

Council Business Meeting

June 19, 2018

Title: Senior Issues – Options and Direction

From: Adam Hanks Interim City Administrator

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Summary:

This item is intended to solicit Council direction to staff on next the steps to be taken in identifying appropriate roles for City government in addressing the needs of seniors in Ashland.

Actions, Options, or Potential Motions:

Provide direction to staff actions to be taken to facilitate Council decision-making on City initiatives intended to benefit Ashland seniors. Options the Council may want to consider include the following:

- 1) Establishing a work group consisting of Council (2), staff(1-3) and at-large (2-3) community members or subject matter experts to meet over the course of 4-8 weeks to organize and develop an outline of broad community topics that impact seniors that also includes how the City currently connects with those topics.
- 2) Dedicating a near-future Council Study Session to this topic with key subjects identified in advance to facilitate staff's preparation of background material for the discussion.
- 3) As an alternative to the above options, Council could invite the non-elected citizen members of last year's independent Ad Hoc Senior Program Advisory Committee and/or the non-elected citizen members of the current, ongoing Senior Program Advisory Committee to brief the Council in a Study Session on their work to identify the needs and wants of Ashland's seniors. This would provide Council with a set of topics and issues to discuss, prioritize, delve deeper into, as well as identify any topic gaps that Council would like additional information on.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff has no formal recommendation other than a request for as much clarity and direction as possible.

Resource Requirements:

The only foreseeable resource requirement would be staff time, which cannot be estimated absent further direction from Council. Staff time ultimately allocated to this topic will impact overall capacity, and will have to be addressed internally among the involved Departments.

Policies, Plans and Goals Supported:

Council Goal #5 – Seek opportunities to enable all citizens to meet basic needs.

Council Goal #20 – Embrace and plan ahead for emerging social trends that might impact the economy and vitality of the community

Background and Additional Information:

At its June 4, 2018 Study Session, Council was presented with a recommendation to defer the creation of a Senior Issues Ad-Hoc Committee until such time as the Parks and Recreation Senior Program Advisory Committee (S-PAC) had a chance to convene and develop its anticipated charge and scope as well as to provide time for the not yet selected Senior Services Superintendent to be selected and begin work.

Council voted not to establish its own Senior Issues Ad-Hoc Committee and discussed different possible ways to achieve Councilmembers' common desire to better understand the range of issues faced by the community's senior population and possible roles for the City and the Parks Commission in addressing those issues. Some Councilmembers appeared to want to discuss these issues with the Parks Commission in the near term; others appeared to favor deferring such a discussion with the Parks Commission until the Council conducts some of its own research, outreach, and deliberation or until the S-PAC and the new Senior Services Superintendent have been at work for a while.

Council requested that the Senior issues discussion be continued at a subsequent meeting,

Attachments:

[June 4, 2018 Study Session Packet Materials](#)

June 4, 2018 Study Session Draft Minutes (see draft minutes in meeting packet)