

**Village of Hoffman Estates
Sister Cities Commission
Minutes
Wednesday, September 18, 2024**

Members in Attendance

Lillian Mosier, Chair
Jill Wood-Naatz, Vice Chair
Vanya Castle
Cindy Ruszay
Anita Flanagan
Jeff Howard
Ken Campbell, via electronic attendance
Mimi Wise
Terri Lamberti
Lisa Christie
Robin Jacobi
Bob Dohn
Melissa Marscin
Fanja Raoelijaona-Michel
Diana Murray

Members Absent

Marcia Frank

Staff Liaison

Debbie Schoop

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Lillian Mosier called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Jeff Howard, seconded by Lisa Christie, to approve the minutes of August 21, 2024 meeting. Corrections made. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Lillian introduced our new Commission member, Diana Murray. Welcome to our group!

Lillian asked members to be sure to look at our Sister City display at Village Hall. This will be on exhibit until October 18.

Jill and Lillian will be attending the Illinois Municipal League Conference in Chicago on Saturday to accept the award for State Sister City of the Year. Lillian will also give a short presentation. She will also discuss possible business/trade liaisons between Hoffman Estates and Angoulême via Lauro Arrias's presentation. Contact can also be made with Kevin Kramer, Director of Economic Development, at the Village Hall.

In acknowledgement of this award, the commission is reminded to attend the Village Board meeting on October 7 at 7:00 pm to be recognized. Lillian has requested that the commission be recognized and a sign along the entrance to the Village Hall will be done. Debbie is working with Public Works to create a sign commemorating this award. Fortunately, our Sister City display will still on exhibit.

Lillian received an unusual request from Danielle. She explained there is a French woman who writes books about WWII American GIs and there is a soldier from Illinois whose grave she visits annually to lay flowers in honor of his service. Lillian was asked to find information about his family. Bob Dohn did research and tracked down a family member living in southern Illinois. Lillian contacted her and sent her some information about our group and the French writer. She was very pleased to hear about her relative because the family has lost contact with each other. At some point we will send her a copy of the book about her relative.

In preparation for the 30th anniversary of our Sister City agreement in 2026, Lillian will request that village signs recognizing our twinning that have been removed be reinstalled.

5. **STAFF LIAISON REPORT**

Debbie reminded us that the deadline for submitting information to appear in the November/December edition of *The Citizen* needs to be submitted by September 25. We will submit an article for the upcoming Marie Antoinette program in November.

6. **CURRENT SUB-GROUP REPORTS**

A. **Signature Exchanges**

1) **Culinary/Bon Appétit**

Lillian advised Pili and David on how to obtain the best prices for airfare and hotels for their upcoming trip to France in November for the Gastronomades.

Jill Wood-Naatz has received a promising application for host families for this exchange.

2) **Runners**

Lisa Christie has checked the 2025 schedule for the race in Angouleme for dates, but nothing has been posted yet. Normally the race is the first Saturday in April which would be April 5.

Lisa has received some interest from runners who might participate. There was discussion on modifying the application form that Bob Dohn made for the soccer exchange to be used for the runners. Included could be a question about past race experiences.

Lisa is working on a flyer for distribution to athletic clubs and social media advertising the race. Hallie can create the flyer if she has the information from Lisa. She will have the flyer and application ready for the next meeting.

B. **Other Exchanges**

1) **Sports**

We are still waiting to receive a final commitment for the soccer exchange from France. So far, Bob Dohn has received only 2 host applications. He has prepared a letter to be sent electronically to previous host families to elicit their participation. Contact needs to be made with Adam Fieldhouse to learn the extent of his communication with his team in regard to soliciting hosts.

Terri Lamberti received approval from the Prince of Peace Church in Hoffman Estates to hold the potluck there on April 13 and the Village has approved the agreement as well. Terri needs to have the Church sign the Village contract and return it to Deb.

2) Comic

Terri Lamberti has become the new chair of this committee. Congratulations! David Chameli would be a good addition to the committee because of his expertise in art and comics.

David Chameli's presentation on the evolution and history of Marvel and DC Comics has been officially approved in Angouleme. Lillian requested that his presentation be completed by the end of October so that Commission members can start translating it into French.

Landis Blair is working with his French publishers on how to ship his books to France for the event. He will also have some flyers that the commission will mail. Contact needs to be made with Landis and David to determine how they can support each other's event.

C. Special Projects

The Marie Antoinette program will be Saturday, November 16 at 11:00 a.m. We will be able to host a maximum of 80 people. It was decided that lunch would be served as a buffet.

The May/June 2025 program will probably be either on Jackie Kennedy or Monet. The date for this program needs to be set by the next meeting.

Because speakers are getting expensive, ideas were suggested to cover the increased costs; coordinating programs with other commissions, such as the Arts Commission or the Senior Commission (since they already have a buffet lunch) or increasing the attendance price of the May program to help pay for the November program. Obtaining a business sponsor for a program is not possible due to Village policy.

D. French Evening

Basket assembly is October 8 from 2:00 – 5:00 at the Village Hall. The wine has been ordered for the event and will feature white and red Bordeaux wines. There will be no bar this year, only the wine we serve.

Gift cards were collected. There are 75+ gift certificates for our event.

Anita Flanigan will need the number of tables in order to coordinate the centerpieces.

Commission members available to help on Monday should be at Stonegate from 12:00 - 3:00pm. On Tuesday, the time for kitchen prep has yet to be determined. The students from Harper will be there with Pili both afternoons. The students need to obtain clearance from Stonegate's owners to be able to work out front.

Motion by Jeff Howard, seconded by Bob Dohn, to pay the Harper students \$50 a day for a minimum of 2 hours work. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

Lillian passed out a worksheet to start thinking about our Sister City's 30th anniversary in 2026. Now is the time to start planning so that budgets can be made and special plans initiated.

Motion by Anita Flanigan, seconded by Terri Lamberti, to move the next Commission meeting to October 23. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Mimi Wise, seconded by Jill Wood-Naatz, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Robin Jacobi.

*The next meeting of the Sister Cities Commission will be
6:30pm on Wednesday, October 23, 2024 in the Frank Alexa Room at the Village Hall.*