

**Village of Hoffman Estates
Sister Cities Commission Minutes
Date: November 11, 2025**

Members in Attendance

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

Members Absent

Fanja Raoelijaona-Michel
Melissa Marscin

Staff Liaison

Debbie Schoop

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Lillian Mosier called the meeting to order at 6:29 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Jeff Howard, seconded by Marcia Frank, to approve the minutes of October 15, 2025 meeting. Minutes were amended to correct spelling errors. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Lillian asked that when Commission members receive an email from either her or Debbie to please respond "Reply to all" in order to accurately keep track of responses.

A donation to the Committee was made by Virginia Hayter, former Hoffman Estates mayor and Village clerk. Lillian will send a thank you note.

5. STAFF LIAISON'S REPORT

Village Hall parking lot is scheduled to be completed on Thursday.

There is still no reimbursement from Angouleme for the medical expenses incurred by a host family during the soccer exchange. Lillian and Debbie will continue to pursue this. Articles for the January *Citizen* are due November 21. Debbie will include a revised article requesting host families for our exchanges.

6. **CURRENT SUB-GROUP REPORTS**

A. **Signature Exchanges**

1) **Culinary/Bon Appétit**

Lillian requested that Jill pursue some of the brainstorming excursion ideas that were produced at the last meeting, in particular, Usinger's, the Spice House, Pfister Hotel, and Miller Brewery in Milwaukee.

Lillian found Illinois sweatshirts at Walmart. After discussion, it was decided that Lillian would purchase them for gifts for the comic and culinary exchanges.

2) **Runners Exchange**

Lisa reported that we may be down to 2 runners going to Angouleme since one runner is moving to Florida. Lisa will get confirmation soon. The other runners have already purchased their tickets to France and will purchase train tickets closer to departure. She is still trying to confirm host families with Danielle and will ask the Rogans if they will again host the potluck.

Lillian received an email from Danielle. An Angouleme runner would like to bring his son with him with the purpose of his son doing an internship at the Village Hall during the exchange. The internship is problematic since there are many questions that need to be answered before this could happen. The comment was also made that it would be nice if other runners from Angouleme would come since this runner has already been here.

B. **Other Exchanges**

1) **Sports**

A proposal to the Angouleme Sister City Commission has been made by the Angouleme football team, the Marauders, to have 2 American coaches come for an exchange to work with their team in 2027. Ken Campbell has been working with this committee and has been in contact with David Pendergast who was a football coach at Conant High School. He is willing to go, but another coach would need to be found. To date, we haven't received the proposal from Angouleme.

2) **Comic**

Terri reported that she has been in contact with Morgane who has worked hard on her end to obtain comic artists who are interested in attending C2E2. There has been some difficulty finding interested artists due to the current political situation in the U.S. At the moment, there are 2 artists, Etienne and Andre. Andre is waiting for approval from the Angouleme commission because he is Brazilian and has been living in Angouleme for 8 years. Hopefully, Terri will hear soon so that we can take advantage of the early bird registration discount. The artists have asked if they can bring materials to sell or if they will need to pay tariffs. They are able to mail materials to the Village Hall. They could also bring comics to give to the students in the class they will be working with.

David said that Schaumburg Public Library is not doing its comic event this year. They will do it next year.

Lillian mentioned that it would be nice if we could highlight the fact that they are from Angouleme to attract people to their booth.

The itinerary is completed except for a few details.

After discussion, it was decided that we would purchase 2 badges for Commission members to attend the event to help.

C. Special Projects

For the “Wine and War” evening on Friday, the Commission will meet at 3:00 pm at the Village Hall to prepare for the evening. The decorations are not as extensive as for French Evening. There will be 20 tables with 4 people per table. All décor and wine will be brought down on Thursday with wine put in the refrigerator. David will bring computer cables so that Lynn Brand can hook her computer up for her presentation.

Timing for the evening was discussed regarding the serving of the various beverages, the hors-d’oeuvres, and the desserts. Champagne and Pineau will be served to guests on entry. Assorted cheeses (boursin, goat cheese with honey, brie) and crackers will be on the tables during Lynn Brand’s presentation. Leftover wine from the French Evening will be available for guests to take to their table to drink with the cheese and cracker plates. During the Q & A, tables will be cleared and depending on answers from Suzie Whipple reset with the dessert items for the wine tasting. 77 attendees are expected.

Door prizes are ready and are composed of books, tea towels, potholders, puzzles, 2 PRP certificates. Marcia will bring raffle tickets.

Debbie will have checks ready for the presenters on Friday.

D. French Evening

Lillian thanked all the Commission members for all the work they did at the French Evening. There were a lot of positive comments from guests about the venue, the food, the ambiance, the décor, etc. The event seemed to be well received by the public.

Debbie reported that despite having fewer guests, baskets, and certificates and an event price that was cheaper than last year, we only made \$7 less than last year. Total profit for this year’s evening was \$3, 792.00.

There were 3 items that didn’t sell: 2 PRP certificates and the firetruck ride to school. The PRP certificates will be used as door prizes for the Wine and War event. It was decided that the firetruck ride to school would be given to a student at the elementary school that the French artists are going to.

Ed Cook's painting didn't meet the reserve set for selling. The Commission decided that we would save it to be used at a future date.

Motion by Marcia Frank, seconded by Jill Wood-Naatz, to frame the artwork at a later date when it is decided how best to use it. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion passed.

Also discussed was the need to better advertise who Ed Cook is to promote more interest, possibly by an article in the *Citizen* prior to the next event.

To be discussed at the next meeting - date and location of the French Evening next year.

E. **New Business**

Vanya presented a future exchange idea for June 2027. There are new bike trails in the Paul Douglas Forest Preserve near Bell Works. She is proposing a mountain bike exchange between the Angouleme club and a local one. Practicing and racing are possibilities. A proposal needs to be made to Angouleme to gauge interest in this type of exchange. A representative from a local club could be invited to a meeting to discuss logistics. Another resource is Gary Pilafas who is on the Village Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

A proposal was received by David Pendergast who contacted Lillian about a firefighters' internship with 2 teenage students from Angouleme. Two chaperones would accompany the students. This would be in June 2026 and overlap the Runners' Exchange. Lillian hasn't receive a formal proposal from Danielle, so the future of plan is uncertain.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Terri Lamberti, seconded by Anita Flanagan, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Robin Jacobi.

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