

**Village of Hoffman Estates
Sister Cities Commission Minutes
May 28, 2025**

Members in Attendance

Lillian Mosier, Chair
Jill Wood-Naatz, Vice Chair
Vanya Castle
Marcia Frank
Robin Jacobi
Anita Flanagan
Jeff Howard
Fanja Raoelijaona-Michel
Cindy Ruszay
Terri Lamberti
David Chameli
Diana Murray
Melissa Marcin
Mimi Wise
Lisa Christie

Members Absent

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 Terri Lamberti, seconded by Jeff Howard, to approve the special minutes of the April 10, 2025, 30th Anniversary and Twinning Protocol Meeting. An addition/correction to the minutes of April 10, 2025 was noted by Jill Wood-Naatz: Page 1, Peace Pole: All languages on the Peace Pole should be reviewed to make sure that French is included. With this addition/correction noted, a Voice vote was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Robin Jacobi, seconded by Lisa Christie, to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2025 meeting. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Lillian noted that she had received condolences to the commission on the recent passing of Bob Dohn from Adam Fieldhouse and from 3 students who participated in the soccer exchange. On behalf of the commission, Lillian requested Debbie Schoop invite Karen Dohn to the Volunteer Appreciation event on June 10, 2025 at the Hideaway.

Lillian asked for discussion regarding appropriate ways for the commission to honor Bob Dohn's memory. Marcia Frank suggested a tree memorial might be appropriate and had information regarding the National Forest Foundation Plant A Tree program. The tree memorial suggestion was discussed and it was suggested a tree memorial planted somewhere in the Village be explored. Lisa Christie will contact the Hoffman Estates Park District for specific information.

On May 8, 2025, a letter from Mayor McLeod to Mayor Xavier Bonnefont of Angouleme was sent indicating that he and Mrs. McLeod will attend the 30th Anniversary Celebration in Angouleme, France and also extending an invitation to Mayor Bonnefont to visit Hoffman Estates for the 30th Anniversary Celebration. As of this date, no reply has been received from Angouleme.

Lillian reported that Ken Campbell has submitted his resignation from the commission and Debbie Schoop will submit the letter of resignation to Mayor McLeod.

Lillian noted that the June 18, 2025 meeting will include review of the commission's budget for 2026.

An article will be inserted in the July/August edition of the *Citizen* Newsletter seeking individual(s) who have a culinary background to help with future events.

5. STAFF LIAISON'S REPORT

Debbie Schoop researched bartender certification program to enable commission members and other volunteers to serve wine at the 2026 French Evening event being held at the Village Hall. Training information was presented from "Bassett On The Fly" which is an online certification course, priced at \$12.99/pp. Once an individual has registered for the online course, they have 30 days to complete the course and receive certification which is good for 3 years.

Chair noted the following Sub-Group changes and requested Debbie to process:

- Remove Bob Dohn and Ken Campbell from Sports Exchanges
- Remove Lillian Mosier from Runners Exchange
- Add Dave Chameli to Comic Exchange

6. CURRENT SUB-GROUP REPORTS

A. Signature Exchanges

1) Culinary/Bon Appétit

Jill reported Chef Sylvain and the students enjoyed their visit to Hoffman Estates and participating in the Bon Appetit event on April 24. Chef Sylvain will participate in 2 events in 2026: Bon Appetit in April and the 30th anniversary celebration dinner in October.

Commission critique on Bon Appetit: (1) Commission concensus is that Fench wine be served at the commission's information table in 2026 as many people were disappointed at not being able to taste French Wine. (2) Placement of cupcake contest tables and pastry tables for French students needs to be addressed for 2026 event.

Lillian sent a letter to Dean Ivory thanking her and Harper College for their culinary students' participation in the Bon Appetit Cupcake Contest. Dean Ivory replied that it was an enjoyable evening, a positive experience for the students and an opportunity for them to earn scholarship money.

2) Runners Exchange

Lisa reviewed the itinerary for the runners coming from Angouleme beginning June 21 through June 28, 2025. The Hoffman Estates "Stars and Stripes" Race will be held on June 28, 2025, at Bell Works. Carmela and Emmanuel Etgar will host. The potluck is confirmed for June 28, 2025, at the Rogan's home at 1pm. Commission members were asked to bring an appetizer or dessert for the potluck. Lisa will explore the possibility of having digital signage of the event shown on the Village's digital sign locations.

B. Other Exchanges

1) Sports

Lillian received an email from the Marauders Football team inquiring if there is any interest in pursuing a future exchange. Lillian will follow up and copy Danielle with any future correspondence. Lillian has passed on information to Ken Campbell.

2) Comic

The C2E2 dates are March 27-29, 2026. David will contact Xavier to determine specific dates of exchange and French comic artists participating. There was discussion regarding contacting local schools to participate in showcasing comic art to students. David will also contact the Schaumburg Township Library to determine dates for its comic event.

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. A "Save The Date" deadline was missed for the July/August *Citizen*; Debbie will check to see if the information can still be published.

A Zoom meeting was held on April 30, 2025, with the following participants: Lillian Mosier, Jeff Howard, Lisa Christie, Marcia Frank, Debbie Schoop and Seror of PRP International. Purpose of the meeting was to discuss the wine tasting portion of the November 14 event with Seror. Because of PRP's inability to provide wine pricing and availability of specific wine(s) being served for the event, other options will be explored. Lillian will contact Seror.

Lillian and Jeff contacted Cardinal Liquors in Hoffman Estates to determine if one of its distributors is interested in participating in the wine tasting portion of the event. Other options need to be explored.

D. French Evening

The French Evening event will be Friday, October 24, 2025, at the Village Hall. Lillian distributed information on contents of baskets received to date. 40 baskets was determined to be the ideal number for this year's event. Commission members will contact merchants for gift certificates and gift cards.

Discussion was held regarding ticket price for the event:

Motion by Terri Lamberti, seconded by Anita Flanagan, that the regular ticket price will be \$60.00 and late reservation price will be \$70.00. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Jeff is waiting to hear about food tasting from the catering service.

7. OTHER

Anita reported that she and Diana Murray met with 2 nurses of the Hoffman Estates Health and Human Services Department to learn more about the Department's Alzheimer's and Dementia Initiative. Information gathered from this meeting will serve as a basis for sharing information and exploring possibility of future exchange with Angouleme. Anita noted that the website "Alzheimer's Europe" is an organization of 41 National Alzheimer's Associations from 36 European countries.

Lillian asked Robin to have Ed Jacobi prepare a proposal for Danielle regarding a future musical exchange. Robin noted that Dave Rogan is interested in participating. National Music Day is held every year on June 21 in France.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Anita Flanagan, seconded by Lisa Christie, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Marcia Frank

*The next meeting of the Sister Cities Commission will be 6:30 PM on June 18, 2025,
in the Frank Alexa Room at the Village Hall.*