

**Village of Hoffman Estates
Sister Cities Commission Minutes
October 15, 2025**

Members in Attendance

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

Members Absent

Melissa Marscin

Staff Liaison

Debbie Schoop, via electronic attendance

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Fanja Raoelijaona-Michel, seconded by Jeff Howard, to approve the minutes of September 17, 2025. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

4. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- A total of 100 people have registered for the French-themed evening
- The daughter of a previous host for Dave and Pat expressed interest in pursuing an internship at the fire department, suggesting ongoing connections and opportunities arising from Sister Cities relationships.
- Lilian proposed ordering a "Peace Poll" to be installed next year. This would honor deceased former members of the Sister Cities program, specifically Bob Dohn and Jean-Marc Bartsch, reflecting the commission's commitment to remembrance and legacy.
- Lilian discussed inviting Sylvain's director to visit next fall for the commission's 30th anniversary. The exact dates are yet to be determined, but the window is between October 17 and November 1, 2026.
- Lilian thanked all members who contributed to assembling baskets earlier today, with a total of 46 baskets prepared.

5. STAFF LIAISON'S REPORT

Tourtlot reimbursement update: Still pending.

6. CURRENT SUB-GROUP REPORTS

A. Signature Exchanges:

1) Culinary

- Jill confirmed the dates April 4–April 13, 2026 with Sylvain. During their last conversation, Sylvain mentioned that the tickets have already been purchased.
- The Commission discussed several activities they could enjoy during their stay, including Volo, Usinger's in Milwaukee, Chicago Wolves Game, and the Harley-Davidson Museum in Milwaukee.

2) Runners Exchange

- The race in Angoulême is confirmed for March 28, 2026. The three runners from Hoffman Estates will travel from March 24 to March 31.
- Lisa and her team should check with Danielle to see if she plans to send runners here in June.

B. Other Exchanges:

1) Sports

Football Exchange: Dave Pendergast, retired football coach at Conant High School, is interested in traveling to Angoulême to work with the Marauders Football American Club. The plan for this exchange is to send the coach there first.

2) Comic

- Terri communicated with Morgane (Danielle?) for possible Comics artists who want to come here, ideally, we would like to have 2 artists from Angouleme.
- We need to contact the organizers of C2E2 for our registration (C2E2 Dates: March 27, 28, 29)
- David is still in contact with someone at Schaumburg Library for a project

C. Special Projects:

- Wine and War event will take place November 14, 2025, from 6:30-9:30 pm. Four different wines have been selected for the event.
- 70 registered (80 max), Lilian reminded members to finalize their reservation with Debbie or online
- Lilian will buy laser pointer for the presentation

D. French Dinner Evening:

Jeff outlined the plan for Thursday and Friday to assist him. He shared details about the appetizers he will prepare, which include three hors d'oeuvres:

- Olive tapenade on toasted baguette
- Crudit  cups with hummus
- Endive leaves with Roquefort cream

On Thursday, the Commission will focus on cutting the vegetables, and on Friday, everything will be assembled.

Lilian will distribute the work schedule for members and their spouses during the event. Everyone needs to be there at 4:00 p.m.

7. **OTHER:** The Commission will move the November meeting to Nov. 12th because of the special project.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Marcia Frank, seconded by Anita Flanagan, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Fanja Raoelijaona-Michel