

VILLAGE OF HOFFMAN ESTATES
CULTURAL AWARENESS COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday September 2nd, 2025

7:15pm – Conference Room – Village Hall

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kathryn McCord called the meeting to order at 7:16 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Present	Absent
Kathryn McCord- Chair Ximena Atristain-Bigurra Susan Cooper Jennifer Dobbins Mimi Ferlita Renee McMullen Karrie Miletic Bonnie Wurster	Sandra Lahoz - excused Arlene Montanez Jean Stone - excused
Staff Liaison – Patrick Seger Staff Liaison – Cathy Doczekalski	Public: Maswamba Musikiwamba

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES from August 5th, 2025

The minutes from August 5, 2025 were approved. Kathryn moved to approve the minutes; Bonnie seconded; voice vote: all in favor.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Maswamba Musikiwamba spoke: he said our group was "poorly advertised"; we need to let people know about our work; the Mayor showcases diversity in the Village; we need to elevate the Village; it takes a village to help people and children. He also asked why there were no men among Commission members.

Chair Kathryn addressed Musiki and said we are an action-oriented commission, we try to represent different cultures, and we are interested in bringing in participation.

Musiki left the meeting.

Commission members discussed Musiki's message about being more interactive with the community to spread cultural awareness. Rather than do more events, specific ideas were discussed to go out into the community -- paint a house, pack food, car wash, and career fair.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Hispanic Heritage Day - October 11, 2025. 2 PM to 4:30 PM .

Doors open 2 PM. Commissioners arrive at noon but those picking up food arrive by 1:30 PM.

- Entertainment
Ximena mentioned that she had connected with Michelle Dominick who would bring a group with 4-6 children to sing in Spanish while guests ate. No cost.
Ximena confirmed dances/groups from Bolivia, Argentina and Colombia. Backup dancers would be Adelita, Ecuadorian, and Chilean.
Cost - \$200 x 4 dance groups. Speaker \$250. Jose \$350. Patrick confirmed Jose would attend. Ximena said we won't go over budget.
Children's activity - Joel Beverly from the library will lead.
- Food
Ximena said each tamale, pupusa churro could be cut into 3 pieces.
Tamales \$1.49 each. Chicken and pork. 100 total.
Empanadas cannot be cut, but Ximena will ask if they can make them smaller. 75 chicken, 75 beef empanadas.
Pupusas 70/75 chicken.
Guacamole . 10 lbs. @ \$5.99 each.
Ximena said the rice dish from Valli will be Puerto Rican rice with gandules bean. One and a half trays.
- Concern
Renee asked how we should be prepared in case of a political activity (ICE action) during the event. Patrick said the Village would follow the law; however, he would speak to the Village Manager to ascertain the Village's position on this matter and that we could not prevent anyone from coming into our event as it was open to the public.

Mimi asked what we should do if radical groups came in. Patrick said our event was open to the public, people are allowed to protest, but in case of disruption, we could call the police.
- Flyer

Hallie can email us the flyer and we can pick up hard copies before the October meeting.

Patrick asked Renee to send him information on CHIPP fundraising so CHIPP could be included on the flier.

- Stage

Ximena asked if a stage could be put up. Patrick said it would be very expensive to set up and dismantle and that would impact their current budget. Ximena understood and then asked Patrick for measurements of the dance area. Patrick agreed to send them to her. Kathryn said she watched the video from Unity Day and noticed that people who were seated in front of the dancers were able to view much more of the dance than those who sat on the side and dance groups could be made aware of this.

MLK Breakfast - January 19, 2026.

- Entertainment

One Choir if they are available. Last time they were paid \$1000. Kathryn will ask Char if One Choir does not agree.

- Speaker

Rick Lockhart (cost \$250) or Kathryn will ask Tony Bradburn or April Wells.

- Benediction

Kathryn said Reverend Shirley Welch, Pastor Ken Fields, or Pastor Brandon Lowery.

- Newsletter

Articles for MLK and Black History Month must be submitted by November 21, 2025.

Black History Month - February 21, 2026. 2 to 4:30 PM.

- Entertainment

Kathryn said Hoffman High School's Orange Krush Majorettes agreed. No cost.

Kathryn asked if commission members had seen the Gigi Coleman video she sent and if we wanted her. Members did not want Gigi; they agreed for Kathryn to ask Funk Brotherz for entertainment. Cost was \$1,000 last time.

Other entertainers were mentioned but not accepted -- Jamaican reggae (does not fit Black History month) and a DJ (more suited to an evening event and a different crowd).

- Speaker
Chris Blackshear from the Funk Brothers as Speaker. Other possible Speaker is Tony Bradburn.

VI. NEW BUSINESS None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Kathryn and seconded by Bonnie to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote: all in favor. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:44 PM.

Minutes submitted by Susan Cooper on September 5, 2025

The next meeting of the Cultural Awareness Commission

will be on Tuesday, October 7th, 2025