

**Village of Hoffman Estates  
Sister Cities Commission  
Minutes  
Wednesday, March 20, 2024**

**Members in Attendance**

Jill Wood-Naatz, Vice Chair  
Anita Flanagan  
Marcia Frank  
Terri Lamberti  
Bob Dohn  
Lisa Christie  
Robin Jacobi  
Cindy Ruszay  
Jeff Howard  
Brianna Yarwood  
Mimi Wise  
Ken Campbell  
Fanja Raoelijaona-Michel

**Members Absent**

Lillian Mosier, Chair  
Melissa Marscin

**Staff Liaison**

Debbie Schoop (Absent)

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chairperson Jill Wood-Naatz called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Terri Lamberti, seconded by Marcia Frank, to approve the minutes of February 21, 2024 with no corrections. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**4. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

State Meeting information has been sent to all commissioners. Tickets are \$65 per attendee.

Lillian will attend a zoom meeting on Monday, March 25 with the organizing committee for the state board.

There have been no reservations made for the Perfume Passage at the Sanfilippo Estate for Friday, June 7.

Paper goods and serving supplies have been purchased.

**5. STAFF LIAISON REPORT**

No report.

6. **CURRENT SUB-GROUP REPORTS**

A. **Signature Exchanges**

**1) Culinary/Bon Appétit**

Basket items have been purchased for the Bon Appetit raffle. The basket will include two Marie Antoinette tickets and is valued at \$90.

Debbie will create a physical ticket to include in the basket. Marcia will work with Deb on the ticket. Tickets are needed by the beginning of April.

Jeff will email Sylvain to finalize details for Bon Appetit. As of this meeting. A total of 134 tickets have been sold and 28 restaurants are registered for Bon Appetit. Lillian will work with Debbie to coordinate village filming for Tate and Lyle prep.

The village newsletter published last year's prices for Bon Appetit instead of the current prices. Lillian will notify. Current prices are \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door. Last year's prices were \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door.

Thirteen commission members, not including Jeff, will be in attendance at Bon Appetit. Debbie will purchase tickets for members working. Lillian will communicate for ticket purchases. Any spouses or guests of commission members will need to register and purchase their own tickets.

Lillian will send out the work schedule to the commission. Commission members will need to be at Bell Works by 4:00 p.m.

The potluck will be held at the Yarwoods' house, on Friday, April 19 at 6:30pm. Jill distributed a sign-up sheet.

On Monday, April 15, at 1:30 p.m., the group will be visiting the music exhibit at the Sanfilippo Estate. Jill will charge the tickets rather than everyone paying upon arrival. Please pay Jill if you are attending. The group will come straight to the Village Hall after visiting the estate for the adult cooking class at the Village Hall from 7:30 - 9:00 pm. Registration is for 15 - 20. Tickets are \$15.

Three people have signed up for the April 15 cooking class. The commission would like to keep the registration open for the time being. Ken asked if teens would be able to register if space stays available. Jeff said this would be fine.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the guests will be preparing for Bon Appetit at Tate and Lyle. Terri will drop off lunch from Buona Beef for the group on Wednesday. Jeff will provide lunch from Jersey Mikes on Thursday.

There are no updates on the ingredients needed for Sylvain's desserts.

Jeff and Lillian visited Restaurant Depot. Lillian would like Debbie to join Restaurant Depot for a free Village membership. The membership would allow the commission to use their tax exempt status when purchasing food and supplies. The membership application needs to be completed online.

There is a host family meeting Thursday, March 21, where rides and other details will be finalized.

Gift bags for both the adults and students have to be finalized. Lillian will give Jill the Illinois sweatshirts.

## 2) **Runners**

Runners to Angouleme are leaving on March 30 and arriving in Angouleme on April 2 because they are spending a day in Paris. Contact information has been exchanged between the runners and the host families. The commission is still awaiting an itinerary from Danielle.

Once Kurt returns from France, Lisa will meet with him to discuss expectations for hosting.

Runners are going to Paris after the trip. The commission is covering airfare, the train tickets to Paris, and the hotel room in Paris after Angouleme. They are staying in Paris to ensure they can catch their flight the next day. The train schedule from Angouleme would not allow them to take the train and catch the flight on the same day.

The itinerary is being drafted at this time. The potluck will be Saturday, June 29, at 4 p.m. at the Rogans' house. Anita reached out to Deb about the municipal visits. Potential Chicago day will be Thursday, June 27. Time to train will be built into the itinerary.

## B. **Other Exchanges**

### 1) **Sports**

No report.

### 2) **Comic**

The exchange is April 24 - May 1. Both host families have submitted their background check forms. We are waiting for approval.

The artists have been admitted for the C2E2 Artist Alley, pending payment. The cost is \$475.

Brianna shared that two artists, Morgane and Romann, will be attending the exchange to Hoffman Estates on April 24 - May 1. The Lambertis and the Millers are hosting the two guests.

Brianna and Terri shared a tentative itinerary with the commission. The artists will do the municipal visits on Thursday, April 25. On Friday, April 26 - Sunday, April 28, they will attend C2E2. On Monday, April 29 or Tuesday, April 30, they will visit Four Star Studios in the city and possibly Howling Pages, a comic book store in Chicago.

Both artists have expressed an interest in seeing places like the Art Institute, the Sears Tower, and Millennium Park. If timing and budget allow, these stops will be included on the Chicago day on April 29 and 30.

Commission members were asked to tentatively save the date for a farewell dinner on either April 29 or April 30.

Bob could drive either day to Chicago. Host family will be invited to the farewell dinner, most likely at a local restaurant.

**C. Special Projects**

Martina Mathisen is confirmed on November 16 at 11:00 am for the Marie Antoinette program and luncheon at the Village Hall. The fee is \$300.

The *Citizen* deadline is July 31st. It will be published in the September/October newsletter. Further details with timing and food will be revisited later this spring. Once food costs are established, we can discuss the price of the ticket. A menu similar to the state meeting luncheon was suggested.

**D. French Evening**

The contract is signed and the deposit has been made to the Stonegate. The advertisement for the French Evening will need to run in the July/August *Citizen* for the early bird price. The deadline is May 31st. The regular price ad will need to run in the September/October *Citizen*. The deadline is July 31st.

According to Jeff, the food cost would start at \$20 per person at a minimum. The Stonegate rental cost is \$42 per person. A proposed dinner price is \$65 for early bird and \$75 for regular tickets. Motion by Jeff Howard, seconded by Lisa Christie, to charge \$65 for early bird ticket and \$75 for regular ticket for French Evening. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carries. The early bird price would be honored until Friday, September 6.

It is unclear whether the Stonegate chefs will be available to assist with the dinner preparation. The commission would like to revisit this issue and potential solutions at the next meeting. Possible options would be to offer stipends to culinary students, or recent grads at ECC or Harper to help Jeff, or to hire a private chef. Catering Made Simple or someone from Tate and Lyle may be options as well. Lillian and Jeff will reach out to their contacts.

The invoice arrived today for the French Evening entertainment.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

Runners going to France will attend the April 10 meeting to report on their visit.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Robin Jacobi, seconded by Terri Lamberti, to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Brianna Yarwood.

*The next meeting of the Sister Cities Commission will be at 6:30pm  
on Wednesday, April 10, 2024 in the Frank Alexa Room at the Village Hall.*