

**VILLAGE OF HOFFMAN ESTATES  
CULTURAL AWARENESS COMMISSION**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday April 7th, 2026**

*7:15pm – Conference Room – Village Hall*

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Kathryn McCord called the meeting to order at 7:16 PM.

**II. ROLL CALL**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Kathryn McCord- Chair Jennifer Dobbins Mimi Ferlita Renee McMullen Karrie Miletic Arlene Montanez Bonnie Wurster Aisha Najma Jean Stone Ximena Atristain-Bigurra	Susan Cooper – excused Sandra Lahoz – excused
Staff Liaison – Patrick Seger Staff Liaison – Cathy Doczekalski	Guest- Maarten Tonneyck

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES from March 3, 2026.**

Kathryn moved to approve the minutes; Bonnie seconded; voice vote: all in favor. The minutes from March 3, 2026, were approved.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**V. CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT**

Kathryn stated everything is in order for Unity Day – see details below.

**VI. STAFF REPORT**

None

## VII. OLD BUSINESS

**Unity Day** – Saturday, May 30, 2026, 12:00 PM to 3:30 PM

**CAC meet at 10:30 AM SHARP!** Doors open at 11:30 AM

If an issue arises, please call Kathryn on her cell phone: 847-208-6033.

Cathy: Doubled the number of copies of the lovely Unity Day flyers and brought them to our meeting. *CAC: Get the flyers out and advertise!*

Volunteer Organizations: GRW-NW Women’s Club – four members in the Kitchen / Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (AKAs) – Registration & Future Events Sign-Up

CAC: Place tablecloths & flowers on tables / Roll silverware / Help wherever there is a need

### CAC Participation:

Set-Up – Jennifer, Aisha, Bonnie, Maarten /

Kitchen – Mimi, Ximena

Children’s Craft – Carrie

Registration – Renee

Maybe in Attendance – Arlene, Jean

Karrie: Purchasing 40 pastel plastic tablecloths.

### Food Pickup

Patrick – Sam’s Club - Tortilla Chips, Water, Pop, Plates, Utensils

Kathryn – Friday 5/29 – Flowers & Polish Kolaczki

Ximena – Saturday 10 AM – Tres Leches Cake

Ximena – Saturday 10:30 AM – Samosas

Renee – Saturday 11 AM Valli Produce - Guacamole & Spring Rolls

Restaurant Delivery - Italian Meatballs, Greek Chicken, and Fried Rice

Entertainment - will consist of Edizon Dayao, Korean Performing Art Youth Ensemble, Academy of Irish Music, the Martin Lopez Academy, the Ukrainian Cossacks group as well as the India Bollywood group.

Kathryn said two crafts will be available for the Children – one from the Schaumburg Township Library and one from the Hoffman Estates Park District. Both organizations have agreed to participate.

Prior to the final act, Kathryn will express the “Thank Yous” and introduce CAC.

Future Unity Day Considerations: Karrie said consider moving Unity Day outside. Years ago, Unity Day was outside at the Village Green. An alternative plan is needed in case of rain. Kathryn said maybe in 2027, Unity Day can be held at the NOW Arena.

**Hispanic Heritage Day** – October 10, 2026, 2:00 PM – 4:30 PM

News article will be due at the June meeting.

Theme: Contribution of the Hispanic Community

Interview as a Presentation

Hispanics Behind the Scenes

Resources: Pat Barch, Hoffman Estates Historian / Hispanic Chamber of Commerce / Rebecca Martinez Omara, Corporate Executive (Jean will contact) / Local Business e.g. Estrella Bakery

Entertainment – Ximena is talking to various Groups - Cost/Budget is \$250-\$300 per Group

Aurora Mexican Group

Venezuela and Colombian Groups from last year

Jose Verduzco – Guitarist \$350

Schaumburg Library will provide the Pinata and Crafts.

Decorations

Cathy has the paper flowers and flags from last year and Ximena has colorful decorations from last year.

Schedule (preliminary)

2:55 PM Mayor McCleod Speaks

3:20 – 4:15 PM Dance / Performances

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Budget Increase for MLK Day, Black History, and Hispanic Heritage events

Patrick: Strategy – Write-up as a measure to increase community involvement and to promote the culture. For example, we want to invite the Baptist Choir – One Choir from Chicago, but the cost is \$3000.

DUE DATE for Budget Increase is our July Meeting.

Arlene will reach out to Pastor Robbie Robinson to see if Christian Tabernacle Church Choir would participate.

Hispanic Heritage increase \$250 - \$300 per Entertainment Group from current \$200 per Group. This is a stipend – not paid as entertainers.

Funding has been suggested from Demtrius Gibson, Schaumburg Township Trustee, however that will change the dynamic of events if we enter into a partnership with another organization. This would require additional discussion among the Commission as well as discussion with the Village on partnerships.

#### IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote: all in favor. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

**Minutes submitted by Renee Edwards McMullen, Ed.D. on April 28, 2026**

**The next meeting of the Cultural Awareness Commission**

**will be on Tuesday, May 5, 2026**