

**Village of Hoffman Estates
Sister Cities Commission Minutes
March 19, 2025**

Members in Attendance

Lillian Mosier, Chair
Jill Wood-Naatz, Vice Chair
Ken Campbell
Vanya Castle
Bob Dohn
Robin Jacobi
Anita Flanagan
Jeff Howard
Terri Lamberti
Marcia Frank
Fanja Raoelijaona-Michel
Cindy Ruszay

Members Absent

David Chameli
Lisa Christie
Melissa Marscin
Diana Murray
Mimi Wise

Staff Liaison

Debbie Schoop

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Jeff Howard, seconded by Marcia Frank, to approve the minutes of February 19, 2025.
Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Lillian asked for a volunteer to take minutes for the April meeting. Marcia volunteered. Lillian extended congratulations to David Chameli, who was appointed as a Commission member. She also mentioned that she sent a letter to the Mayor, informing him that Danielle Roche, chair of the Hoffman Estates section of the Comité des Jumelages in Angoulême, will be here for the soccer exchange and asked him to stop and greet her during their meeting at the Village Hall on Thursday, April 10, at 2:00 p.m. Several of our commission members will also attend that meeting to discuss various different types of exchanges and other possible future activities.

5. STAFF LIAISON'S REPORT

No report

6. CURRENT SUB-GROUP REPORTS

A. Signature Exchanges

1) Culinary/Bon Appétit

The exchange is April 19-26, 2025. Itinerary has been completed. Chef Sylvain's cooking class will be April 22, 2025, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Village Hall. Bon Appétit will be April 24 at Bell Works. Jill distributed a sign-up sheet for the potluck dinner to be held on Friday, April 25 at 6:00 p.m. at her house. We are planning on about 40 attendees. She also mentioned that she needed another driver for events on Tuesday, April 22. Jeff volunteered to drive that day. Jill then discussed possible food options for lunches for the various working days of the exchange. With help from the commission members, choices were made.

2) Runners Exchange

Anita reported. The dates of the exchange for runners going to Angoulême are April 1-7, 2025. Their flights have been confirmed. They will leave March 31.

The Hoffman Estates "Stars and Stripes" race will be held on June 28, 2025, at Bell Works. Shirts have been ordered for the two runners coming from Angoulême. Exchange dates are June 24 to July 1, 2025. Mimi and John Wise will host. The potluck is confirmed for June 28, 2025, at the Rogan's home.

B. Other Exchanges

1) Sports

The date of the exchange is April 8-15, 2025. Bob reported that the itinerary has been finalized. He also mentioned that he has received a few more items from the Village to add to the gift bags. The potluck will be held at Prince of Peace Church, 930 W. Higgins, Schaumburg, on Sunday, April 13, 2025, at 5 p.m. Bob distributed the food list that members signed up for during the last meeting and asked them to confirm contributions. Jeff volunteered to provide water for attendees of the Sustainability Meeting to be held on April 19. Discussion ensued regarding the need for drivers on various days, and drivers were obtained. Lillian reminded the subcommittee that a request for cash for tips to the limo drivers for Friday's trip downtown needs to be submitted, and that copies of the Village tax letter will be needed for lunch purchases.

2) Comic

Nothing to report at this time.

C. **Special Projects**

The presentation “Wine and War” by Lynn Brand will take place on Friday November 14, 2025, from 6-9 p.m. at the Village Hall. She will discuss the book *Wine and War* with a power point presentation. Her lecture includes a review of French history during WWII, including the historical significance of wine during the War. Her fee is \$300. Wine sampling, appetizers and desserts will be included.

Attendance price has yet to be determined. Lillian has set a meeting with PRP International, the wine provider, during which she will discuss the wine tasting portion of this event.

D. **French Evening**

The French Evening event will be Friday, October 24, 2025, at the Village Hall. At last month’s meeting Jeff presented several food possibilities. He said we will make a final decision on those at the April meeting. He also reported that he had contacted two chefs and asked them to work the event by helping to monitor food stations. Unfortunately, neither could confirm attendance because of their current work schedules and restaurant business conditions. Discussion ensued about the possibility of hiring a caterer for the main dish with other possibilities such as plated appetizers and salads and /or plated desserts. Jeff stressed that there needs to be a balance between what we, as a commission, can provide and what will need to be done by a caterer, while still keeping the event affordable.

The Commission also discussed this year’s auction baskets. We will limit the total number of baskets to between 40 and 45. We also decided to use the regular May meeting to collaborate as a group and assemble the baskets.

****Therefore, all commission members will need to bring their completed wrapped (but not sealed) baskets to the MAY 21 meeting, along with a PRINTED LIST of the contents including approximate value. Baskets should be in a basket bag, but not sealed, so the group can add gift cards and other items, as needed.**

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Jeff Howard, seconded by Robin Jacobi, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cindy Ruszay

The next meeting of the Sister Cities Commission will be 6:30 PM on April 16, 2025, in the Frank Alexa Room at the Village Hall.