

**Village of Hoffman Estates
Sister Cities Commission Minutes
Date: December 17, 2025**

Members in Attendance

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

Members Absent

Lisa Christie
Melissa Marscin

Staff Liaison

Debbie Schoop

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Lillian Mosier called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Jeff Howard, seconded by Robin Jacobi, to approve the minutes of November 11, 2025 meeting. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Lillian welcomed Susie Whipple to the Commission. Susie shared some background information on herself.

Lillian passed around two thank you notes for Commission members to sign. One note is for Virginia Hayter for her donation to the Commission and the other is for the Tourtelots to reimburse them \$175 for the ER visit of their exchange student that Angouleme finally sent.

After an article for host families for our 2026 exchanges was publicized in the *Citizen Newsletter* and in the *Daily Herald*, a woman reached out who may be able to take two people for exchanges.

The firefighter internship has been postponed until July 2027

5. STAFF LIAISON'S REPORT

Parking lot resurfacing is complete. Village Christmas decorations are in place and look very nice.

6. CURRENT SUB-GROUP REPORTS

A. Signature Exchanges

1) Culinary/Bon Appetit

The exchange is scheduled for April 4-13, 2026. The Bon Appetit will be on April 9, 2026 and the cupcake competition will be underwritten by Tate & Lyle. The potluck will be on April 12, 2026. Jeff will host Sylvain, the Rogans will host Maryline, Sarah Bruce will host a student, and the new person who contacted the Commission from Libertyville may host two students.

There was discussion to have the students attend Hoffman Estates High School's culinary class or a French class. Everyone agreed that they should attend a French class. A trip to Milwaukee may include a tour of Sprecher's, Safe House restaurant and Harley Davidson Museum. Locally, Chicago Culinary Kitchen was suggested for dinner.

2) Runners Exchange

Two runners, Malik Bounab and Nour Hussin, have their plane and train tickets, but Angouleme hasn't notified them of host families yet. French runners Matthieu and his son Valentin would like to come June 15-26, 2026, but the Commission thinks this is too long a time period, especially as many on the Commission will be leaving for France at month's end. Valentin would like to intern at Village Hall.

B. Other Exchanges

1) Sports

Two American Football coaches will be going to Angouleme in 2027 to work with the Marauders. Dave Pendergast and another coach TBD is interested in going.

There was a meeting between the owners of Crank Revolution and CAMBR (Chicago Area Mountain Bikers). The idea of an exchange of bikers with France was well received. A Zoom call will be scheduled in January between Lillian, Vanya, Cindy, TC & Jeremy (owners of CR) and a rep from CAMBR.

2) Comic

Artists will arrive here on March 25, 2026. They will visit Lincoln Elementary on March 26, and Deb will schedule a municipal visit during this time. We do not have the name of the student who will get to ride the firetruck to school yet.

The C2E2 runs March 27-29, 2026. We do not have names of the artists for the exchange from Angouleme yet. David needs the artists names for an early registration discount to C2E2. The Commission will buy two 3-day passes, one for David and one for Lillian and Vanya to share.

Plans for the three-day comic festival in Angouleme are in turmoil. The responsible fractions organizing the fest, city, museum and festival committee cannot agree on the focus of the festival, artist vs corporate.

C. Special Projects

The Commission has 280 wine glasses. All the feedback we received was positive and a lot of people asked if there was going to be a “2nd annual event”. There was discussion of too much food served at the Wine & War event. Leftover unopened wine will be used at Bon Appetit.

The subgroup will look into doing a spring program and May 2, 2026 is a possible date.

D. French Evening

Sylvain’s vacation is October 17-24, 2026 but he will not have students with him. He may be able to bring a couple of previous students with him and perhaps students from Harper can work with him. There was discussion regarding options for the 2026 French Evening. Jeff Howard reported that Poplar Creek’s kitchen is too small for us and Stonegate’s kitchen is undesirable, so the French Evening would have to take place again at Village Hall. Lillian proposed a “French Christmas Dinner” for our 30th anniversary be the theme for next year’s event. Since Sylvain is a French pastry chef, he could do a Bûche de Noël (yule log) and Friday October 23, 2026 would be the date.

Ed Cook’s painting remains unframed.

7. NEW BUSINESS

David Chameli reviewed the draft Charter. He will send new revisions to Deb.

There is a proposal in the U.S. Senate regarding border protection which asks all visitors coming to the U.S. to submit five years of past social media, contacts and web sites visited. Commission members were urged to contact their representatives as this would be detrimental to our mission.

8. OTHER

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Anita Flanagan, seconded by Susie Whipple, to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m. Voice vote taken, All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Vanya Castle

*The next meeting of the Sister Cities Commission will be at 6:30pm on
January 21, 2026 in the Frank Alexa Room at the Village Hall.*