

ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

340 S PIONEER STREET • ASHLAND, OREGON 97520

COMMISSIONERS:

Rick Landt
Jim Bachman
Justin Adams
Jim Lewis
Stefani Seffinger



Leslie Eldridge
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STAFF MEMORANDUM

TO: Ashland Parks and Recreation Commissioners

FROM: Leslie Eldridge, Interim Director

DATE: December 6, 2023

SUBJECT: CONSENT: Advisory Committee Minutes,
Approval of Alcohol Use in Parks Policy Updated Language

Two items need acknowledgement for consent for December 6, 2023:

1. ASAC Committee Minutes 9.11.23
2. Approval of Alcohol Use in Parks Policy Updated Language

Possible Motion

I move to acknowledge the consent agenda.

Attachments

ASAC Committee Minutes 9.11.23
Alcohol Use in Parks Policy Updated Language Approval Memo

City of Ashland
ASHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION (APRC)
ASHLAND SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ASAC)
Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2023

Committee Members Present:

- Jim Bachman
- Anne Bellegia
- John Engelhardt
- Mike Gardiner, Chair
- Debra Johnson, Vice Chair
- Bob Kaplan
- Noriko Toyokawa
- Patty Winner

Committee Members Absent:

- Cori Frank

Staff Present:

- Isleen Glatt
- Natalie Mettler

CALL TO ORDER

Gardiner called the meeting to order at 3:30pm.

OPENING

No guests.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Engelhardt/Bellegia m/s to approve the minutes from July 10, 2023. Voice vote – all AYES. Minutes approved.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

None.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR HOUSING, RESOURCES & ASSISTANCE (OHRA)

Dennis Slattery, OHRA Board President, and Cass Sinclair, OHRA Executive Director, presented on OHRA's new shelter, current services and older adults served. Slattery reported that OHRA has expanded to serving all of Jackson County, and their name now stands for Opportunities for Housing, Resources and Assistance. They run the year-round OHRA Shelter and Resource Center with the goal of taking people from crisis to stability. They offer a housing-first model of assistance. The OHRA Resource Center is the only no barrier walk-in resource center in Southern Oregon. Their current annual budget is \$2.5 million, including over 30 grants, an increase from a few years ago when they operated a 5-month winter shelter and resource center on an annual budget of \$200,000. Their goal is to grow operations, but fundraising is challenging, especially to cover Resource Center ongoing operations, for which applicable grants are scarce.

OHRA opened its current facility in April 2021, offering a 52-room low-barrier shelter where guests can stay for up to six months and the Resource Center which is open Monday-Friday 9am-2pm. They have ten Resource Navigators on staff, including some who are bilingual/bicultural. They offer a shower trailer and laundry services on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They partner with many other local agencies, some of which offer some services onsite, including: OHSU nursing program (street nurses), La Clinica (on-site mini federally-qualified

health center offering mental and medical health services), Department of Human Services, Consumer Credit Counseling and Addictions Recovery Center. During April 2021-June 2023, OHRA helped 387 families into new housing and 432 families avoid eviction. They currently have a state rapid re-housing grant through January 10, 2023, and are prioritizing spending those funds to ensure housing stability for more clients. Older adults are the fastest growing segment of the housing-challenged community and usually about a quarter of their shelter rooms are occupied by guests over age 65, which has resulted in an increased need for mobility devices and ADA-accessible rooms.

The following was covered in discussion:

- If there is no space at the OHRA shelter, unhoused people are referred to other services including other shelters. There is currently about a 1.5-year waitlist to get a Section 8 Housing voucher. OHRA now has about 100 people on their waitlist; Rogue Retreat has around 200 people on theirs.
- Priority for space in the shelter is determined via a federal continuum of care tracking system into which OHRA staff add information from guest intake assessment. This system scores individuals based on their vulnerability and other demographic factors, such as age and disability. Those with the highest scores get shelter priority. OHRA does not screen for mental health. Guests are aware of the scoring system.
- OHRA Resource Navigators focus on building relationships with guests to maximize their ability to help. This may mitigate the reluctance of some older adults facing housing challenges for the first time in their lives, and who are unfamiliar with navigating the social service landscape or feel shame at asking for help. Homelessness is a multi-layered issue requiring a multi-layered approach to accommodate diverse needs.
- Ashland Senior Services Division does extensive resource referrals but does not have enough staff to do much navigation assistance; staff frequently refer people to the OHRA Resource Center. OHRA provides navigation assistance but not case management; case management is very limited in Jackson County.
- OHRA has plans to branch out into outreach navigation services. Resource Navigators are trained by more senior staff. OHRA Resource Navigators are not mandatory reporters for Adult Protective Services.
- During an appointment with a Resource Navigator, a client may request specific assistance, or the Navigator can identify need(s) with a checklist. Vulnerability assessment is only done for potential shelter guests.

STANDING REPORTS

a. APRC Liaison

Commissioner Bachman reported that APRC is currently focused on personnel issues, onboarding former Commissioner Leslie Eldridge as new Interim Director and hiring a Parks Superintendent and Executive Assistant. Engelhardt asked if the Grove will again become available for the AARP Tax-Aide program, now that Ashland Utility Billing has offices in the Otte Pederson Room. Bachman clarified that APRC and the City are currently in discussion of how to share the Grove. The Grove gym will remain available for APRC programs.

b. City Council Liaison

Councilor Kaplan shared that the Council approved the purchase of the office building at 2200 Ashland Street to serve as an emergency shelter, with funding from the Governor's Executive Order regarding the state's housing and homelessness crisis. The City will partner with OHRA to run the shelter. Plans for the building

also include housing the City's Emergency Operations Center. Council is currently speaking to residents in the area of the planned emergency shelter and will also hold a community meeting for residents to give input.

Kaplan added the following information during a question-and-answer period:

- *Does this mean that, in the long-term, Pioneer Hall and the Grove will no longer be tapped to serve as emergency shelters?*
Not necessarily. The 2200 Ashland Street facility will be able to house 30 people in a congregate setting, per funding requirements, but the current camping area behind the Police Station will be maintained.
- *Will the shelter just be for extreme weather and smoke?*
No. Per the Governor's Executive Order, the shelter will house people with the goal of moving them into permanent housing, with the assumption that continuing supportive services will be available in permanent housing.
- *What happens if there is extreme weather but the shelter is already at capacity?*
Per discussion with Linda Reid, City Housing Program Specialist, the City might revert to the model of appealing for community help to help shelter those in need. Glatt added that some local churches have shared that they are struggling to find volunteers because their congregations are needing a break from this ongoing need.

c. Education Report

Mettler pointed to new fall season programs and presentations in Glatt's Superintendent report in the agenda package. She added that the recent collaboration with the Guitar Society of Southern Oregon attracted a large audience, a trend that echoes the record participation at the summer's Ice Cream Social. She also invited ASAC members to volunteer at the upcoming ASSD vaccination clinics.

d. Senior Services Superintendent Report

Glatt highlighted the following in her Superintendent's report: Out of several initiatives she has pursued, two are successfully underway: COVID-19 and influenza vaccine clinics in October for Ashland older adults and their caregivers and a Conversation Clusters seating pilot in three parks around Ashland. Initial explorations for two other projects, a senior job fair and a digital access project that sought to install hot spots in low-income senior housing, revealed that they were not viable at this time.

ITEMS FROM ASAC MEMBERS OR WORK GROUPS

a. Update on Age-Friendly University application

Toyokawa announced that SOU has been admitted to the Age-Friendly University Network, making it the third university in Oregon to earn this status. She added that next steps involve addressing the need for a labor force, ideas and financial resources. She is focusing on the latter, applying for educational grants. Her long-term goal is to establish a Center for Lifespan Development, which will be focused on intergenerational programs. Other goals include hosting community lunches on the SOU campus and developing a new course to respond to community business needs. She is increasingly incorporating more intergenerational activities in her SOU classes and will share these models so her colleagues can replicate them.

b. Livable Ashland Alliance update

Bellegia reported that Ashland Community Health Foundation is interested in serving as fiscal sponsor to the Livable Ashland Alliance but has certain requirements that would change how the Alliance currently operates. The Alliance decided to pause pursuing fiscal sponsorship. They are instead focused on educating the community on their initiatives and planning to hold a stakeholder meeting to invite audiences from beyond their current Steering Committee.

c. Other items from ASAC members

Bellegia shared that in October OLLI is offering “Community Health and You,” a free, public lecture series featuring specialists from Asante speaking on health topics.

Johnson shared that JCLS’s upcoming Big Ideas lecture series will feature some topics of relevance to older adults.

Next meeting – Monday, November 13, 2023, 3:30-5:00pm (Zoom)

Adjournment – 4:59pm

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

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STAFF MEMORANDUM

TO: Ashland Parks and Recreation Commissioners

FROM: Leslie Eldridge, Interim Director

DATE: December 6, 2023

SUBJECT: CONSENT: Approval of Alcohol Use in Parks Policy Updated Language

At the Nov 21, 2023 City Council Business Meeting, the proposed Ordinance for Alcohol Use in Parks (Ordinance 3227) had a first reading. The proposed ordinance was recommended to second reading with amendments. Councilors asked Parks Commissioners to address the following concerns:

- 1) Security requirements. The council asked for assurances that the Parks Director or designee would work in collaboration with Ashland Police and Legal departments to ensure proper security measures are in-place for all special events with alcohol service. This includes approval of private security companies, when necessary.
- 2) Preferred Locations. The council suggested preferred locations be listed in our policy, with other locations to be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The attached APRC Alcohol Use in Parks Policy adds language to address Council concerns (added/changed language in red font). The proposed ordinance language remains unchanged. APRC staff recommends keeping the ordinance language broad and making changes to the APRC internal policies as necessary.

Attachments:

[APRC October 11 Business Meeting Items on Alcohol Use in Parks](#)

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Michael A. Black, AICP
Director

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FINAL DRAFT

APRC Rules for Alcohol Use in Parks

1. The Sale and consumption of malt beverages, wine, and hard cider by the drink for consumption is allowed in a controlled setting, with licensed service (OLCC Permit) within the parks system by a special permit.
2. Only events where an OLCC permit (Licensed Service) is required will be allowed.
 - a. **Licensed Service** is defined as:
 - (1) An event where malt beverages, wine or hard cider will be sold
 - (2) An event where alcohol is available (but not being sold), and the event host is charging or accepting donations of goods for admission, or where payment is required to attend the event.
3. If the applicant fails to obtain an OLCC permit, this permit will be null and void.
4. A copy of the OLCC permit must be presented to APRC staff prior to the permit being issued.
 - a. *All OLCC forms can be found here:*
https://www.oregon.gov/olcc/lic/Pages/license_form_publications.aspx
5. Applicants must be at least 25 years of age.
6. Special Event and (2) alcohol use applications and a 3) detailed site plan is due at least 60 days prior to the event; no exceptions. We strongly encourage event organizers to begin planning with APRC at least 180 days prior to the event to ensure all requirements are met.
7. All sales and consumption must be within an enclosure as defined by the OLCC and detailed on the APRC Alcohol Use Application.
8. General Liability Insurance is required to consume alcohol on City of Ashland property. If alcohol is being served at an event Liquor Liability Insurance is required as well. Both certificates of insurance (COI) are required in the amount of \$2,000,000 per occurrence and must name City of Ashland as additionally insured.
9. Permit is only valid for the identified purpose and date.
10. Event organizers are required to provide a zero-waste event. All glass containers must be kept within control of the OLCC licensed server.
11. Permit will not be issued for event hours prior to 11am or later than 9pm in conjunction with the established noise ordinance AMC 9.08.170.
12. Permits are issued on a first-come, first-served basis and are dependent on availability of park areas and conflicts with other uses.
13. Preferred locations for special events are Lithia Park Band Shell, Ashland Japanese Garden, North Mountain Park Pavilion and Oak Knoll Golf Course. Other proposed venues shall be reviewed by the Director or designee on a case-by-case basis for appropriate use.

14. The Ashland Parks and Recreation Director or designee shall, **in collaboration with Ashland Police and Legal Departments, determine security requirements for events on a case-by-case basis. This includes the approval of private security companies, when necessary.**
15. Payment of established fees and charges are required, as provided in the Miscellaneous Fees and Charges Document adopted by the City Council.
16. Fees will be refunded minus administrative costs incurred if the event is not approved.
17. The event is confirmed when all the following have been received and approved by APRC staff within the established timelines and requirements. Those include:
 - The APRC Special Event Permit
 - The APRC Alcohol Use Application
 - General Liability Insurance and Liquor Liability Insurance certificates that name the City of Ashland as additional insureds.
 - Proof of OLCC Permit approval.
 - Permit fee payments in full have been received by APRC.