

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The meeting minutes of December 11, 2025, were approved with a motion by Frank and a second by James.

5. ACTION ITEMS:

5-a. BHM and Juneteenth Planning- Continued

Darius advised that he has secured a speaker for the Black History Month (BHM) event. Herb elaborated that Reverend Clyde Brooks, CEO of The Illinois Commission on Diversity and Human Relations, agreed to serve as the keynote speaker. Reverend Brooks will speak for approximately 30–45 minutes for a fee of \$400 and is open to participating in a question-and-answer segment. Herb further advised that keyboard musician Brian Danzy has agreed to provide entertainment for the event. However, the committee has not yet secured a dancer. Herb stated that Brian may be able to provide additional entertainment to fill program time for \$400. Darius also advised that Kenny Battle with Trotters may be available to attend the SCC event and speak briefly on youth, diplomacy, and sports, as those topics align with SCC’s mission and message.

Darius advised that the Annual SCC Conference may be held virtually this year via Zoom. He stated that he was asked to consider hosting a luncheon in connection with the conference but requested additional time to think about the proposal. He also advised that he is working to increase involvement from the southern region of Illinois and is considering Marion as a potential location due to its transportation access and hotel availability.

Deputy Chief DiVito asked which expenses would be covered by Village funds. Darius advised that payments for Brian Danzy, and the celebration party room rental would be paid from Village funds. Deputy Chief DiVito requested that all contracts and/or written quotes be submitted prior to the event to allow for timely processing of checks. Darius advised that he will coordinate with Gurmeet to finalize the program for the BHM event and that room setup will likely occur one to two days prior to the event. Deputy Chief DiVito also asked whether Public Works assistance would be required. Herb advised that a podium, microphone, speakers, and the SCC tablecloth will be needed.

Regarding Juneteenth planning, Darius advised that a Chief from the Central Region expressed interest in attending the Juneteenth event. He stated that if members of the Ghanaian community are made aware of the Chief’s attendance, it would likely generate significant attention and participation. Herb suggested incorporating a “Ghana Fest”-type component into the Juneteenth event to encourage additional support and

involvement from the Ghanaian community. Frank advised that when the Chief previously visited Illinois, there was substantial Ghanaian participation and attendance. He further advised that representatives from southern Ghana (Fanti region), North America, and Canada will be attending a convention in Maryland on July 12, and he intends to speak with the Chief at that time to determine whether he may be able to attend a future Juneteenth event.

- 5-b. Continued discussion re Sister Cities Committee business (communications, coordinated efficiencies, assignment follow-through, recruitment)- Darius advised the SCC members to continue attempting to recruit Spanish-speaking volunteers from Zacatecas to increase engagement and representation within the committee.

Darius asked James what support or resources he would need from the committee to help establish a connection with St. Ansgar church to assist with recruitment efforts. James advised that he would follow up and let the committee know what may be needed.

Herb advised that the committee has continued to struggle with recruiting members from the Spanish-speaking community. He further stated that SCC member Gurmeet previously suggested that, given the strong presence and foundation of the Indian community in the area, the committee should begin taking the necessary steps to explore establishing a Sister City partnership with a city in India.

Darius advised that he will contact Sister Cities International to initiate discussions regarding the process for developing a partnership with a Sister City connected to the Indian community.

- 5-c. Budget Amendments- Darius advised that he is scheduled to have a conversation with Village Clerk Kristy Merrill on Monday, as she was not available prior to the meeting. Deputy Chief DiVito advised that any FY2025 budget amendments will be placed on the February 19th Village Board Meeting. He further advised that any amendments for the 2025–2026 fiscal year will be due from SCC by February 1 to allow time to get the necessary information to the Finance Department.

Deputy Chief DiVito added that, after reviewing the funds allocated for special events related to Juneteenth and Black History Month, approximately \$2,200 remains available in unspent FY25 funds. He advised that any request for budget amendments must include a specific dollar amount along with a brief explanation supporting the request. Darius advised that he would like to request a rollover of the remaining \$2,200.

6. TOWNHALL SESSION:

None.

7. OLD BUSINESS (NON-ACTION ITEMS):

7-a. Recap of recent activities- Darius advised that he attended the Martin Luther King Jr. Dinner hosted by Reverend Clyde Brooks, which he described as an excellent event. He also attended the DuPage County Martin Luther King Jr. Remembrance Breakfast held at Drury Lane Theatre. Herb advised that he attended both events alongside the Mayor. He further stated that the committee should consider becoming more involved in similar events in the future to increase engagement and community presence.

7-b. Budget activity update- Deputy Chief DiVito advised that there has been no new budget activity since the last meeting. He further advised that the 2026 membership dues in the amount of \$50 have recently been received and will be processed at the upcoming Village meeting.

8. NEW BUSINESS (NON-ACTION ITEMS):

8-a. Upcoming event announcements- Herb advised that Mayor Craig's State of the Village event will be held on February 11 at 9:00 a.m. The event will be led by the Mayor and will provide an overview of current initiatives, accomplishments, and ongoing developments within the Village of Hanover Park.

8-b. Agenda topics for upcoming meeting-

- BHM and Juneteenth Planning- Continued
- Continued discussion re Sister Cities Committee business (communications, coordinated efficiencies, assignment follow-through, recruitment)
- Budgetary Amendments- Continued

6. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Frank to adjourn at 07:46 p.m. Second by James. Voice Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Notes taken by Sister Cities Staff Liaison Officer Shahad Alkafil.