



Village of Hanover Park Administration

Municipal Building
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hpil.org

Village President
Rodney S. Craig

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Kristy Merrill

Trustees
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Jenni Broccolino
Liza Gutierrez
Jon Kunkel
Herb Porter

Interim Village Manager
Courtney Sage

VILLAGE OF HANOVER PARK SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE MEETING Hanover Park Police Headquarters 2011 Lake Street, Hanover Park, Illinois 60133 Thursday, March 26, 2026 7:00 p.m. MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order at 07:05 p.m. by Sister Cities Committee Chair Darius Robinson.

PRESENT: Committee Darius Robinson, Frank Grant-Acquah, Teresa Smith-Waits,
Members: Michael Waits, and Gurmeet Singh

ABSENT: Committee Trustee Herb Porter, James Kemper, Adelaide Grant-
Members: Acquah (Auxiliary).

ALSO PRESENT: Deputy Chief Victor DiVito, Staff Liaison Officer Shahad Alkafil.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

Motion by Frank to accept the agenda. Second by Michael. Voice Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

3. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS:

None.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The meeting minutes of February 10, 2026, were approved with a motion by Frank and a second by Teresa.

5. ACTION ITEMS:

5-a. Juneteenth Planning- Continued

Darius shared that he is working to organize four performance acts for the Juneteenth event. He is currently attempting to contact a group called “M.A.D Rhythms,” a tap-dancing group consisting of young teens from the city. He advised that he had already spoken with a representative from the group, who expressed interest in participating. At this time, Darius plans to allow an additional week for follow-up before exploring alternative options if needed.

Darius outlined the planned acts, which currently include Double Dutch, tap dancers, and blues singing. He also mentioned that he recently met an individual who has a performing band and will be gathering more information to potentially include them as the fourth act for the event.

Additionally, Darius referenced a previous discussion with Frank regarding a tribal chief from Ghana. Frank advised that the chief is currently in New York and has a very busy schedule, including participating in a large international event in Maryland. Frank will attempt to make contact and coordinate scheduling with the goal of obtaining an early confirmation, possibly by April 15.

Darius confirmed that the Juneteenth event will remain scheduled from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM. He also stated that there will be no vendor fees, confirming that vendors will not be charged to participate in the event.

5-b. Continued discussion re Sister Cities Committee business (communications, coordinated efficiencies, assignment follow-through, recruitment)- Darius emphasized the need to recruit Spanish-speaking volunteers and encouraged members to reach out if they encounter anyone who may be interested. He noted that having bilingual volunteers would be especially beneficial in supporting the event and improving communication with the community.

Frank advised that Sister Cities International will be hosting a major event from July 22 through July 25, marking its 70th anniversary. He stated that he plans to attend, despite the event not being covered. Frank added that this will be the first large in-person

gathering since 2019, as previous meetings since COVID-19 have either been held virtually or with limited attendance.

Michael and Teresa also advised that they plan to attend the event. Darius stated that he will review his schedule and plan accordingly. He further advised that he will provide updates to the team as soon as any additional information regarding the event becomes available.

- 5-c. Budget Amendments- Deputy Chief DiVito advised that the amendment was presented at the February 19 Village meeting and received approval. As a result, the amount of \$2,200 from FY2025 unspent funds has been rolled over into the FY2026 budget and may be used for the purchase of promotional items.
- 5-d Village Award Ceremony- Teresa advised that she enjoyed the trivia questions presented during the event. Darius also shared that he enjoyed the event overall and expressed positive feedback regarding the experience.

6. TOWNHALL SESSION:

None.

7. OLD BUSINESS (NON-ACTION ITEMS):

- 7-a. Recap of recent activities- Members discussed the Village Award Ceremony and the Kids at Hope Fair. During the discussion, everyone extended their congratulations to Gurmeet for receiving the Hanover Park Service Award.
- 7-b. Budget activity update- Deputy Chief DiVito reported that there were no new updates at this time. He also confirmed that all invoices related to the Black History Month event have been paid.

8. NEW BUSINESS (NON-ACTION ITEMS):

- 8-a. Upcoming event announcements- Darius inquired about any upcoming Village events scheduled between now and Juneteenth. Deputy Chief DiVito advised that there are currently no notable events planned during that timeframe.

Darius stated that he will reach out to Joan from the Roselle Sister Cities Committee to inquire about the Bock Fest event and gather additional details. Darius also noted that the “Monet Lives” Play will be held at the Village of Hoffman Estates on May 2nd. Members advised that they are planning to attend both the program and the luncheon associated with the event.

- 8-b. Agenda topics for upcoming meeting-
 - Juneteenth Planning- Continued
 - Continued discussion re Sister Cities Committee business (communications, coordinated efficiencies, assignment follow-through, recruitment)

6. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Gurmeet to adjourn at 07:48 p.m. Second by Frank. Voice Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Notes taken by Sister Cities Staff Liaison Officer Shahad Alkafil.