

**VILLAGE OF HOFFMAN ESTATES
PLATZKONZERT COMMISSION
MINUTES
February 9, 2026**

Members in Attendance:

Gary Pilafas, Chair
Wendy Schmidt, Co-Chair
Linda Dressler
Jeremy Janhke
Gene Walters

Members Absent:

Ken Busch

Others in Attendance:

Ben Gibbs
Eric Palm
Michala Souronis
Alicia Guerrero
Craig Kuehne

Paul Sienko
Kayla Fletcher
Lauren Kincannon
Brian Fulkerson
Arturo Abod (Junior)

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

Co-Chair Wendy Schmidt called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

II. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Wendy Schmidt made a motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Linda Dressler. Motion approved by voice vote.

III. Public Comment

None.

IV. Old Business

None.

V. New Business

None.

VI. Committee Reports

• **TENT/LAYOUT – JEREMY JANHKE**

- Michala Souronis distributed the updated site layout. (See attached.)

• **ENTERTAINMENT – BEN GIBBS**

- Ben reviewed the proposed band lineup. Commissioner Wendy Schmidt made a motion to approve the bands; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Linda Dressler.
- Approximately 90% of the bands are German-themed.
- Friday
 - Ed Wagner Band – 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
 - Alpine Blast – 7:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
- Saturday
 - Alpine Thunder – 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 - Die Musikmeister – 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

- Hello Weekend – 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
- Sunday
 - Mike Schneider Band – 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
 - Tally Ho Brass Band – 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- A truck convoy is already scheduled in the West Parking Lot on Saturday. Special Olympics will be included as an official Platzkonzert charity. **Ben Gibbs** will speak with John Bending and invite him to the April meeting to discuss participation. Ideas discussed included a Special Olympics table, T-shirt sales, a 30-minute on-stage segment, and a potential convoy drive-by on Prairie Stone Parkway.
- **Ben Gibbs** will confirm the Chicago Bears game schedule in April and explore incorporating game viewing into Platzkonzert programming.
- **Linda Dressler** will confirm with the German Dancers (HOTT Productions) whether they prefer to perform on Saturday or move to Sunday. They prefer the main stage over the grass performance area. **Ben Gibbs** to find a replacement for the other opening.
- **The committee** was asked to brainstorm ideas to increase Friday night attendance. Suggestions included fireworks (Paul Sienko to explore a \$15,000 sponsor), beer tasting events, and partnerships with local breweries or restaurants such as Lucky Monk or The Gregory.
- Additional items discussed: Dachshund Dash – **Ben Gibbs** to locate and post photos of last year's winners and reserve the video board.
- **FOOD/BEVERAGE – ARTURO ABOD/ALECIA GUERRERO**
 - **Alicia Guerrero** will work on menu planning
- **KINDERPLATZ – LINDA DRESSLER**
 - The updated site layout expands the Kinderplatz area.
- **GAMES – GARY PILAFAS/WENDY SCHMIDT**
 - Discussion included charging an entry fee for games, with a portion of proceeds benefiting Special Olympics. Square will be used for fee collection.
 - Stein Hoisting Contest – Boy Scouts to serve as judges.
 - Devil's Wheel – A spinning endurance game; **Ben Gibbs** will investigate feasibility.
- **VOLUNTEERS – WENDY SCHMIDT**
 - Additional volunteers are needed for Kinderplatz.
- **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS – WENDY SCHMIDT/BEN GIBBS**
 - The schedule was updated. (See attached.)
- **MAKERS MARKET/VENDORS – MICAELA SOURONIS**
 - The Makers Market will return this year.
 - Adjust hours for 2026 to allow for extended operation.
- **GRANTS – BEN GIBBS**
 - **Ben Gibbs** will apply for grants again this year.
- **SPONSORS – PAUL SIENKO**
 - **Paul Sienko** will seek sponsors for Friday night fireworks.
- **MASTER OF CEREMONIES – WENDY SCHMIDT**
 - **Wendy Schmidt** will contact the same Master of Ceremonies used in 2025.
- **PLATZKONZERT DISPLAY – MICHELLE PILAFAS**
 - Display setup scheduled for August 28; takedown scheduled for September 25.
- **BUDGET/EXPENSES – GARY PILAFAS**
 - No discussion.

- **SUCCESS MEASUREMENTS (KPIS) – BEN GIBBS**
 - No discussion.
- **PHOTOGRAPHER – WENDY SCHMIDT**
 - **Craig Kuehne, Linda Dressler, and Gene Walters** will provide photographer leads. Gary Pilafas suggested Jim from the Arts Commission. Mona is unavailable this year.
- **FIRE/MEDICAL – BEN GIBBS/MICHAELA SOURONIS**
 - No discussion.
- **CLEAN UP – BEN GIBBS/MICHAELA SOURONIS**
 - No discussion.
- **LESSONS LEARNED – COMMITTEE**
 - No discussion.
- **LOGO – LINDA DRESSLER**
 - **Linda Dressler** will coordinate creation of a new logo with Ryan Johnson.

Approval to Adjourn

Commissioner Wendy Schmidt made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Linda Dressler.

Next Meeting Date – April 13, 2026 at 4:00 PM at the Village Hall.

Further details and information can be found in the agenda packet attached hereto and incorporated herein and can also be viewed online at www.hoffmanestates.org and/or in person in the Village Clerk's office. The Village of Hoffman Estates complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). For accessibility assistance, call the ADA Coordinator at 847/882-9100.