

**Village of Hoffman Estates  
Sister Cities Commission  
Minutes  
Wednesday, May 17, 2023**

**Members in Attendance**

Lillian Mosier, Chair  
Jill Wood-Naatz, Vice Chair  
Jeff Howard  
Marcia Frank  
Terri Lamberti  
Robin Jacobi  
Bob Dohn  
Cindy Ruzsay  
Anita Flanagan  
Ken Campbell  
Brianna Yarwood

**Members Absent**

Lily Rudnick  
Lisa Christie  
Melissa Marscin

**Staff Liaison in Attendance**

Debbie Schoop

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Lillian Mosier called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Terri Lamberti, seconded by Ken Campbell, to approve the minutes of April 12, 2023. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments.

**4. CHAIRPERSON REPORT**

Lillian welcomed Emanuel and Carmela Etgar to the meeting. Emanuel has applied to become a member of the commission. The commission is excited to welcome Emanuel to the group and would like to thank Emanuel and Carmela for their hospitality as exchange hosts this year.

The Illinois State Sister Cities organization has a new president, Carol Wolf.

Lillian connected with Danielle about future exchanges for 2024. Lillian asked about comic artists (to and from France), runners from Angouleme, and Bon Appetit/culinary. Sylvain is available April 18, 2024. Lillian passed this date along to the Chamber for next year.

**5. STAFF LIAISON REPORT**

Articles for the July/August citizen are due May 26.

**6. CURRENT SUB-GROUP REPORTS**

**A. Special Projects**

The May event, Is Fashion Art? has been canceled due to low registration numbers. Motion by Terri Lamberti, seconded by Bob Dohn to pursue Annette Baldwin to present a different topic, possibly Coco Chanel, on November 11, at the Village Hall with a luncheon. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

A possibility for food for the event would be a crepe food truck. There is a crepe truck that attends the farmer's market in Schaumburg. Jeff will look into the business, its availability, and prices. Jill found there are several crepe food trucks in the area. Another suggestion is croqué monsieur.

**B. Comic**

Angouleme can take an artist in January. The Bande Desinee runs from January 25-28, 2024. Brianna or Lillian will reach out to Jim Terry, a Chicago artist who was interested in traveling a few years ago, to see if he would still like to go.

If Angouleme would like to send artists, the Chicago festival, C2E2, is running April 26-28, 2024.

**C. French Evening**

The commission needs to start working on an itinerary for Chef Sylvain's visit from October 21-28. Debbie and Lillian created a save the date for the French Evening on October 24.

Host families are taken care of for this exchange.

Lillian asked the commission if we would like to do plated appetizers for the guests at the event. The commission is in favor of the addition as long as it is not cost prohibitive.

Chef Sylvain will have his menu sent to Lillian by June.

Lillian proposed moving the event start time up to 5:30pm to accommodate the appetizers. It was also proposed to have a small sample of pineau at each place setting for a toast.

The save the date for the event will be published in the July/August Citizen. It will also be sent out digitally on June 15.

Lillian also asked commission members to reach out to other people who have contributed to the commission or participated in exchanges and invite them to join us for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the French Evening. Debbie will look at old member lists to see if there is anyone else who served on the Commission.

On May 26, Jeff is preparing the chef dinner that was auctioned previously at the French evening.

**D. Culinary/Bon Appetit**

Certificates of participation were sent to all cupcake competition finalists. The program director at ECC gave positive feedback about the competition and the event.

Lillian met with the Hoffman Estates Chamber of Commerce to follow up about the event. Her feedback included questions about emergency response plans for severe weather and medical emergencies.

Commission members appreciated that there was more seating to accommodate more diners. The water station was nice, but it may be more convenient to have two stations spread throughout the event. Other commission feedback included inquiries about whether security was present for such a large gathering. It was also noted that guests had dogs present near the food with no indication of being service animals. The commission also asked whether it would be possible to more evenly distribute the speakers for the DJ throughout the venue so the audio is not as concentrated in the middle.

Lillian and Jeff visited Harper College for lunch recently. Jeff shared the menu. It is prepared by students in the culinary program. They also received a tour of the new kitchens at Harper. Lillian is hopeful that the commission will be able to reestablish their connection with Harper's culinary program for future exchanges and events.

Debbie shared that \$2225 was budgeted for the culinary exchange and \$2153 was spent.

A big thanks to Jill and Jim for hosting the potluck and to Jeff for helping with the main dish. A thank you as well to the Yarwoods for hosting the pizza party. For future events, if guests would like specific beverages, the commission would ask them to bring their own beverages to enjoy.

**E. Rugby/Baseball/Football/Softball**

From July 10 - July 16, visitors from the Soyaux Angoulême XV Charente French rugby team will be in Chicagoland. This is not an official exchange hosted by the commission. The commission is assisting with the visit including possibly hosting a Hoffman Estates day on July 13 at the Village Green.

The day would include breaking the group into smaller parties to visit local organizations, schools, and businesses in the village. It could culminate in hors d'oeuvres and a visit to a concert at the Village Green. It may not be necessary to reserve a space at the Village Green on a Thursday. The village may be able to provide a \$10 voucher to each person to spend on food and beverages at the venue.

**F. Runners**

There are no runners coming from France this summer. The commission would still like to field a team for the Fit America race including t-shirts, a tent, and moment with the Mayor after the race. This will be a trial for future teams that would include runners from France.

Motion by Bob Dohn, seconded by Anita Flanagan, to authorize Lisa Christie to buy the 12 t-shirts for the racing team. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Lillian or Lisa will ask the Rogans if they would still like to host a potluck for the commission even though there will not be any guests from France. The potluck was scheduled for June 25.

Bob researched the Chicago Greeters organization. This may be a potential partner for tours of Chicago for future exchanges.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

Robin contacted Linda Schumacher, the French instructor/department chair at Harper who also chairs the French club. She is interested in staying in touch with the commission for future events, exchanges, and possible collaborations.

Unity Day is being hosted in the village on June 3. The Sister Cities Commission is participating in the event to promote the commission and the work we do to celebrate French culture. Lillian proposed purchasing madeleines to give away at the event. Bob, Lisa, Ken, Jill, Robin, and Lillian are planning to be there.

Jeff and Anita suggested printing a small promotional flier for the French Evening to distribute at Unity Day.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Anita Flanagan, seconded by Robin Jacobi, to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 pm. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Brianna Yarwood.

*The next meeting of the Sister Cities Commission will be  
Wednesday, June 21st, 2023 at Village Hall.*