



STERLING HEIGHTS CommUNITY Alliance
Minutes of Wednesday , Jan. 15 , 2025 Meeting
Location: City Hall

Members Present: Stacy Bahri, Cindy Bjornson, Sandy DelVillano-Marchi, Tatrika Graphenreed, Connie Maciejewski, Michael Mazur

Members Absent: Rich Rubba

Representing the City: Melanie Davis

Guests:

Meeting called to order at 6:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES :

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of the Dec. 12, 2024 CommUNITY Alliance made by S. Bahri; Seconded by T. Graphenreed and voted all in favor.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Bonding Exercise - T. Graphenreed led the group through an exercise - guess who had what first job, and then have them name something they learned from that job.

Strategic Plan Updates/Upcoming Events and Activities

The group discussed upcoming events:

Jan. 20 - CommUNITY Alliance support for MLK Unity Walk. C. Bjornson, M. Mazur and T. Graphenreed all registered to attend but expressed concerns about the anticipated frigid temperatures that day. M. Davis explained that the ceremony will be indoors and that we may shorten the walk if weather dictates. She will email registrants with this additional information and update Facebook / Website as well.

Feb. 26 - Macomb Student Diversity Summit - S. Bahri indicated our CommUNITY Alliance members are welcome to attend so long as they register.

We'll be doing 1 or 2 sessions in conjunction with our three panelists from the City's Youth Advisory Board. If we have registrations that dictate two sessions, Stacy will help with one session and then M. Davis will do the other alone, or we can have another Alliance member assist.

March 7 - M. Davis has requested a table be reserved for the Alliance at the Cultural Exchange. The group discussed what we want to offer at the table: Human Library flyers, postcard "take one" with mission statement and activities and QR code to join our mailing list and give us feedback about what they'd like to see us do to be entered to win a prize (community engagement and volunteer recruitment). M. Davis will bring our banner and A Frame that we can design with a poster featuring pics of our previous events and the QR code to enter for the feedback/prize. Pictures used for the poster can include our Commission of the Year award, pride flag raising, page turners social, Disability Awareness Workshop, Human Library, New Resident Meet and Greets, etc. M. Davis will put together the online form and send the link to Alliance members for feedback. M. Davis will also order sticker giveaways. T. Graphenreed suggested a Ticketmaster gift card as a potential prize since they are so popular.

April 23 at the Library - M. Davis noted she has two confirmed human books and asked each of the other Alliance members to find at least one human book between now and the next meeting.

May 28 - New Resident Meet and Greet - M. Davis noted that we could host at Velocity this time OR a restaurant willing to donate their space/food as an in-kind sponsorship. She asked Alliance members to try to seek out restaurants that would be willing to serve as an in-kind sponsor for the May 28 event.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. M. Mazur asked if another member wanted to assist with the social media posts as we haven't been as active in that initiative as we would like. The group discussed and decided it would be a good idea to make it a group effort where each person takes a different month and puts something together for any celebrations for that month. He'll send an email after each meeting for the important calendar items coming up the following month, and he'll share a sample of what he's done in the past. He will also attend the March 4 council meeting to speak about the resolutions for Ethnic Equality Month and Gender Equality Month on that agenda.
- b. The group discussed the more casual new year dinner, but it can be difficult to find another date that is open for all. M. Mazur suggested we accomplish this by meeting off site at a restaurant for the Feb. 19 meeting, and the decision to move forward with this was unanimous.
- c. Disability Awareness Workshop - C. Bjornson noted that she is putting the work on the DAW to bed for the time being as she has reached out to several contacts at the schools and other area non-

profits and groups but has not received any response. We may choose to pick this back up in the future.

- d. C. Bjornson asked to put the DEI Checklist revisions on the Feb. 19 agenda. M. Davis provided all members a hard copy at the meeting for their review prior to the Feb. 19 meeting.
- e. M. Mazur noted the Library is looking for someone who can decorate the library for the upcoming Page Turners Social on Feb. 15. Any suggestions can be shared with him or with M. Davis. The theme is “winter/cozy” and hot chocolate will be served. The next Page Turners Social after that will be May 19.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. M. Davis shared information on the upcoming SH African American Coalition’s Black History Month Dinner on Feb. 24 from 6-8 p.m. in the Community Center. Dinner is \$30 per person, and the group is pleased that we now have an African American “approved caterer” for the Community Center who will be catering this event. This year’s theme is “African Americans and Labor,” so the keynote speaker is the president of UAW Local 6000. Sponsorships are also available ranging from \$500 - \$3,000.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m. on a motion from S. Bahri, seconded by S. DelVillano-Marchi and voted all in favor.