

**Village of Hoffman Estates
Sister Cities Commission Minutes
Date March 18, 2026**

Members in Attendance

Lillian Mosier, Chair
Katie Jorkon
Anita Flanagan
Susie Whipple
Marcia Frank
Diana Murray
Terri Lamberti
Lisa Christie
Fanja Raoelijaona- Michel
Jeff Howard
Robin Jacobi
Vanya Castle
Jill Wood-Naatz

Members Absent

Melissa Marscin
David Chameli
Mimi Wise
Nick Jorkon

Staff Liaison

Debbie Schoop

Guests

Ana Grecu
Patti Swanson

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Lillian Mosier called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Jeff Howard, seconded by Robin Jacobi, to approve the minutes of February 25, 2026 meeting with changes. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Welcome to Nick Jorkon as our newest commissioner. We are now full now as a commission.

Lillian put together a basket for the Bon Appetit and gave it to Lisa Christie to take to the Hoffman Estates Chamber of Commerce.

5. STAFF LIAISON'S REPORT

Debbie Schoop reported that she ordered 100 pins for us to hand out in France. She is still working on the internship for Valentin no other report.

6. CURRENT SUB-GROUP REPORTS

A. Signature Exchanges

1. Culinary/Bon Appétit

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

Jill had a host family meeting with 5 families. The itinerary is completed. Robin will take all the students to the airport. Jeff will coordinate the time to meet based on the flight time. He will monitor the flight and be the contact person if any changes need to be made. Sylvan and 5 students will be coming.

Kids cooking class will be held on April 7 at Village Hall at 7pm. One person is currently signed up. 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 announced that there are only 2 competitors for the cupcake competition this year. Lillian will reach out to Dr. Ivory at Harper College to promote more. Robin suggested seeing if we can get high school involvement to have more participation. Lillian will have to speak with the Chamber of Commerce. Lillian passed out the work schedule.

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.

Lisa and Mimi had zoom meeting with Malek and Nour. They are excited and ready to go. Malek set up a group “What’s App” for communication. Malek and Nour will both come to the April 15th meeting to report on their experiences during the exchange.

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

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. Lisa will confirm 3pm for potluck with the Rogan’s.

B. Other Exchanges

1. Sports

Melissa, Nick, Katie, Vanya and Lillian will be the committee members for this exchange. Vanya mentioned that Crank Revolution has moved, but is still in Hoffman Estates.

2. Comic

Comic exchange takes place here from March 23-31. The C2E2 is scheduled for Friday-Sunday March 27-29.

Terri mentioned that Andre will not be able to come due to his wife’s eye surgery. The Comite des Jumelages is trying to find a replacement for him. Etienne will still be coming. Lillian will be joining for lunch on Tuesday afternoon.

The itinerary is all set and they are ready to go.

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. Marcia asked that Commission members notify Hallie if they will be attending and to pay for themselves. They currently have 35 registered participants. 12 Commission members confirmed they will attend. Marcia will know by next meeting whether they can set up on the night before or if everyone has to be there in the morning to set up. Several Commission members will be needed to help Jeff with food preparation on Friday and Saturday.

Marcia proposed an event in September for French movie night. Discussion occurred regarding the date of September 12 or the 19th for the event. Deb will be checking on date of September 19 to see if it is available due to Rosh Hashanah on September 12.

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

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 Lisa Christie.

*The next meeting of the Sister Cities Commission will be
6:30pm on April 15, 2026 in the Frank Alexa Room at the Village Hall*