

Sister Cities Commission Minutes

Date: January 21, 2026

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
Lisa Christie
Robin Jacobi
Melissa Marscin
Susie Whipple

Members Absent

Fanja Raoelijaona-Michel

Staff Liaison

Debbie Schoop

Guests

Katie Jorkon

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Terry Lamberti, seconded by Jeff Howard, to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2025 meeting with spelling/grammar corrections. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Lillian recognized our newest member, Susie Whipple, and introduced Katie Jorkon who would like to join the Sister Cities Commission as soon as she is interviewed.

Lillian reported the following:

- Cindy Ruszay has resigned from the commission.
- Changes were made to members on the sub-groups.
- The draft Protocol was sent to Danielle - the word "charter" was changed to "protocol."
- Sylvain is planning to come to the French Evening in October despite the fact he has to pay his own transportation.
- Lillian thanked Robin for all her help organizing the storeroom and asked members who may take anything from the storeroom to put any items back in the same place.

5. STAFF LIAISON'S REPORT

Debbie Schoop reported that annual dues have been paid.

The deadline for advertising in the March/April *Citizen* is Friday, January 23. The deadline for the next issue for May/June is at the end of March.

6. CURRENT SUB-GROUP REPORTS

A. Signature Exchanges

1. Culinary/Bon Appetit

Jill reported that the exchange will be April 4-13, 2026. The Bon Appetit will be April 9. Chef Sylvain's kids cooking class will be April 7 at 7:00 pm with a limit of 12 people. Robin is hosting the potluck dinner at her home on April 12 at 6:00 p.m.

Lillian sent revised guidelines for the cupcake competition to Dean Heather Johnson at Harper College.

Activities for the students include a day in Milwaukee. Jill, Lillian, Mimi and Katie will drive. Other activities in Chicago are being decided.

2. Runners Exchange

Lisa reported that the runners exchange to Angouleme is March 24-31. The runners are Malek Bounab and Nour Hussein. Air and train tickets are purchased. The exchange here will be June 21-29, 2026. The Stars & Stripes race is June 27. The potluck will be on June 29 at the Rogan's.

Matthieu and Valentine Philippine will be running. Valentine (age 15) will have an internship with the Village from June 22-26 and the itinerary is being developed with staff.

B. Other Exchanges

1. Sports/New

Vanya reported that a mountain biking exchange is planned for 2027. Vanya has been in contact with Crank Revolution in Hoffman Estates. He will lend bikes to use during the exchange. Crank Revolution will need the height and weight of the participants. There is an all-terrain bike club in Angouleme.

The firefighters' exchange is planned for 2027.

The football exchange is on hold.

2. Comic

Terri reported that the comic exchange in Hoffman Estates is March 22-30, 2026. David Chameli will be hosting the two comic artists and the Chamelis are hosting the potluck on March 29 at 6pm.

The C2E2 is scheduled for Friday-Sunday, March 27-29. Plans include a local day, Chicago Willis Tower and art studios. There will be a learning experience led by Andie and Antiem for two 6th grade classes at Lincoln Elementary on Thursday, March 26.

C. Special Projects

Marcia reported that there will be a presentation called “Monet Lives” by Jim Parks on Saturday, May 2 at 11:00 am. Jeff has planned a delicious lunch following the program. Ticket price will be \$25 and will be capped at 70 guests.

There is a tentative fall event to be held on September 12, 2026.

D. French Evening

This dinner - Bonnes Fetes – will be held at Village Hall on Friday, October 23, and will celebrate our 30th anniversary and the typical cuisine of the holidays in France. Sylvain will assist Jeff in the development of the menu and the preparation of the food for the dinner. We are excited to have Sylvain lend his talents and expertise for this special occasion this year.

7. NEW BUSINESS

8. OTHER

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Anita Flanagan, seconded by Vanya Castle, to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m. Voice vote taken, All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Mimi Wise.

*The next meeting of the Sister Cities Commission will be at 6:30pm on
February 25, 2026 in the Frank Alexa Room at the Village Hall.*