccer student exchange. Funds were inadvertently returned back to a bank in France due to vacation schedules. Efforts are underway to reverse the return and complete the reimbursement.

6. CURRENT SUB-GROUP REPORTS

A. Signature Exchanges:

1) Culinary

Jill confirmed that the length of stay of the 3 girls and 2 boys participating in the program will be extended. The new dates will be April 4-April 13, 2026. Although Sylvain has not yet confirmed this new date range, Jill will communicate with him by email again to get his confirmation and report back at the next Commission meeting.

2) Runners Exchange

Lisa reported that the exchange went very well and that Angoulême already has 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

Lisa reported that she successfully communicated with Danielle Roche and confirmed that the race will be held in Angoulême on April 4, 2026, and further, that the dates of the exchange will be March 31, 2026, to April 7, 2026. Lisa also said that they have identified two runners who will participate, and Mimi is working to find a third participant. Discussion ensued on the budget for this event and the following action was taken:

Motion by Lisa Christie, seconded by Mimi Wise ,to send up to three (3) people to the runners event in Angoulême with a maximum of \$600 for each runner for airfare in addition to train fare and one (1) night's stay. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Finally, Lisa reported that Danielle promised to report back on two open issues: Angoulême runners that will be sent to Hoffman Estates, and an update on any participation by the American football team in France known as the Marauders.

2) Comic

Terri has an appointment with Mayrena Guerrero, the Principal at Lincoln Elementary on August 27, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. to discuss comic artists making a visit to one of their classrooms on March 26, 2026. Terri also reported that she contacted Danielle about Angoulême artists travelling to Hoffman Estates next year and is awaiting a response back. Finally, David reported that he will follow up with his Schaumburg Library contact to discuss participation by Hoffman Estates at Schaumburg's next comic book show.

C. Special Projects:

Marcia Frank reported that she met with Susie Whipple to discuss the upcoming Wine and War event that will take place on November 14, 2025, from 6:30-9:30 pm. Marcia provided some interesting background on Susie and found her to be authentic and knowledgeable. Marcia felt that Susie and Lynn Brand will add sophistication to the event. Notice for registration will go out on October 1, 2026 and is limited to 80 people. Event registration fees were reiterated to be \$45 for guests and \$25 for members and spouses.

Marcia also reported that they sampled various desserts and wines for the evening. Wine selection, presentation, and service was discussed.

D. French Dinner Evening:

Lillian reported on the French Evening event. The gift basket effort has been very good with possibly 36 or 37 baskets to be donated. The Commission will assemble baskets on October 14, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at Village Hall.

Lillian reminded Commission members to continue their efforts to secure gift cards and gifts from area vendors. She encouraged coordination to avoid duplicate demands. Each Commission member was polled about their efforts and names of vendors that were contacted or will be contacted.

Jeff Howard provided an update on the menu and presentation style. Jeff also informed the Commission about a recent donation to the Sister City cause from a long-time supporter.

7. OTHER

Lillian discussed several updates involving the initiative for dementia awareness in both the Hoffman Estates and Angoulême communities and a possible music program exchange with Angoulême in the future.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Terri Lamberti, seconded by Robin Jacobi, to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by David Chameli.

The next meeting of the Sister Cities Commission will be 6:30 PM on September 17, 2025, in the Frank Alexa Room at the Village Hall.