



STERLING HEIGHTS CommUNITY Alliance
Minutes of Wednesday, May 21, 2025 Meeting
Location: City Hall, 40555 Utica Road

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

Members Absent:

Representing the City: Melanie Davis

Guests:

Meeting called to order at 6: 19 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES :

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of the April 16, 2025 CommUNITY Alliance made by T. Graphenreed; Seconded by R. Rubba and voted all in favor.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Bonding Exercise - M. Mazur used the prompt this month of “roller coasters: how do you feel about them?”

Strategic Plan Updates/Upcoming Events and Activities

The group discussed upcoming events:

May 26 Memorial Day Parade - no one from the group is available to walk this year, so we'll look at picking it up again in 2026.

May 28 - New Resident Meet and Greet - M. Davis noted the run of show has been approved by email and we have plenty of Bingo cards left over from November (she will review to make sure they are still relevant and nothing on them is dated). We have 44 registrations to date. M. Davis confirmed Nothing Bundt Cakes will donate 36 mini cupcakes again and will order food from a local pizzeria and ice from CC on Tuesday. She will create a slide of the winners from the “Do Something Nice for Your Neighbor Day” contest just in case they can’t

attend. She is waiting for a reply from both. She will bring another black posterboard, sticky notes, sharpies, registration sheet and name tags/pens. Volunteers should plan to arrive as close to 5 p.m. as possible for set up.

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. M. Davis will have the speaker/mic available. C. Bjornson will make brief remarks on behalf of the CommUNITY Alliance. M. Davis will circulate a run of show to everyone, will request Facilities Maintenance to assist with the crank and will request police presence from community services bureau. The main stage will feature Simply Queen at 7 p.m., and everyone is invited to stay for the show.

Park Pop Up Performances - M. Davis noted she had discussed this concept with her team for ideas on ways we could recruit potential performers. We are recommending that we do not piggyback with Recreation on the Run as it probably isn't the right audience. Staff instead recommended potentially tying it to the 50th anniversary of Music in the Park under the concept of "we're bringing the music to you," or potentially tying to the Coffeehouse series as an outdoor extension. The group agreed to wait until acts were recruited (Community Relations will assist with this in a number of ways) before choosing a specific date/location for the pilot. Between now and the June meeting, members were asked to reach out to their own networks to see if they know anyone who would be interested in signing up for a 10-minute performance.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. The Event Checklist final revised draft was reviewed and the group agreed this will serve as the final version. M. Davis will email the final version to everyone and create a digital version through the website so everyone can bookmark a link she will send them and fill it out on their phone if necessary.
- b. M. Mazur said the May 19 Page Turners Social was a good event and attracted roughly 15-20 people. We will plan to host another this year.
- c. M. Davis noted the list of words included in the agenda packet that were captured from the board used at the vendor table at the Cultural Exchange event. R. Rubba said these boards are a nice visual, and an interactive opportunity to use for event attendees. M. Davis said we could potentially use these words as built-in resident input for strategic planning purposes. S. Bahri said we could create a word cloud from them and put it on the website or use on social media or for a poster at future events. T. Graphenreed suggested making a word search from these words to be used at future events including the Sterlingfest table. M. Davis will look into putting one together.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Davis discussed stickers available through Macomb County Pride that feature a diverse group of people in cartoon form and say “Everyone is welcome here.” The stickers are meant for businesses to put in their entrance windows. The group agreed they would like to investigate opportunities to engage in getting these out into our community. The group agreed window clings might be better than stickers. M. Davis will investigate options for clings as well as options for collaborating with MCP on purchase for better pricing as well as doing an individual run with the CommUNITY Alliance logo at the bottom. She will also investigate options for distribution.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7: 18 p.m. on a motion from R. Rubba , seconded by T. Graphenreed and voted all in favor.