

**Village of Hoffman Estates  
Sister Cities Commission  
Minutes  
Wednesday, August 16, 2023**

**Members in Attendance**

Lillian Mosier, Chair  
Jill Wood-Naatz, Vice Chair  
Melissa Marscin  
Marcia Frank  
Terri Lamberti  
Bob Dohn  
Cindy Ruszay  
Ken Campbell  
Lisa Christie  
Emmanuel Etgar  
Fanja Raoelijaona-Michel  
Robin Jacobi

**Members Absent**

Lily Rudnick  
Anita Flanagan  
Brianna Yarwood  
Jeff Howard

**Staff Liaison in Attendance**

Debbie Schoop

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Lillian Mosier called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Ken Campbell, seconded by Marcia Frank, to approve the minutes of June 21, 2023. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

**4. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Lillian reported that Lil Rudnick is doing well and is expected to have surgery next Friday. After her recovery, she will be moving to California. She will be greatly missed.

The Commission thanked Bob Dohn for his letter to residents on Angouleme Lane, Hoffman Estates, explaining the origin of the name, pronunciation, history, and Angoulême's Sister City relationship to Hoffman Estates.

An intern from Crystal Lake reached out to Lillian about the Sister Cities organization and logistics on how we run our program. Apparently, Crystal Lake is considering reactivating its program.

**5. STAFF LIAISON REPORT**

No report.

**6. CURRENT SUB-GROUP REPORTS**

**A. Culinary/Bon Appétit**

Lisa is sending a list of additional host family possibilities to Jill for future exchanges. For the upcoming exchange all host families are set. A host family meeting will probably take place at the beginning of October.

Jill presented a preliminary itinerary. To satisfy our guests' request to attend a sporting event, Jill will make arrangements to attend a Chicago Wolves hockey game on Sunday, October 22. Commission members who would like to attend need to notify Jill since tickets are limited. Chef preparations will be at Stonegate on Monday and Tuesday from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm. Wednesday is planned for a local city tour and a visit to All Season's Apple Orchards near Woodstock. Thursday will be downtown Chicago sightseeing with a pizza tour. Friday is an epicurean tour of specialty boutiques in Geneva. Robin Jacobi offered to host the potluck on Friday evening.

#### **B. Runners**

Lisa showed the Commission the new running shirts that will be used for next year's event. She will also find out the dates for the race next summer and send the information to Danielle inviting 4 runners to the event. The race's name has been changed to Stars & Stripes.

A tent was prominently located with appropriate French-American Sister City décor and a video with the Mayor. Photo op opportunities with the Mayor were available. Thank you to Bob Dohn, Anita Flanagan, and Lisa Christie for organizing and manning the tent.

#### **C. Sports**

A PE teacher in Angoulême has proposed a soccer exchange training program for 16-18 students for 10 days for October 2024. After much discussion regarding expense, facility and training logistics and conflict with our existing exchanges, the Commission decided that this proposal is beyond the scope of our purview. Lillian will communicate with Danielle about our inability to host this program.

#### **D. Comic**

The dates for the Comic Festival in Angoulême are January 25-28, 2024. This year there will be a "Pro Day". Brianna will inquire what exactly this is. She is asking Jim Terry if he is interested in attending.

C2E2 will be at McCormick Place April 26-28, 2024. The cost for 2 artists' badges and table is \$475. Normally, French artists are invited every other year. This is the year in which we would invite them.

#### **E. Special Projects**

Marcia reported that Annette Baldwin will present a Coco Chanel program on Saturday, November 11, at Village Hall. An announcement will be in the September/October issue of "The Citizen". Email flyers will sent on September 1. The colors for the décor will be black and white.

Participants will be encouraged to wear "a little black dress" or black and white. There was a discussion of decorations and place settings for the luncheon tables. Due to health regulations, Jeff will need to prepare everything in the kitchen at the Village Hall. Since more setup is required for this program, all Commission members are encourage to be there at 9:00 am to help with setup, plating, service, and cleanup.

**F. French Evening**

Some new difficulties have arisen. Stonegate will not be able to order food because they have no outside food vendors. Village contacts were made, but they are not able to order specialty foods. Fortunately, we will be able to store the purchased food items at Stonegate. Therefore, the Commission will need to buy the items. Another problem is that Stonegate will not provide tablecloths or skirting for the auction tables. The Commission will purchase plastic tablecloths.

Debbie and Lillian examined all the numbers and calculated the cost of the event. A price of \$60 was determined. A vote for this price was taken via email because of the necessity to make publication dates.

The music entertainment will be from 5:30-7:00 pm. This will provide plenty of time for people to mingle and examine the auction baskets.

Commission members were asked to solicit gift certificates from local businesses. Since Lil Rudnick will no longer be on the Commission, her list of businesses was divided between other members.

Lillian showed us the table decoration door prizes. A sticker will be placed on the bottom of the coffee cup saucer to determine the winner at each table.

Reminder to work on your baskets. Examples of auction baskets were presented to new members so they have an idea on how to create an auction basket.

Baskets will be finished for the French Evening the week before the event. Gift certificates will need to be brought in soon so Lillian can compile the auction basket program.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

Marica Frank shared a letter she received from Maria Pappas commemorating Bastille Day.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Bob Dohn, seconded by Emmanuel Etgar, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Robin Jacobi

*The next meeting of the Sister Cities Commission will be  
Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at Village Hall.*