

**Village of Hoffman Estates
Sister Cities Commission Minutes
Date February 25, 2026**

Members in Attendance

Lillian Mosier, Chair
Robin Jacobi
Katie Jorkon
Anita Flanagan
David Chameli
Marcia Frank.
Diana Murray
Mimi Wise
Terri Lamberti
Lisa Christie

Members Absent

Jeff Howard
Vanya Castle
Jill Wood-Naatz
Melissa Marscin
Susie Whipple
Fanja Raoelijaona- Michel

Staff Liaison

Debbie Schoop

Guests

Nick Jorkon
Ana Grecu

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

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

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Anita Flanagan, seconded by Terri Lamberti, to approve the minutes of January 21, 2026 meeting with changes. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

4. **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Lisa Christie was acknowledged and congratulated for being voted Woman of the Year by the Hoffman Estates Chamber of Commerce.

Lillian provided a recap of the Commission's activities for the 2025 year to the Illinois Sister Cities organization.

Lillian shared a New Year's card received from Danielle with the art of Geoff Bevington.

Future Minute-takers for 2026:

March-Lisa	August-David
April-Susie	September-Melissa
May-Marcia	October-Fanja
June-Jeff	November-Robin
	December-Diana

5. **STAFF LIAISON'S REPORT**

Debbie Schoop reported that a formal letter was sent to Mayor Bonnefont advising him that Mayor McLeod's wife, Joane, will not accompany him to Angouleme. Trustees Gary Pilafas and Gary Stanton and his wife will be joining him.

Debbie asked that when there will be multiple receipts to submit for reimbursement to hold them and submit them together if possible.

6. **CURRENT SUB-GROUP REPORTS**

A. **Signature Exchanges**

1) **Culinary/Bon Appétit**

The date of the exchange is April 4-13, 2026

Host family meeting will be on March 9, 2026 at Jill's home.

Kids cooking class on April 7 at Village Hall at 7pm. Robin, Mimi, Marcia, Jill, Diana, and Lillian will assist Chef Sylvain and Jeff. Jeff has been asked to provide the recipe in English for all participants. Jeff will be shopping for the supplies needed for the events and Diana will help.

Robin will host potluck dinner on April 12th at 6 pm. A sign-up sheet for food was distributed.

Bon Appetit will be held on April 9, 2026 at Bell Works. A better set-up will be discussed regarding the cupcake competition and where the Commission will be stationed. The cupcake competition will end at 7pm with winners announced at 7:15pm. Lillian will prepare the basket for the raffle. Debbie will purchase the tickets for the commissioners attending and helping at the event.

The following commissioners will pick up and deliver lunches/dinners: April 7-Robin; April 8-Terri and April 9-Lillian.

2) **Runners Exchange**

The date of the exchange to Angouleme is March 24-31, 2026. Runners are Malek Bounab and Nour Husseini. Both are ready for the exchange.

The exchange for the Stars and Stripes event will be June 21-June 29 with race on June 27th. Rogan's will host the potluck that evening.

Itinerary is a work in progress. The committee will work with the Village to prepare an itinerary to accommodate the internship that is being developed.

B. Other Exchanges

1) Sports

Katie Jorkon shared a proposal for a Mountain Biking Exchange sometime in 2027.

Robin Jacobi shared a proposal for a Music Exchange in June of 2027.

Both proposals will be presented this summer during the Commission's visit to Angouleme. Both proposals will be shared with Danielle ahead of time.

2) Comic

Comic exchange takes place here from March 22-30. The C2E2 is scheduled for Friday-Sunday March 27-29. The Commission was unable to attain a table at the artist gallery. Landis will be asked to share his table.

Motion by Robin Jacobi, seconded by Mimi Wise, to share ½ the cost of the table. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Posters of Andre and Etienne have been provided by the Village. The Commission has purchased 2 tickets to be shared for the event. The Itinerary is fluid. David has suggested that Andre and Etienne attend The Zhou B Museum open house on Friday.

Everything is in place for the learning experience to be led by Andre and Etienne for two 6th grade classes at Lincoln Elementary on Thursday, March 26, 2026. David is working on providing Comic Books for the students.

The potluck will be held on March 29, 2026 at the Yarwood's. A sign-up sheet for food was distributed.

C. Special Projects

A presentation "Monet Lives" by Jim Parks will be held on Saturday, May 2, at 11 a.m. This will be followed by a luncheon. Ticket price is \$25 and attendance will be capped at 75 participants. A flyer has been prepared for distribution.

D. French Evening

Plans continue for the "Bonnes Fetes" to be held on October 23, 2026. The baskets will be set up in the corridor with security provided by the Village due to early voting at Village Hall during that time and voting machines set up in the Lam Room. Chef Sylvain and Jeff will be meeting with Catering Made Simple when he is here in April.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion occurred regarding ordering more Hoffman Estates pins and flag pins to share when the Commission visits Angouleme this summer. Debbie will order.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Lisa Christie, seconded by Marcia Frank, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Anita Flanagan.

*The next meeting of the Sister Cities Commission will be
6:30pm on March 18, 2026 in the Frank Alexa Room at the Village Hall*