



## **STERLING HEIGHTS CommUNITY Alliance**

### **Minutes of Wednesday , Sept. 17, 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: NA

**Meeting called to order at 6:08 p.m.**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES :**

**Motion** to approve the meeting minutes of the June 23, 2025 CommUNITY Alliance made by S. Bahri, with a change requested to fix a typo in the word shifts; Seconded by T. Graphenreed and voted all in favor.

#### **AGENDA ITEMS:**

**Bonding Exercise** - M. Mazur led the group bonding exercise by asking the group “what is your favorite season and why?”

**Officer Election** - the group requested we postpone elections until October so that R. Rubba can participate and also so everyone could have additional time to think about nominations.

**Strategic Plan Review / Updates** - M. Davis suggested that instead of reviewing the existing strategic plan, the group start a bit from scratch to make sure the current group is still in agreement about the pillars, direction and activities. T. Graphenreed asked if there is potential for the group to do some surveying on our own so we can capture the thoughts of those who are most engaged in our community. C. Bjornson suggested we use our tri-fold poster to ask a meaningful question like “what can we do to improve relationships and make you feel more welcome as a resident?” M. Davis will re-send the original strategic plan to the group so we can review and talk about it in more depth at the October meeting. M. Mazur will set up a Google Doc so everyone can share thoughts right within

the document. M. Davis will update the research portion with updated resident survey statistics.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. Everyone is Welcome Clings - M. Davis noted that she would re-visit the opportunity to produce these and work in conjunction with local business organizations to distribute them to businesses who would like them.
- b. Page Turners Social - M. Mazur reminded the group that the event is this Sunday, Sept. 21 outdoors at the library (weather permitting) from 2-4 p.m. He encouraged everyone to sign up.
- c. Sterlingfest - C. Bjornson said the volunteer sign up had several individuals who signed up to sit at the table for all hours all three days. M. Davis said she would discuss with staff to see if we can set a limit to how many spots someone can sign up for to make room for everyone who wants to participate.
- d. National Good Neighbor Day - This is Sept. 28, and M. Davis said she would ask the social media team if we have space to put out an appeal again for this as a contest to award any winners at the November Meet and Greet event and also as a general request for “nice neighbors” to be recognized at upcoming council meetings.

### **NEW BUSINESS :**

- a. New Neighbor “Mentorship” Program - M. Davis said she’d like to develop a new neighbor “buddy” program for new residents as part of the city’s EPIP program. The program could be designed for “mentors” to be paired with a new resident and agree to meet them and walk them through a city event, program or initiative on a quarterly basis, and agree to serve as someone who will answer questions and help connect them to appropriate personnel as needed. The group agreed we should explore creating this program.
- b. Look No Further - M. Davis said we are looking for one more person to be featured as a “empty nester” or “active senior” as a part of the next round of creative. T. Graphenreed said she’d ask her friend who did the Human Library for us two years ago.
- c. New Resident Meet and Greet - The group chose Nov. 13 from 6-8 p.m. at the Community Center for the next meet and greet event. M. Davis will work on reserving the community room for this purpose.
- d. New Event Idea - M. Mazur suggested we do an English-style “lock and key” party, not as a dating event, but as a way for new residents to meet new people. The group is considering this, and perhaps we can incorporate this idea into one of the new resident meet and greet events.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m. on a motion from S. Bahri, seconded by T. Graphenreed and voted all in favor.