



STERLING HEIGHTS CommUNITY Alliance

Minutes of Wednesday , Feb. 19, 2025 Meeting

Location: Carraba's Italian Grill, 44695 Schoenherr Road

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

Members Absent: none

Representing the City: Melanie Davis

Guests:

Meeting called to order at 7:07 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of the Jan. 15, 2025 CommUNITY Alliance made by S. Bahri; Seconded by C. Bjornson and voted all in favor.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Bonding Exercise - The group agreed that this off-site dinner served as our team building exercise this month. M. Mazur asked if someone wanted to volunteer to come up with the exercise for March, and S. Bahri agreed to do it. M. Mazur also requested we all bring a photo or physical item that makes us happy to share at the next meeting.

Strategic Plan Updates/Upcoming Events and Activities

The group discussed upcoming events:

Feb. 26 - Macomb Student Diversity Summit - M. Davis indicated that based on recent changes at the federal level, the planning group has chosen to postpone this event, likely to March. Youth Advisory Board participants have been notified. Additional details forthcoming.

March 7 - M. Davis has requested a table be reserved for the Alliance at the Cultural Exchange. M. Davis will order a tri-fold table top display in black, bring sharpies/post-it notes and order Kindness pens so attendees can answer a

question on a post-it and stick to the board. Questions might be something like “what does community mean to you?” Or “I would like to see neighbors helping neighbors by...” M. Davis will also design a poster for our A Frame we can use at the table that features photos from previous Alliance events. Mazur, Rubba, Bjornson, Maciejewski and DeVillano-Marchi all volunteered to staff the table for a period of time.

April 23 at the Library - M. Davis noted she has four confirmed human books: DID, Visual Impairment, Vietnamese Immigrant, Chaldean Woman. R. Rubba said Nathan Ford is in again for the “amputee” book. She asked other Alliance members to do one last push to get us to eight books before the next meeting. C. Bjornson offered to serve as a book again if needed, M. Mazur has a friend or two who can serve as a book and M. Davis suggested a local Buddhist monk. We will do final outreach before next meeting.

May 28 - New Resident Meet and Greet - The group confirmed May 28 and asked M. Davis to book the Community Center. She will reach out to Vibe CU to see if they will sponsor. We discussed bringing printed copies of our City News and Magazine to hand out.

M. Mazur noted that about 13-14 people attended the last Page Turners Social, and the next one is scheduled for May 19.

M. Davis provided some background to the group about Recreation on the Run, and the group agreed to choose maybe three dates this year as a pilot project to have local amateur entertainment appear. The dates of June 16, June 30 and then a date in August (Mondays) were suggested. More to come.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. M. Mazur agreed to attend the March 4 council meeting to speak on the Gender Equality Month resolution.
- b. C. Bjornson agreed to review the inclusion checklist for events to simplify it for the future and bring a draft revision to the March meeting. M. Davis will email her an original copy she can use as the foundation.

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. However, she shared the good news that the dinner is already sold out!
- b. M. Mazur suggested we get everyone’s mobile numbers so we can start a group chat thread. A group chat has not been set up.
- c. T. Graphenreed suggested we do something on May 16 for “Do Something for Your Neighbor” Day. M. Davis mentioned that we

could create a hashtag and put together a contest on social media, with an award that would be given out to the person with the best photo at the May 28 New Resident Meet and Greet event.

ADJOURNMENT :

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. on a motion from T. Graphenreed, seconded by S. Bahri and voted all in favor.