

THE VILLAGE OF HOFFMAN ESTATES
4th OF JULY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, November 13, 2025

In Attendance: Linda Scheck Mayor Bill McLeod
Craig Kuehne Amy Decker
Pawel Sienko
Ben Gibbs

Excused: Karrie Miletic
Kevin McGraw – Public Works Department
Mark Wondolkowski – Police Department
Adam Marak – Police Department

Village Staff: Dan O'Malley, Deputy Village Manager
Jon Pape – Assistant Village Manager
Sue Tompkins – Finance Department
Hallie Karle – Administrative Events Assistant – General Government
Alicia Guerrero – Levy representative
Michala Souronis – NOW Arena

Guest: None

CALL TO ORDER

Linda called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Pawel made a motion, seconded by Mayor to approve the minutes from the **September 18, 2025** meeting, vote taken, motion carried, minutes approved. There was no quorum at the **October 9, 2025** meeting, no minutes to be approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

OLD BUSINESS

Fireworks: Dan and Jon reported that in their discussion with our vendor they requested them to bolster the show – in celebration of the 250th Anniversary. They will change up the color of the shells – then perform a false ending – then spring back with larger shells as a finale. They also requested more patriotic music. Dan advised they are looking at a different detonation site because of new developments adjacent to the Village Green if not in 2026 then in 2027.

Drone Show: Dan and Jon have been researching new drone vendors. Our past vendor, UAV, is nonresponsive. Show was not impressive last year. UAV is out of State. Dan and Jon spoke to Chicago Aerials about a 300-drone show. The cost would be prohibitive at \$65K. They suggested a 200 drone show that would be a more active show. Dan and Jon negotiated the price down to \$47,500. All drone shows max out at 13-16 minutes due to battery time. We could have 2 custom logo /animations in the show. Amy asked that we have less logos and more patriotic animations instead. Pawel advised last year's sponsor paid \$12K. Commission suggested this year's sponsor's logo be included and the Village logo.

Craig made a motion, seconded by Ben to accept the 2026 Fireworks Contract and work with Chicago Aerial for the drone show in 2026. Vote taken, motion passed, contracts approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Move to Committee reports

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SPONSORS – Wintrust wants to sponsor the stage. Pawel is reaching out to Elgin Kia to sponsor the drone show again. He is in talks with McNally Heating and Cooling, Main Event and Ascension.

PARADE – Amy and Hallie have been reaching out to area high schools looking for a marching band . They are mixing up the line up to spread the musical acts throughout the parade. Linda asked if the Fire department could have a way to blow bubbles at crowds watching. They will reach out to Village Departments and other Commissions to put a float together for the parade. Jon asked that we have parade marshals along the parade route to eliminate large gaps. Jon said they still have about 3,000 red candy buckets left over. Looking at other giveaways that would celebrate the 250th Anniversary to be distributed along the parade route or at the fest site.

MARKETING – Craig is researching other communities’ websites for innovative ideas. One idea was to have “Bluey” as a draw. Extremely popular with families with littles. Amy suggested a photo op wall for selfies celebrating the 250th Anniversary. Perhaps installed across from the food vendor booth on the parkway.

KIDS ZONE – no report

ENTERTAINMENT – Ben advised that the sound vendor, Diversified has increased the price by \$150. Leasing the same size stage as last year with SESG has a price increase of \$450. Craig made a motion, seconded by Pawel to accept the increases and contracts with Diversified for the Sound System and SESG for the Stage, vote taken, motion approved, contracts accepted with increases.

The main stage line up with be:

Friday, July 3rd – Hello Weekend to open for 7th Heaven – Fireworks night

Saturday, July 4th – David’s House opening for Rod Tuff & the Bench Press – Drone Show night

BEER – yes, there will be beer.

PUBLIC WORKS – no report

CARNIVAL/FIREWORKS/DRONE SHOW – discussed in new business

BINGO – no report

POLICE – no report

FOOD VENDORS/VOLUNTEERS – Linda will send out applications in January. All who attended last year expressed their interest to return. We had 9 in the food vendor tent and 9 food trucks last year.

OTHER BUSINESS

Linda asked if the commission would agree to cancel the December meeting. All agreed. The next meeting will be on Thursday, January 8th at 4:00pm at Village Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

Pawel made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mayor, vote taken, motion carried, meeting adjourned at 4:59pm.

Respectfully submitted – Linda Scheck, Food/Volunteer chair