

**Village of Hoffman Estates
Sister Cities Commission
Minutes
Wednesday, April 10, 2024**

Members in Attendance

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

Members Absent

Lisa Christie

Staff Liaison in Attendance

Debbie Schoop

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Lillian Mosier called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Jeff Howard, seconded by Robin Jacobi, to approve the minutes of March 20, 2024 with corrections. Bell Works arrival time for Commission members to Bon Appetit is 4:15 pm., not 4:00 pm. Clarification: the fee mentioned for the Marie Antoinette program refers to the presenter's fee, and not the fee for admission. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The Commission welcomed Kurt Schultz and Chantiyanna Thigpen who recently returned from the Runner's Exchange to Angouleme. Chantiyanna shared that it was an incredible, immersive experience with very gracious hosts. She enjoyed meeting the mayor and the children's dance program. She also said the food was wonderful! Kurt shared that his hosts were also incredible and spoiled them. He shared that the race was very well attended and discussed the site of the race throughout town. Kurt was interviewed by the news station after the race and made the evening news in Angouleme!

The Commission invited Kurt and Chantiyanna to join our "running team" at the Stars and Stripes race on June 29.

Lillian attended a planning meeting for the State Meeting with President Carol Wolfe. An invitation was sent and a registration form was given for Deb. The deadline to register for the Perfume Passage has been extended to the week before the event on June 7. Deb worked with the NOW Arena to create a flier about the Hideaway event for attendees. Dinner is tentatively planned at Moretti's for 4:30pm. that evening.

Lillian asked Debbie for help regarding the event. This includes needing to post information about access for guest wifi, hanging the French flag in the main room, requesting the village photographer, the possibility of the Mayor's office providing 100 Village pens w/check in bags for guests and stick on name tags.

Commission members need to arrive at 7:30 am. We are in charge of check-in for pre-registered attendees. Check-in will be in the hallway. There will be a Conference board meeting in the Frank Alexa Room from 8:30 - 9:30 am. Check-in and continental breakfast begins at 8:45 am. The main meeting is in the Hennessey and Dr. Sylvia Lam rooms. Trustee Karen Mills has been asked to give a welcome speech. There will be a keynote speaker. Fanja is going to present about Madagascar. There will be a break for lunch. Then, there will be four breakout sessions. Two sessions will run at a time. Attendees will pre-select their breakout sessions in May. The event will conclude around 2:30 pm and Commission members will need to help with breakdown until 3:00 pm.

Jeff Howard found individually wrapped financiers at Costco to serve as a snack in the afternoon at the meeting. The Commission likes this idea.

Lillian and Jill are registered for the event already. Lillian is planning Commission member assignments for the event.

Lillian will send a communication to the Village Board about the State Meeting and the Commission's role as hosts of the event.

Deb registered the Commission as a member at Restaurant Depot.

5. STAFF LIAISON REPORT

Deb asked to move the May 15 Commission meeting to May 22. Motion by Terri Lamberti, seconded by Anita Flanagan, to move the May 15 meeting to May 22. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

6. CURRENT SUB-GROUP REPORTS

A. Signature Exchanges

1) Culinary/Bon Appétit

One of the host families is taking the guests to a mushroom farm in Chicago and then they are going to a restaurant where the same mushrooms are served. The host family is also going to cover dinner for the guests. The Commission is very grateful to the host family for their generosity. The same host family coordinated a visit to Feed My Starving children for the group.

The potluck will be held at the Yarwoods' house, Friday, April 19 at 6:30pm. Commission members signed up to bring food items. Please remember to BYOB. The Yarwoods have plates, silverware, and acrylic cups. Napkins are needed and solo cups, if desired.

The adult cooking class is at the Village Hall from 7:30 - 9:00 pm. Tickets are \$15. 12 people are currently registered.

Over 300 tickets have been purchased for Bon Appetit and 33 restaurants are registered. Lillian purchased napkins, cups, plates, etc. for wine service at Bon Appetit. Lillian passed out work schedules for the evening. The event itself is from 5:00 - 7:30 pm.

Terri and Lillian will lend their wagons to the group to help transport food and set up items to Bon Appetit. Drivers from Tate and Lyle to Bon Appetit need to arrive at Tate and Lyle at 3:30 pm with the goal of departing at 3:45 pm.

2) **Runners**

Kurt is happy to host the guests from France in June. He would like more information about the dates and other details of the exchange and hosting.

Lillian would like the runners committee to convene to draft an itinerary for the upcoming exchange.

The potluck will be Saturday, June 29, at 4pm at the Rogans' house.

B. **Other Exchanges**

1) **Sports**

Hoffman Estates United is the local soccer club. Adam Fieldhouse is with the program and Lillian recently reconnected with him. He is willing to partner with us to host a soccer exchange in April 2025. The families in the club will be asked to host guests.

The proposed dates are Tuesday, April 8 through Monday, April 14. The tournament weekend would be April 12 and 13. 15 girls ages 16-17 would attend. The athletes play at the national level, have insurance, and there will be two adults (one man, one woman) to chaperone. Danielle might come to facilitate the visit.

Ken will help with the exchange. Lillian asked Cindy and Bob to help with the soccer exchange as well.

There is a chance Chef Sylvain will be coming at the same time as the soccer players. Chef would be here April 5 - April 12 to avoid having Bon Appetit during Easter week. It will be discussed if/when Chef is coming in 2025 when he is here next week.

Deb highlighted the impact an exchange with 15+ people would have on the 2025 budget. The Commission will take this into consideration when planning for 2025.

2) **Comic**

The exchange is April 24 - May 1. Brianna thanked Commission members for their help with hosting and escorting the guests to various activities and events. A full itinerary will be emailed to the Commission.

The farewell dinner for the artists will be on Monday, April 29, at 5:30 pm at the Hoffman Estates Moretti's.

C. **Special Projects**

Nothing new to report for the Marie Antoinette program on November 16.

D. **French Evening**

Lillian and Jeff connected about chef options for the French Evening. Several chefs have confirmed that they will participate in preparing the food for the event.

Lillian shared the flier for the event prepared by Hallie and herself. The Commission provided feedback on the flier and would like to thank Hallie for her help.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

Upcoming meetings are May 22 and June 19.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Terri Lamberti, seconded by Anita Flanagan, to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 pm. Voice vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Brianna Yarwood.

*The next meeting of the Sister Cities Commission will be
6:30pm on Wednesday, May 22, 2024 in the Frank Alexa Room at the Village Hall.*