

VILLAGE OF HOFFMAN ESTATES
CULTURAL AWARENESS COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday February 3rd, 2026

7:15pm – Conference Room – Village Hall

I. CALL TO ORDER

A motion was made by Jean and seconded by Renee to approve remote participation. Motion passed; all in favor.

Chair Kathryn McCord called the meeting to order at 7:17 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Present	Absent
Kathryn McCord- Chair - remote Ximena Atristain-Bigurra Susan Cooper Jennifer Dobbins Mimi Ferlita Renee McMullen Karrie Miletic Aisha Najma Jean Stone Bonnie Wurster - remote	Sandra Lahoz - excused Arlene Montanez - excused Saif Sultan - excused
Staff Liaison – Patrick Seger Staff Liaison – Cathy Doczekalski	

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES from January 6th, 2026.

Renee moved to approve the minutes; Karrie seconded; voice vote: all in favor. The minutes from January 6, 2026 were approved.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Maarten Tonneyck spoke: he said he was in Hoffman’s Arts Commission for a while and was curious about the Cultural Awareness Commission and the work it does. He has organized music and painting events; also did inter-faith activities on the South side of Chicago.

V. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Kathryn said she wished she could attend in-person and not be remote.

VI. STAFF REPORT

None

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Black History Month is to be held on Saturday February 21st 2026. 2 PM to 4:30 PM .
Commissioners arrive at 12:30 to set up.

Doors open 1:30 PM; Kids' craft begins – Joel from Schaumburg Library will provide a craft about Black History. The schedule for the day is as follows:

Welcome and Food – 2 to 2:30 PM

Introduce the Mayor. 2:30 PM to 2:35 PM.

Funk Brotherz play twice, 2:35 PM to 3 PM and at the end

Chris Blackshear is the Speaker; given 30 minutes. 3 to 3:30 PM

Orange Crush Majorettes from Hoffman High School. 3:30 PM to 3:45 PM.

Thank you and introduce CAC members.

Funk Brotherz play again at end.

Patrick said he will ask Hallie to send us this schedule.

Other matters – a changing room will not be needed as the Majorettes will already be in costume, but Patrick will ask Eboni about this and about their audio/technology needs. Bonnie said he should also ask Eboni how much space she needs. Patrick said the space will be U-shaped similar to the one for Hispanic Heritage Day.

Patrick also asked if the Funk Brotherz have all of their equipment or if they need to use Hoffman's equipment.

Kathryn will ask Chris if he needs PowerPoint/visuals. Also, parents of the Majorettes need to be invited.

Reserved tables will be marked for the Mayor and trustees, another for the high school group and a third table for the Funk Brotherz. Have each group's names on the signs that say Reserved.

Food – from Jewel – chicken lunch and five trays of cookies (no nuts). Kathryn said she will cut down chicken orders to 96 + 48 packs. To be picked up by Karrie at 12 PM from the Jewel at Roselle and Higgins

Karrie has already purchased tablecloths and Patrick will get paper plates, cups, and beverages.

The centerpieces and banner may be dropped off by Bonnie. She will let Patrick know if she can bring them prior to the event.

Ximena and Renee will not attend. Jennifer will leave early due to work. Kathryn will try to attend.

Copies of the flier have been given to Commissioners for distribution among the public.

Kathryn will reach out to Demetrius to see if he is interested in being the MC. If he cannot, Kathryn will and Jean will be the backup.

The AKAs will run the registration table.

MLK Breakfast

Commissioners said the event was fabulous; the Speaker (Tony Bradburn) was extraordinary; the entertainment was good and the food was great.

About 220 people were expected (RSVPed) but 200 attended probably because of the cold weather.

Ximena said she arrived at 6:30 AM and was looking for a lead to direct the set up.

The sororities helped a lot with the set up and registration.

Karrie said the food drive was successful as many food items were collected.

Patrick said the food served at the event was sufficient, but eggs were left over. Cathy said only one juice pack was leftover.

Karrie said she was proud to be part of Hoffman.

Commissioners complimented Jean for her role as MC. They agreed that Demetrius was good too.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Unity Day – Saturday May 30th, 2026, 12 PM to 3:30 PM

Entertainment - Kathryn said these are likely to return – children from the Martin Lopez Academy playing the violin, Edizon Dayao and the Ukrainian Cossacks group. The Bollywood group is likely a yes but she will need to double-check.

Kathryn has reached out to a mariachi band with a letter in Spanish (translated by Sandra). They charge \$600 per hour. CAC members said we should let the mariachi group know we don't want them for an hour but they would get exposure and publicity if they did 20 minutes for us.

Kathryn said if the mariachi group does not come through, she will ask Adelita or the Aztec group.

She asked Patrick to follow up with the Academy of Irish Music.

Maarten said he knows a Korean group that plays big drums. He will contact them to see if they are interested; if so, Maarten will give the Korean group Kathryn's contact information. Maarten also mentioned there is a concert at the Korean Cultural Center in Wheeling.

The library is doing a craft.

The tentative food menu is Italian meatballs from Garibaldi's and Greek chicken. The rest will be vegetarian – samosas, spring rolls, tres leches cake, kolacki, Chinese fried rice and guacamole & chips.

Hispanic Heritage Day – October 10th 2026

Ximena said she is interested in getting a grant from the Schaumburg Township (mentioned by Demetrius in 2025). Patrick asked her about her budget. She said good entertainment costs \$ 500 per group; four groups will be 4 x 500. Patrick and Kathryn, both reacted that was expensive for the limited performance time. Patrick said he is not sure about CAC partnering with a local non-profit government agency such as the Township , and the preferred option would be for the Village to do events on their own.

Jean said we should discuss with Demetrius what this partnership would mean. Jean asked what the fine print might say and what the Township might want from us when they give us this grant.

Ximena said she tries to work within the budget. In 2025, the budget for Hispanic Heritage Day was \$2,850 and she spent \$2,600.

Patrick also mentioned that we could discuss (this spring and summer) increasing the budget for 2027. Patrick also said, the commission will need to have program details with proposed budget numbers that will further justify any suggested increases in the budget.

Patrick's Retirement

Patrick said he will retire on May 15th, 2026, after 21 years at the Village and 20 years on CAC; he will attend Commission meetings and events until then; he won't attend Unity Day. Chair Kathryn said Patrick is loved by all and will be missed.

Links – partnership

Renee spoke about CAC partnering with Hoffman Estates Links at a “Know Your Rights” Seminar on April 18th, 2026. The topic will be “Accessing and Affording a Higher Education”.

Potential invitees/speakers include Dr. Avis Proctor of Harper College. Information about higher education would be available at the event and snacks would be served.

Hoffman Estates Links has been serving the community for 41 years.

Patrick said the Village can have a room available for the event but he wanted to know more about this partnership and if it would be presented by CAC and Links. Renee said Links wants space for the event and a note in the Citizen. He asked commissioners what we thought of this partnership. Jean said it aligns with our mission.

Patrick will check with the Village Manager and get back to Renee and Kathryn if this is something the Village can do in such a short period of time, but said he likes the education on resources to achieve higher education.

Patrick will check with the Village and get back to Renee and Kathryn.

Ximena made a motion for CAC to partner with Links. Kathryn seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Ximena and seconded by Jennifer to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote: all in favor. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM.

Minutes submitted by Susan Cooper on February 5th, 2026

The next meeting of the Cultural Awareness Commission

will be on Tuesday, March 3rd, 2026