



**ASHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
ASHLAND SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ASAC)**

MEETING AGENDA

June 10, 2019 @ 3:30 – 5:00 pm

ASHLAND SENIOR CENTER, 1699 HOMES AVENUE

- I. Opening (1 min)
- II. Approval of Minutes – May 6, 2019 (all, 2 min)
- III. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda (all, 2 min)
- IV. Public Input (10 min)
- V. Age-Friendly Communities - discussion and next steps (Theis, 20 min)
- VI. Ashland Senior Center Room Use & Rental Fees – input on proposal (Glatt, 10 min)
- VII. Senior Volunteer Fair – input on proposal (Glatt, 10 min)
- VIII. Subcommittee Reports (15 min)
 - a. Public Awareness (Russell-Miller, convener)
 - b. Education Programs (Mettler, staff)
 - c. Advocacy (Bellegia, convener)
- IX. Standing Reports (10 min)
 - a. APRC Update, if any pertaining to seniors (Gardiner)
 - b. City Council Update, if any pertaining to seniors (Seffinger)
 - c. Senior Services Superintendent Report (Glatt)
- X. Items from S-SAC Members (all, 5 min)
- XI. Future Meetings (5 min) – Discuss summer absences; identify chair for July 8; September change.
 - a. Monday, July 8, 3:30-5:00pm, at Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Ave
 - b. Monday, August 12, 3:30-5:00pm, at Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Ave
- XII. Adjournment – 5:00pm

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Administrator's office at (541) 488-6002 (TTY phone number 1-800-735-2900). Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title I).

City of Ashland
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION (APRC)
ASHLAND SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ASAC)
Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2019

Committee Members Present:

- Anne Bellegia
- Rob Casserly
- Mike Gardiner
- Mike Hersh
- Mary Russell-Miller
- Stef Seffinger
- Sandy Theis, Chair

Staff Members Present:

- Michael Black
- Isleen Glatt
- Natalie Mettler

CALL TO ORDER:

This is called the meeting to order at 3:30pm at Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Ave in Ashland.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Gardiner/Russell-Miller m/s to approve the minutes of April 8, 2019. Voice vote – ALL AYES. Motion passed.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA:

None.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None.

PRESENTATION: AARP AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES (Liz James, AARP Volunteer Leader, & Connie Saldaña, RVCOG SDS Planner):

Liz James, the AARP volunteer spearheading Talent's Age-Friendly Communities initiative, stated that the on-the-ground infrastructure for AARP programs is run by volunteers. James has a personal interest in advocacy, housing and transportation, which she is now applying to her AARP work with the Network of Age-Friendly Communities (NAFC). Referring to the one-page summary about NAFC (included in the meeting packet) and her presentation agenda (see attached), she stressed the benefits to municipalities of joining NAFC: the added recognition and visibility of membership can increase funding opportunities and attract new residents as well as tourists. She stated that NAFC provides a critical framework, resources and tools for communities to become age-friendly. There are currently six municipalities in the state that are part of NAFC; AARP's goal is for Oregon to become an age-friendly state.

Bellegia asked about potential downsides of joining NAFC, such as financial costs. James said that there aren't any costs, and she doesn't see downsides. She walked through the NAFC Program Cycle (included in the meeting packet) for ASAC to better understand the steps a municipality needs to take to become age-friendly. Bellegia asked ASAC if they would commit to shepherd this process for the City of Ashland, as James said ASAC is an ideal point of NAFC ownership for Ashland. Theis said ASAC would need time for discussion after this presentation before deciding their role in NAFC membership for Ashland. This decision will be an agenda item at the next ASAC meeting.

Hersh expressed concern about making Ashland an Age-Friendly Community since the hills in town mean that different neighborhoods will have varying needs. He feels that the City tends to prioritize lower-lying areas and not focus on municipal services, such as public transportation and street maintenance, for those living above 2500 feet within city limits. James responded that the NAFC program has the mechanisms to address such diverse needs and is all-inclusive for all communities.

James identified AARP's Livability Index (<https://livabilityindex.aarp.org/>) as a useful web-based tool for assessing a community's rating in seven key categories (Housing, Neighborhood, Transportation, Environment, Health, Engagement, Opportunity). Ashland is rated 54 out of 100 (Talent is 56 and Medford is 53). Ashland's highest score is 69 for Health (69) and lowest is 45 for Neighborhood. She noted that this index demonstrates that Ashland is already well on its way to becoming an age-friendly community, noted some steps already taken by the City in that direction. Other aspects of Ashland align with NAFC guidelines, such as: the Senior Services Division and its variety of programs, the availability of senior housing, the Asante Community Hospital, curb cuts in ramps, and the breadth of local cultural and social offerings.

A crucial component of NAFC is lifelong housing. Connie Saldaña summarized the history and main elements of the Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG) Lifelong Housing Certification program, noting that lifelong housing is beneficial for everyone in the community, not just seniors. Such homes are more convenient and attractive than institutional options for older adults, and the age-friendly features are valuable for all age groups. Saldaña reviewed the Lifelong Housing Certification Checklist and flyer included in the meeting packet. She noted that the challenge is to convince builders that building such certified homes is also in their financial interest, and she named some area companies that have already adopted the Checklist guidelines. This is program that was recently honored with an Aging Innovation Award by the National Area Agencies on Aging, and its terminology has been adopted by the Multiple Listing Service used by realtors nationally. Saldaña's goal is to continue to raise awareness about this program and have it become the national standard for home-building. She has already worked with Linda Reid, the Housing Program Specialist with the City of Ashland, to get Lifelong Housing Certification named as a Value by the City; it is now included in the City's Comprehensive and Consolidated Plans.

Gardiner asked who decided for Talent to join NAFC, and how quickly that decision was made. James responded that the Talent City Council and Mayor made the decision and moved quickly. She will provide a sample NAFC application and Mayor's letter for ASAC. Russell-Miller asked if ASAC is the right place for this process to start. Gardiner replied that more research is needed to determine if it would fall under the Senior Services Division, in which case it would be under the Parks Commission umbrella, and they would make the recommendation to the City Council to join NAFC. Seffinger reported that she already spoke with the Mayor and City Council about Ashland becoming an Age-Friendly Community a couple of years ago, and the Mayor was supportive. Bellegia volunteered to help drafting the application and letter. Theis advised ASAC to retain a strong role in promoting Ashland joining NAFC; ASAC needs to remain engaged and invested in this process, not just push it off on the City Council. Seffinger cautioned against waiting too long to begin this process, noting that the City's Housing Strategy Implementation Plan was being presented that evening. This is another opportunity for ASAC to represent seniors needs, as they are already doing with various allies such as Seffinger as Council liaison to the Planning Commission and Katharine Danner as an appointed member on the Transportation Commission.

PROPOSAL FOR QUARTERLY LISTENING CIRCLE:

Theis reported that she had a phone conversation a couple of months ago with a member of the public who continues to be dissatisfied with the changes at the Senior Center in the last two years. She asked that SSD bring back listening circles that took place in the past. Glatt shared that she had followed up with this patron, who said her interest was in listening sessions modeled like those held by the Ashland Senior Program Ad Hoc Committee (ASPAC) in 2017-2018. Glatt believes such sessions could help patrons feel more comfortable with ongoing changes. She and Mettler had held a spontaneous and productive listening session with lunch patrons about the scheduling changes affecting the Repair SO sewing repair program; that session seemed effective to hear concerns, dispel rumors, and answer questions.

Theis and Glatt suggested that ASAC members rotate to partner with Glatt in holding such listening sessions, perhaps quarterly. Gardiner suggested running a trial session first, and to try a different model if the public is not responsive to the format Glatt proposed. Gardiner said that APRC Listening Sessions are usually dedicated to a particular subject, but what Glatt is proposing could be more open, such as general issues related to seniors. Theis recommended having items of interest to discuss in case the public doesn't bring their own issues. Bellegia echoed Gardiner in cautioning against committing, at this time, to holding such Listening Sessions quarterly. Theis proposed starting with a trial session to be held by her and Glatt.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Public Awareness (Russell-Miller, convener)

Russell-Miller summarized subcommittee progress on public awareness. (See attached report.)

The subcommittee met and is expecting Russell-Miller's student intern to submit drafts of a brochure and marketing plan for the SSD by May 20, 2019. Hersh will post event flyers at key locations around Ashland. Russell-Miller asked how and where the Senior News newsletter is distributed. Mettler answered that it is sent out to subscribers in print and email form, posted on the APRC Facebook page, and will be available in print form at the following locations: the Chamber of Commerce, the Grove, the library, and soon at the YMCA. Hersh asked if SSD staff has connected with the Chamber greeters, and whether they have those emails for their distribution list. Glatt responded that it would be helpful for the Public Awareness subcommittee to collect such emails for SSD staff to use; she is also cultivating more professional contacts with whom to share SSD promotional materials.

B. Advocacy (Bellegia, convener)

Bellegia reported that the committee had not met this month. This reported that she and Glatt attended the Rogue Valley Transportation District (RVTD) Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund Advisory Committee (STIFAC) meeting on April 11, 2019, where they advocated for two of the projects which would improve public transportation access for Ashland seniors. On May 7, 2019, they will attend the City Council Business Meeting to read the ASAC thank you letter for the City's naming of "All-Age Friendly Community" as one of the twelve Values in their Goals process; This will read the letter during the Mayor's Announcements and mention ASAC's educating themselves on the issue today.

C. Education Programs (Mettler, staff)

Mettler summarized staff progress on Education Programming. (See attached report.) Casserly informed ASAC that Jami Hanna, the new Active Older Adult Programs Coordinator at the Ashland YMCA, is working on developing their education programming for seniors. The YMCA has significant assets, membership and revenue to support such programming. Casserly is helping them ensure a successful launch with these programs, and he recommended the SSD also provide directional assistance. Such collaboration promises benefits for the local senior community, as a rising tide raises all boats. Glatt noted that SSD staff will be meeting with Hanna later in the month.

STANDING REPORTS:

A. APRC update, if any pertaining to seniors

None.

B. City Council update, if any pertaining to seniors

Seffinger recommended ASAC send a member or representative to the May 7, 2019 City Council Business Meeting, at which the "Revitalize Downtown Ashland" Transportation and Growth Management (TGM) project will be discussed, and appointments made to the Citizen and Technical Advisory Committees. Seffinger stated that there needs to be an advocate for seniors on at least the Citizen Advisory Committee.

Unfortunately, no one from ASAC was available to attend, nor did anyone have suggestions for other advocates.

C. SSD Superintendent report

Due to lack of remaining time, Glatt directed ASAC to review the report she included in the meeting packet.

ITEMS FROM S-SAC MEMBERS:

Cassery won't be able to attend the June 10th meeting. Theis won't be able to attend the July 8th ASAC meeting; ASAC will decide at the June meeting whether to cancel the July meeting or ask Vice Chair Hersh to chair.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:04 pm.

Next meeting: June 10, 3:30-5pm, Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Avenue

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Mettler, Senior & Adult Services Coordinator
Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission

These minutes are not a verbatim record. The narrative has been condensed and paraphrased at times to reflect the material presented, discussions, and decisions made. APRC ASAC Meetings are digitally recorded; the recordings are available upon request.

Ashland Senior Advisory Committee (ASAC)
AARP Network of Age Friendly Communities & RVCOG Life Long Housing Presentation
May 6, 2019

Presenters: Liz James, Volunteer Leader, AARP Southern Oregon Community Action Team
Connie Saldana, RVCOG, Senior and Disabilities Planner

ASAC Members: Sandra "Sandy" Theis - Community Partner member/chair
Mike Hersh - Program Participant member/vice chair
Anne Bellegia - Program Participant member
Mary Russell-Miller - Community Partner member
Mike Gardiner - Parks & Recreation Commission member
Rob Casserly - Community Partner member
Stefani Seffinger - City Council member

Ashland Senior Services Division Staff:
Isleen Glatt, MPH - Senior Services Superintendent
Natalie Mettler - Senior & Adult Services Coordinator
Laura Stott - Senior Services Office Assistant II

AGENDA:

AARP Network of Age Friendly Communities Program – Liz James

- Program overview and cycle
- Getting started/joining the Network
- Ashland's AARP Livability Index Score
- Existing Ashland all age friendly policies, programs, and asset examples

RVCOG Lifelong Housing Program – Connie Saldana

- Program overview
- Certification
- Existing and planned LLH Rogue Valley examples

Q & A - All

AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities Program Cycle

STEP 1: ENTERING THE NETWORK

The purpose of the AARP Age Friendly Communities is to serve as a catalyst to educate, encourage, promote, and recognize improvements that make cities, towns, and counties more supportive not only of their older residents but for residents of all ages. Our intent is to provide American cities, towns, counties with the resources they need to become more age-friendly, tapping into national and global research, models, and best practices.

AARP's Value Added

- Providing an understanding or definition of the issue/need for change (framing the issue);
- Providing an understanding of economic and social benefit of a more livable community;
- Resources on AARP.org/livable – Future Livability index (all phases)
- Success Criteria
- Streamlined admission into Network

STEP 2: PLANNING PHASE (Year 1-2)

This step has four elements:

- Establishment of mechanisms to involve older people throughout the Age-Friendly city cycle
- A baseline assessment of the age-friendliness of the city.
- Development of a 3-year city wide plan of action based on assessment findings
- Identification of indicators to monitor progress

AARP's Value Added

- Decision making and organizational guidance
- Access to network of communities /Best Practices
- Assessment and survey Tools, identification of key community indicators
- Volunteer network to support/organize aspects of effort

STEP 3: IMPLEMENTATION & EVALUATION (Year 3-5)

On completion of the planning phase, and no later than two years after joining the Network, cities will submit their action plan to WHO for review and endorsement. Upon endorsement by WHO, cities will then have a three-year period of implementation.

At the end of the period of implementation, cities will be required to submit a progress report to WHO outlining progress against indicators developed in Phase 1.

AARP's Value Added

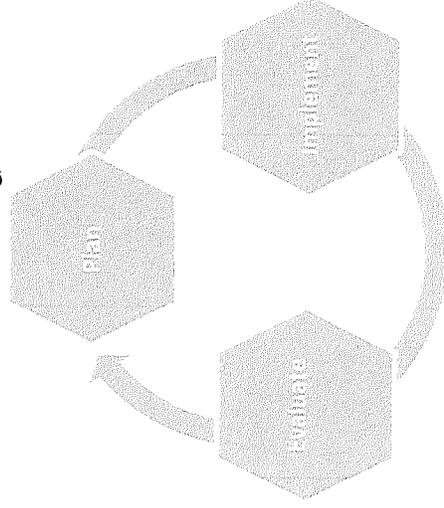
- Evaluation tools
- Organized training and networking events
- Resources on AARP.org/livable
- Access to network of communities /Best Practices
- Volunteer network to support/organize aspects of effort

STEP 4: CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENTS (Year 5+)

Upon completion of phase 3, cities will be able to continue their membership to the Network by entering into further implementation cycles.

AARP's Value Added

- Access to network of communities /Best Practices
- Volunteer network to support/organize aspects of effort
- Resources on AARP.org/livable



A continuous cycle of improvement

A-SAC Public Awareness Sub-Committee
Meeting Notes 3/30/19

Overall goal: Develop PR Campaign/Social Marketing

Brochure/Pamphlet Update:

SOU student will have “drafts” by 5/20
Both Tri-fold & Single Front/Back

Development & distribution of “Event-oriented Posters”

Post downtown

Libraries – SOU & Ashland Public

ASANTE – ACH & Surgery Center

Doc offices...

Churches...

Question: distribution of Newsletter...

Topics for Positive “Message” - Ideas

- Assistance & Support for Aging Parents
- Getting Ready to Retire
- Long-term Care... Things to know
- Disaster Registry
- Age-Friendly Ashland
- And?.....

Education Programs Subcommittee Report to ASAC 5/6/19 Regular Meeting

- Education Subcommittee has not met since last report (April ASAC meeting)
- SSD staff has added several educational presentations to the Senior Center summer schedule, with more to come:
 - o Medicare 101 (Cheryl Harrison & Melissa Mlasko), May 22, 1-2:30pm
 - o Friendship Formation for Seniors (Mark Sanford), Part 1 – May 29, 1-2:30pm & Part II – June 12, 1-2:30pm
 - o Disaster Preparedness (Terri Eubanks & Connie Saldaña), June 26, 1-3pm
 - o RVTD Travel Training (Mike Bowman), August 21, 1-3pm
 - o Providence Fall Clinic (Jamie Ziegler), September 25, 1-3pm
- Staff is creating flyers of SSD summer events, which will be distributed more widely, including through partner organizations.
- Staff has refined sign up process to encourage better participation and collection of client info for future promotions.
- Staff will begin implementing a brief intro to SSD activities and services before and evaluations after each event/presentation.

ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

340 S PIONEER STREET • ASHLAND, OREGON 97520

COMMISSIONERS:

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Jim Lewis
Julian Bell



Michael A. Black, AICP
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TO: Senior Services Advisory Committee (S-SAC)
FROM: Isleen Glatt, Senior Services Superintendent
DATE: June 5, 2019
SUBJECT: Ashland Senior Center Room Rental

As part of the effort to make the Ashland Senior Center more sustainable, staff are re-evaluating room rental fees. Our goal is to ensure maximum benefit to Ashland seniors while aligning with other APRC facility rental fees.

For many years, those instructors at the Senior Center who collect a modest fee from students have paid \$5 per class rent, while volunteer-led classes free to participants pay no rent. Some community users used the Center in the evening or weekend at no charge. By contrast, other APRC facilities rent for \$20 to \$50 per hour.

The attached draft proposal creates a tiered system to allow maximum opportunities for seniors while ensuring some rental fees to offset expenses. Spelling out the different categories of users and associated fees will ensure consistent practice and transparency.

Tier 3 is a small increase for current instructors, but still only half the regular rate for frequent APRC facility rental. The proposal also allows Superintendent Glatt to negotiate special rates by Memorandum of Understanding with non-profit organizations that provide classes/activities of great benefit to seniors. Activities not serving seniors or not open to the public would pay standard APRC rental fees, an important contribution to upkeep of the building.

Recommendation

Staff requests input from ASAC members at their June 10 meeting, to ensure the best policy for optimal community benefit.



APRC Senior Services Division

Ashland Senior Center Room Use & Rental Fees

The priority for the Ashland Senior Center is activities and services that benefit Ashland seniors or activities that may include seniors and their families. Rental fees, where applicable, contribute to Center and service sustainability by defraying a small portion of facility and utility costs. Outside groups may sometimes use the facilities after the Center closes at 3:30pm or on weekends, by reservation under the terms below.

- Senior Services Division staff approve each rental in advance of scheduling, to avoid conflict with a senior program in the process of development and to ensure scheduling to optimize facility use.
- The Senior & Adult Services Coordinator (541-552-2482) is the contact for reservations and will provide orientation as needed to ensure that renters use only the room reserved.
- Reservations may be for dining room, activity room, small office, or full facility. Full facility is limited to evenings and weekends, when available; it includes the deck, but excludes kitchen and office. The kitchen is not available for rental.
- We maintain a gap of 30 minutes between reservations, to allow each group a complimentary buffer of 15 minutes on either side of your reservation for renter to set up and clean up room. If additional time is needed for set up or clean up, please request a longer reservation.
- To maximize benefit of the Center to Ashland seniors, all room reservations are subject to change with minimum 30 days notice. Reservations may be made for the duration of each PlayGuide, or longer at the discretion of SSD staff, and may be renewed at the same time slot when available.
- All payments must be made a time of reservation. A full refund is available with a written notice of cancellation at least one week prior to the reservation.

Tier	User Category	Criteria	Required	Rate per room
1	Senior Services Division activities, APRC events	Activities organized by SSD staff or volunteer instructors/group leaders.	Volunteer waiver & background check, or staff supervise event	No fee
2	Nonprofit partner, events co-sponsored by APRC	Partner offers high quality activity that benefits seniors. Fee is modest, and sliding scale or scholarships are offered.	MOU, liability insurance, background checks documented by partner	Negotiated reduced/waived fee per MOU
3	Senior activity instructors	Activity adapted for seniors. Instructor collects a below-market fee for class.	Instructor application, liability insurance, credentials, background check	\$10/hr per room
4	Contracted APRC instructors	Accepted as APRC program, advertised in PlayGuide. Inclusive of seniors.	Instructor application, liability insurance, credentials, background check	40% of fees collected
5	Outside User at APRC regular rates	Private event not open to the no public. No senior benefit.	Rental agreement, liability insurance Security Deposit \$150	Nonprofit/frequent use rate: \$20/hr Regular rate: \$23/hr M-F \$35/hr wkd \$50/hr full facility

ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

340 S PIONEER STREET • ASHLAND, OREGON 97520

COMMISSIONERS:

Mike Gardiner
Joel Heller
Rick Landt
Jim Lewis
Julian Bell



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TO: Senior Services Advisory Committee (S-SAC)
FROM: Isleen Glatt, Senior Services Superintendent
DATE: June 5, 2019
SUBJECT: Proposed Senior Volunteer Fair

The Senior Services Division, in collaboration with the Community Volunteer Network, is planning a volunteer fair for seniors at the Ashland Senior Center. Many other community partners have already expressed interest in participating in such an event if organized. Staff will seek sponsors to provide refreshments and cover any associated costs. The event is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, January 22, 2:00-4:00pm.

Benefits

Senior volunteers are an incredible asset in the Ashland community. They provide abundant volunteer hours to many organizations large and small throughout the Rogue Valley, and in many roles they serve as “seniors helping seniors.” Volunteering also benefits the volunteer, providing community connection and sense of purpose vital for healthy aging.

The event will also serve as a high-profile public awareness opportunity. With many partners participating and marketing to their own audiences, the volunteer fair publicity will reach a broad cross section of Ashland seniors, especially active seniors and others not currently aware of resources available through the Senior Services Division.

In addition, the event will bring together many organizations that engage with seniors and create opportunities for networking and collaboration.

Recommendation

Staff requests input from ASAC members at their June 10 meeting on any ideas or concerns. Staff also requests recommendations and linkage to relevant organizations that should be invited.

**Senior Services Superintendent Report
to Ashland Senior Advisory Committee
For June 10, 2019 Meeting**

Operations/Programming

- Laura Stott, Senior Services Office Assistant II, has resigned due to a change in family circumstances requiring her to live out of state for some time. Her last day is June 28. The open position was posted on June 3, and we hope to hire by early July.
- In April 2019, there were 717 visits to senior fitness classes and 225 visits to recreation activities. RVCOG Food and Friends provided less than their average 550 meals onsite and 650 meals to homebound Ashland seniors. Our office provided 216 information and referral contacts, and there were 54 visits to services including resource consultations, Medicare insurance counseling, computer tutoring, blood pressure or foot care clinics, and sewing clinic. We provided 20 passes (20 rides each) for the bus or Valley Lift. In addition, over twenty people enjoyed getting to know each other at a Volunteer & Instructor Afternoon Tea.
- May was a quieter month at the Senior Center as the weather improved. There were 585 visits to senior fitness classes and 181 visits to recreation activities. RVCOG Food and Friends provided approximately 550 meals onsite and 650 meals to homebound Ashland seniors. Our office provided 157 information and referral contacts, and there were 31 visits to services including resource consultations, Medicare insurance counseling, computer tutoring, and blood pressure or foot care clinics. We provided 23 passes (20 rides each) for the bus or Valley Lift. In addition, a total of 29 people attended education events: AAPR Smart Driver, Medicare 101, and Friendship Formation for Seniors.
- The “Friendship Formation for Seniors” was created and taught by volunteer Mark Sanford, a retired sociologist. The class filled to its twelve person capacity and was very well received. He will offer Part 2 in June, and he may repeat the class in the future.
- Natalie Mettler has lined up a fantastic calendar of events for the next few months:
 - Disaster Preparedness for Seniors, June 26, 1:00-3:00pm
 - Ice Cream Social, June 17, 1:00-2:30pm, sponsored by Village at Valley View, music donated by the Jabberwocky Goodtime Band
 - Britt Fieldtrip, July 18 evening.
 - Britt Orchestra Fellows Spring Ensemble Concert, July 29, 7:00-8:00pm
 - RVTD Travel Trainer, August 21, 1:00-3:00pm
 - Providence Fall Prevention, September 25, 1:00-3:00pm

Public Awareness

- Superintendent Glatt gave a presentation to Ashland Chamber volunteers at their luncheon on 5/14/19. About 50 volunteers and several Chamber staff were present. They will now be able to tell new senior residents and visitors considering moving to Ashland about the resources available to seniors here, and spread the word in their own local networks. Staff have started giving the Chamber copies of the monthly newsletter to hand out.

Advocacy

- Governor Kate Brown declared June 3, 2019, to be Age-Friendly Oregon Day. Read the

proclamation here: http://action.aarp.org/site/R?i=8o-ThbFSzQjwnr8OR2_1Aw.

Facilities

- We were able to finance some improvements at the Ashland Senior Center with budget savings from unfilled staff positions earlier in the fiscal year. The entire interior of the Center was painted during May 17-20 no interruption of the Food & Friends meal program and only with minimal disruption to other programs. Parks Division staff went above and beyond to help stage the building for painting (moving furniture and wall hangings, etc.) and restore everything post painting.
- The painting project stimulated staff to deep clean and reorganize some areas. We got a new bookcase from City surplus for our very popular free library, and we are working on special displays featuring Senior Services Division activities and resources. This year we are also developing a rotating exhibit of senior art, to be vetted by a committee of seniors.
- The Senior Center continues to be challenged by facilities issues. The air conditioning malfunctioned in two thirds of the building. The microwave and stove used by RVCOG Food & Friends both required repair.

Budget

- Superintendent Glatt continues to find sponsors to enable the Senior Services Division to provide more opportunities for Seniors. Village at Valley View will provide all the refreshments for Ice Cream Social on June 17. HealthNet has agreed to co-sponsor the Foot Care Clinic for low-income seniors in FY 19-20, allowing for a much-needed expansion to double the number of appointments funded by the annual grant from Soroptimist International of Ashland. Health Net will also sponsor our free monthly Young at Art class to cover the cost of art supplies.

Staff Training/Partnerships

- Staff Training: Linda Reid, City of Ashland Housing Program Specialist, came to the 5/3/19 SSD staff meeting to educate staff about housing resources for low-income people and seniors.
- On 5/30/19, SSD staff met with YMCA Laurie Schaff and Jami Hanna, Associate Director, and new Active Older Adult Programs Coordinator to share resources and plan future collaboration.

Patron Feedback

- Mr. L. came to the office to ask for help applying for Medicare and his social security retirement benefits and other challenges. After several visits with staff and our SHIBA volunteer carefully listening and helping him problem-solve, he cancelled his last appointment with the news that he was able to use the phone number we provided and solve his last issue himself. He thanked all the staff for being so kind and patient with him and for the “inspiration and encouragement” to begin to tackle the barriers that were keeping him from getting his benefits. He closed with, “Thank you helping me stay on my feet.” It was the best possible praise, to hear that we empowered someone maintain his self-sufficiency with a little kindness and help!
- Ms. E recently left this voicemail: “Thank you for all you’re doing over there at the Senior Center. There’s so much, I can hardly take it all in. I really enjoyed the art class I took there and the computer help.”

Respectfully submitted by Isleen Glatt, Senior Services Superintendent, 6/5/19