

**Village of Hoffman Estates
Sister Cities Commission
Minutes
Wednesday, October 18, 2023**

Members in Attendance

Lillian Mosier, Chair
Jill Wood-Naatz, Vice Chair
Jeff Howard
Marcia Frank
Terri Lamberti
Bob Dohn
Cindy Ruszay
Emmanuel Etgar
Fanja Raoelijaona-Michel
Anita Flanagan
Brianna Yarwood
Lisa Christie

Members Absent

Melissa Marscin
Robin Jacobi
Ken Campbell

Staff Liaison in Attendance

Debbie Schoop

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Lillian Mosier called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Terri Lamberti, seconded by Anita Flanagan, to approve the minutes of September 13, 2023. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Lillian offered the commission's condolences and prayers for the crisis in Israel and to Emmanuel and Carmela and their family members.

Debbie received a call from Sue Minott who does the newsletter for the Illinois Sister Cities Association. She called asking to reserve a room for the Illinois Sister Cities state meeting. The proposed dates for the meeting are June 7-8, 2024. The Village Hall meeting rooms could be divided by function at the meeting. She asked if our commission would be willing to provide a continental breakfast and lunch. Our commission would also be responsible for running registration and receive the registration fees to cover the costs of refreshments. The state association would organize programs and speakers. The village and the association will coordinate for space and media needs.

In lieu of the traditional schedule of two days of conferences, Lillian and Sue coordinated to suggest a Sanfilippo Estate visit and dinner in Hoffman Estates after. The perfume passage tour at the estate can accommodate four groups of 10-12 people each. The tour is 2.5 hours. Marcia contacted the estate and was told they would need a guest count confirmation by early March. The cost would be \$50 per person in addition to the regular state meeting registration fee. Dinner in Hoffman Estates would be covered by each participant. Jeff suggested having the dinner at the Village Green.

This event would serve as the spring community event for the commission. Lillian will contact Sue about moving forward with the event.

5. **STAFF LIAISON REPORT**

Deb reminded the commission of the Volunteer Appreciation Event on November 7 at Moretti's Unique Events. RSVPs are due by October 31.

6. **CURRENT SUB-GROUP REPORTS**

A. **Culinary/Bon Appétit**

Lillian, Terri, Marcia, Deb, Jeff, and two host families are joining for the day trip to Geneva on Friday. The group will meet at Preservation at 12pm.

Robin is hosting the commission and the French guests at 6:30pm on Friday, October 27. The menu will be assorted salads. Each commission member will bring a salad or dessert to share.

Sylvain, along with four students (3 girls and a boy) are planning to attend the exchange in April.

B. **Runners**

The dates for the Star and Stripes race at Bell Works in Hoffman Estates will be June 29, 2024. The Angouleme race is April 6, 2024. Lisa has notified our partners in Angoulême of the June race date and asked them to search for runners to attend in June.

Lillian and Lisa discussed the need to seek local runners interested in traveling to Angoulême in April. Lisa will send a list of potential names to Lillian by the second week of November.

C. **Sports**

Ken was copied on an email from Danielle to Antoine Roger about a potential rugby exchange in 2024 or 2025. The email indicated the French commission and rugby team were in the early planning stages and gauging French interest and availability for a future exchange.

D. Comic

Jim Terry's colleague, Landis Blair, was contacted by Brianna about his interest in representing the commission at the festival in Angoulême this January. Landis declared he was very interested in participating in the festival. Then, Brianna contacted Danielle about Angoulême's ability to accommodate artists this January. Unfortunately, Angoulême has already invited Romanian artists and cannot host Landis. Brianna will ask him if he is interested in attending in 2025 instead.

Brianna will also ask Danielle about Angoulême's ability to send artists to C2E2 in Chicago in April 2024. C2E2 will be at McCormick Place April 26-28, 2024. The cost for two artists' badges and table is \$475. Normally, French artists are invited every other year. This is the year in which we would invite them. Applications are due January 23.

The commission suggested exchange dates of April 24 to May 1, 2024 for two artists. Cindy reminded the group that May 1 is an important holiday in France. Brianna will inquire if the exchange dates will be a conflict for potential guests.

E. Special Projects

Reservations have closed for the November 11 Coco Chanel program and there is a waiting list for attendees.

Terri, Bob, Cindy, Jill, Robin, Jeff, Anita have volunteered to help. Since more setup is required for this program, all Commission members are encouraged to be there at 9:00 am to help with setup, plating, service, and cleanup.

Jeff will be preparing the food at the Village Hall on Friday. Commission members should look for communication from Marcia about help needed on Friday for set-up. Marcia and Deb will need to communicate with the building crew about table set-up.

F. French Evening

Lillian reviewed the work assignments and schedule for the evening. Commission members will arrive at 3:30 p.m., or they tell Lillian otherwise. The Stonegate finalized the table arrangements with Lillian. There will be 19 dining tables and 25 auction tables. There are 178 guests registered for the event.

Lillian thanked everyone who helped with basket assembly and numbers on Monday, October 16. At the Stonegate, commission members will start by setting up the auction tables. The sports memorabilia representative will meet us at the Stonegate. Commission members will also help set up the French and fall centerpieces prior to the event. The Eiffel towers will need fall ribbons added to them.

Ed Cook's art work will be displayed at the registration table to promote the auction. Commission members working the registration table will advertise the painting.

Thank you to Deb and Hallie for putting together the new table numbers!

Lillian explained the bid and checkout process. When bidding closes, commission members working the table will take their tables' white bid sheets and give them to the registration table in numerical order. The winning bidder takes the yellow sheet off the table to check out. Once the item is paid for, the winning bidder will return with a bid sheet marked "paid." Commission members will verify the item has been paid for before giving the guest the item.

Lillian sincerely thanked all commission members for their contributions in acquiring gift certificates for the French Evening.

Jackie, the violinist, will arrive at 5:30 and will play until 6:00. Colin, the pianist, will play with Jackie from 6:00 to 6:30. Then, he will play on his own until 7:00.

Motion by Anita Flanagan, seconded by Cindy Ruzay, to begin the bid for Ed Cook's painting for \$300. Discussion ensued. Voice vote taken. Six ayes, five nays. Motion carried.

Motion by Jeff Howard, seconded by Bob Dohn, for the minimum bid increment to be \$50. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

Nothing to report.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Cindy Ruzay, seconded by Ken Campbell, to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 pm. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Brianna Yarwood.

*The next meeting of the Sister Cities Commission will be
Wednesday, November 15, 2022 at Village Hall.*