



STERLING HEIGHTS CommUNITY Alliance

Minutes of Wednesday, April 16, 2025 Meeting

Location: City Hall, 40555 Utica Road

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

Members Absent: Stacy Bahri, Rich Rubba

Representing the City: Melanie Davis

Guests:

Meeting called to order at 6: 21 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of the March 19, 2025 CommUNITY Alliance made by T. Graphenreed; Seconded by C. Bjornson and voted all in favor.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Bonding Exercise - M. Mazur used the prompt this month of “are you superstitious, and if so, what are you superstitious about?”

Strategic Plan Updates/Upcoming Events and Activities

The group discussed upcoming events:

April 23 Human Library - M. Davis noted everything is pretty much in place for the event. Books are confirmed and trained, food will be ordered. She will contact the library to confirm set up, call PD to confirm police presence, print out all materials needed and send a follow up email to all those registered to attend. She will look for swag to add to mugs we will sticker and give to all the books who participate. S. DelVillano-Marchi confirmed she will pick up the eight \$10 Starbuck's cards. We will assemble the gifts this week or just before the event.

May 19 Page Turners Social - The event will be held outdoors if weather cooperates. M. Mazur attended the Macomb County Volunteer Awards recently and said lots of people were interested in this event as well as the Human Library and other events.

May 28 - New Resident Meet and Greet - Melanie got the list of addresses. We will be hosting a social media contest for National Do Something Good for Your Neighbor Day on May 16. We will determine the prize - it could be that they receive a nice neighbor at an upcoming council meeting as well as a stake sign for their front yard that proclaims they won this contest. M. Mazur asked if we could bring another black board with sticky notes and sharpies so people can answer the question of "what does community mean to you?" T. Graphenreed asked if we can add "what would you like to do for your community" and/or "how have you contributed to your community?" M. Davis said we still have sticky notes and black poster boards left over, so she didn't see why we couldn't make that happen. The group offered to help stuff letters sometime next week when we have them ready. M. Davis will update the run of show / script and bring to May meeting.

June 5 Pride Flag Raising -- Pride Night at Dodge Park Thursdays - June 5, 6 p.m. M. Davis to reach out to Macomb County Pride to see who they'll send to make remarks.

June 30 and August - Recreation on the Run - Not too much new to report. We will need to begin recruiting performers from 5 - 6 p.m. (maybe four groups to perform 10 minutes each to start). This needs a name. M. Davis will confirm with Troy Nowotny which park is on June 30. We might be able to create door tags to recruit performers and promote the event / inform residents in neighborhoods adjacent to the park.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. The Event Checklist was reviewed. M. Mazur recommended moving the food up to one line to make more room for the open-ended questions at the bottom. He also recommended adding "Name of Auditor" at the top of the page so we know who filled it out. M. Davis will make final changes and provide in the May agenda packet.
- a. C. Bjornson asked if we could get the sticky notes from the Cultural Exchange transcribed and brought to the May meeting so we can decide how we want to use that information. M. Davis said she would make that happen.

NEW BUSINESS :

- A. Bjornson asked for updates discussed today to be sent via group text vs. email. The group agreed.
- B. M. Mazur reiterated that at the Macomb County Volunteer Awards event, lots of people were impressed with Sterling Heights and what we are doing.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7: 38 p.m. on a motion from C. Bjornson , seconded by M. Mazur and voted all in favor.