



STERLING HEIGHTS CommUNITY Alliance

Minutes of Wednesday , March 19, 2025 Meeting

Location: City Hall, 40555 Utica Road

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

Members Absent: Tatrika Graphenreed

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 Feb. 19, 2025 CommUNITY Alliance made by R. Rubba; Seconded by S. DelVillano-Marchi and voted all in favor.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Bonding Exercise - S. Bahri ran through a brief discussion on what everyone's plans were for this summer.

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 DelVillano-Marchi all volunteered to staff the table for a period of time.

April 23 at the Library - R. Rubba, M. Mazur, C. Bjornson, C. Maciejewski, S. DelVillano-Marchi and S. Bahri all said they can attend to volunteer. We can rotate volunteer roles so our volunteers get a chance to read a book as well. Anna Tomiak is someone C. Bjornson’s friend knows, she fled her home in Ukraine and we can potentially still try to secure her as a book. If not, we can feature her in a future event/campaign as a Sterling Heights resident. S. Bahri said she could serve as a panelist on the Breakfast of Nations panel in May. A request was made to get a gift for the books - some Sterling Heights merch perhaps, or even a certificate from the mayor. It could be a bag with our merch and a \$10 gift card from Starbuck’s, etc. We do not need raffle prizes for this event. M. Davis noted the books will all be contacted next week in order to get them trained and ready to go. M. Davis will follow up with our potential sponsor.

May 28 - New Resident Meet and Greet - We have two BWW baskets, a basket and a diffuser donated by C. Maciejewski as raffle prizes. We need a sponsor for the pizza/salads and beverages. Nothing Bundt Cakes will do the mini cupcakes. M. Mazur will emcee again, and M. Davis will update the run of show. M. Davis noted our marketing specialists will be conducting a social media campaign based on T. Graphenreed’s suggestion for National Do Something Good for Your Neighbor Day on May 16 - residents can upload photos with a hashtag we’ll create, and the Alliance can choose a winner who will be awarded at this new resident event.

June 30 and August - Recreation on the Run - the group decided to maybe try two events this summer as a pilot project. M. Davis noted there is no amplification allowed, and we may want to run the performance part at 5 p.m. so it doesn’t conflict with Parks and Rec activities on that same date. M. Davis will work with marketing specialists to recruit a couple performers with something along the lines of a “Sterling Heights’ Got Talent” theme. Group members will plan to attend the June 16 Recreation on the Run to observe before we host ours on June 30.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. The Event Checklist was reviewed, and revisions were made. C. Bjornson went over feedback received and will take that and bring a final version for approval to the April meeting.
- b. M. Mazur apologized for not being able to make the March 4 council meeting to speak on the Gender Equality Month resolution as he was out sick. C. Bjornson mentioned that there was a resident who spoke out in opposition to it because of the word gender, however,

M. Davis noted the resolution was passed in perpetuity by city council on that date.

- c. M. Mazur noted that the Cultural Exchange went well, and the next Page Turners Social is scheduled for May 19. M. Davis said she will add that to the next agenda as an “upcoming event.”

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. M. Mazur noted that he was nominated for the Macomb County Volunteer Awards by his Macomb County Commissioner through M. Davis. The nomination is for his work as chair of the CommUNITY Alliance, and he has been invited to a dinner on April 15, 2025 for recognition. More to come.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m. on a motion from M. Mazur, seconded by R. Rubba and voted all in favor .