



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

MEETING AGENDA

Monday, September 11, 2023 @ 3:30 – 5:00 pm

In-Person at Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Ave, Ashland

- I. Opening (Gardiner, 5 min)
Introduce Leslie Eldridge, Interim APRC Director
- II. Approval of Minutes – July 10, 2023 (all, 2 min)
- III. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda (all, 2 min)
- IV. Public Input (5 min) - *See page 2 for instructions.*
- V. Options for Helping Residents of Ashland (OHRA) new shelter, current services, and seniors served - Dennis Slattery, Board President, and Cass Sinclair, Executive Director (30 minutes)
- VI. Standing Reports (25 min)
 - a. APRC Liaison (Bachman)
 - b. City Council Liaison (Kaplan)
 - c. Education Report (Mettler)
 - d. Senior Services Superintendent Report (Glatt)
- VII. Items from ASAC Members or Work Groups (15 min)
 - a. Livable Ashland Alliance update (Bellegia)
 - b. Update on Age-Friendly University application (Toyokawa)
 - c. Other items from ASAC members? (All)
- VIII. Next Meeting: Monday, November 13, 3:30-5:00pm, on Zoom
- IX. Adjournment – 5:00pm

TO GIVE PUBLIC INPUT IN THE MEETING:

If you would like to give public input for the meeting, please arrive early to fill out a form. Public input is scheduled at the beginning of each meeting. To submit written comments, please [email](#) your comments no later than by 10:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting.

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
ASHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION (APRC)
ASHLAND SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ASAC)
Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2023

Committee Members Present:

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

Committee Members Absent:

- Noriko Toyokawa

Staff Present:

- Isleen Glatt
- Shannon Holt

CALL TO ORDER

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

OPENING

Gardiner introduced two new ASAC members: John Engelhardt and Patty Winner. All current and new members introduced themselves with some of their background.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Johnson/Frank m/s to approve the minutes from May 8th, 2023. Voice vote – all AYES. Minutes approved.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

None.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

AGE + -TALENT SENIOR APARTMENTS AND CIRCLES OF CARE PROGRAM

Olivia Robinson, Community Outreach and Engagement Manager with AGE+, presented on new affordable housing in Talent, Oregon, and a community outreach program, Circle of Care. See [presentation slides](#).

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

- AGE+ has been active in Jackson County for many years and sees older folks as assets. The units for Talent are being constructed in a warehouse and will be installed soon; they will start leasing around the end of August or beginning of September. Units are for either one person or a couple. Pets are allowed, but there may be breed restrictions placed. Applications are not ready yet, but inquiry forms are available at ageplus.org. Based on experience in other areas of the state, the Circle of Care program has identified the primary needs for transportation, light housekeeping/yard work, and friendly check-ins to help with loneliness and isolation.
- *Will AGE+ manage the site?* No, AGE+ is contracting with Quality Property Management as they believe they are aligned with their mission and goals.
- *Will AGE+ Circle of Care be a fee-based service like Ashland at Home?* No, all services will be free.

- All Circle of Care volunteers must have a background check. The AGE+ Community Liaison will coordinate the Rogue Valley program.
- The Talent Senior Apartments will accept HUD vouchers and other rental assistance programs, but rents are set at rates affordable even without assistance.
- Units are efficiently constructed with mini split air conditioning and heating units and are also fire hardened.
- AGE+ is not intending to become a housing developer but hopes to show housing developers an economically viable model for building affordable housing.
- Funding for AGE+ comes from grants and annual fundraising events.

STANDING REPORTS

a. APRC Liaison

Commissioner Bachman reported that APRC Director Micheal Black is resigning. Leslie Eldridge, who is currently a Parks Commissioner, has been appointed Interim Director for one year, starting late August. The Parks Commission plans to slow down the search for a permanent Director to make sure Eldridge has a chance to be successful. Eldridge's Commissioner position will need to be filled within 60 days of her formal resignation.

Director Black has appointed Business Operations Manager Sean Sullivan as Interim Parks Superintendent. ASAC members asked, since Food and Beverage Tax change did not pass, whether the APRC budget will be met. Bachman replied that yes, the City Council has already approved the APRC budget mostly as requested.

b. City Council Liaison

Councilor Kaplan shared that the APRC budget was approved by Council. A motion to cut the golf course budget was voted down. Kaplan said that what will likely happen is an accumulation of Food and Beverage funds for two years. Kaplan shared that under current restrictions, the Food & Beverage funds may only be used for Parks capital improvements or paying off street debt and will only be collected until fall 2030. Kaplan expressed that it would have been nice if it did pass so that there was more flexibility to use for operating expenses and not have to use the City's general fund.

Next week the City Council will discuss in more detail about how money is spent, which was not possible during the budget discussions. Kaplan also announced that the City received a \$1 million grant from the Governor's emergency fund to be used for building or procuring a homeless shelter for year-round use. The shelter will have funding until January 1, 2024, then it will be City of Ashland's job to maintain it. The City is in talks with OHRA to run the shelter.

Kaplan reported that the City Recorder will resign at the end of August. The Council will have 60 days to appoint an Interim City Recorder for this elected position.

c. Education Report

Mettler reported that recent Smokewise and Survival Preparedness for Seniors classes were very successful, covering an critical topic for summer risks. By partnering with Britt, Senior Services had a fun field trip to a Britt Orchestra concert, and Britt offered a Drumtastic Beats workshop in Ashland Senior Center's outdoor space attended by about 75 participants from multigenerational families. A Flamenco guitar performance is scheduled for August. Fall will feature Medicare and Social Security classes.

d. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Glatt praised Coordinator Mettler for her hard work to offer additional education and cultural events this summer and fall, more than the usual one per month.

Glatt provided an update on the Conversation Clusters seating project. She credited Anne Bellegia for championing the idea as an age-friendly livability improvement for Ashland. Conversation Clusters is a great opportunity for people to be outdoors with seating facing towards each other. Glatt reported that the project was not chosen for an AARP Community Challenge grant, but Director Black had set aside a portion of CIP funds for the project just in case. The new seating would be in Lithia, Garfield and Garden Way Parks.

ITEMS FROM ASAC MEMBERS OR WORK GROUPS

a. Livable Ashland Alliance Update

Bellegia stated that the upcoming Alliance Steering Committee meeting is important because they have been working on getting a fiscal sponsor for Livable Ashland Alliance so that they may receive donations and grants and possibly hire a paid project coordinator. Bellegia has also recruited Deputy City Manager Sabrina Cotta to be part of the Alliance Steering Committee.

b. Other items from ASAC members

Glatt reported that Toyokawa was unable to attend today's meeting but sent a written report (in the agenda package) about her intergenerational discussions at SOU.

Bellegia announced that the OLLI Open House will be on Friday, July 18 at SOU. APRC and the Senior Services Division will have a table there.

Next meeting – Monday, September 11, 2023, 3:30-5:00pm

Members again considered having some meetings in person while continuing most meetings on Zoom to reduce staff burden and allow members to attend when out of town. Glatt suggested holding the September and March meetings in person. At Gardiner's suggestion, members agreed to try the September meeting in person at Ashland Senior Center before making a long-term decision.

Adjournment – 4:55pm

Respectfully submitted by Shannon Holt, Office Assistant II, Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission

ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

340 S PIONEER STREET • ASHLAND, OREGON 97520

COMMISSIONERS:

Rick Landt
 Leslie Eldridge
 Jim Lewis
 Jim Bachman
 Justin Adams



Michael A. Black, AICP
 Director

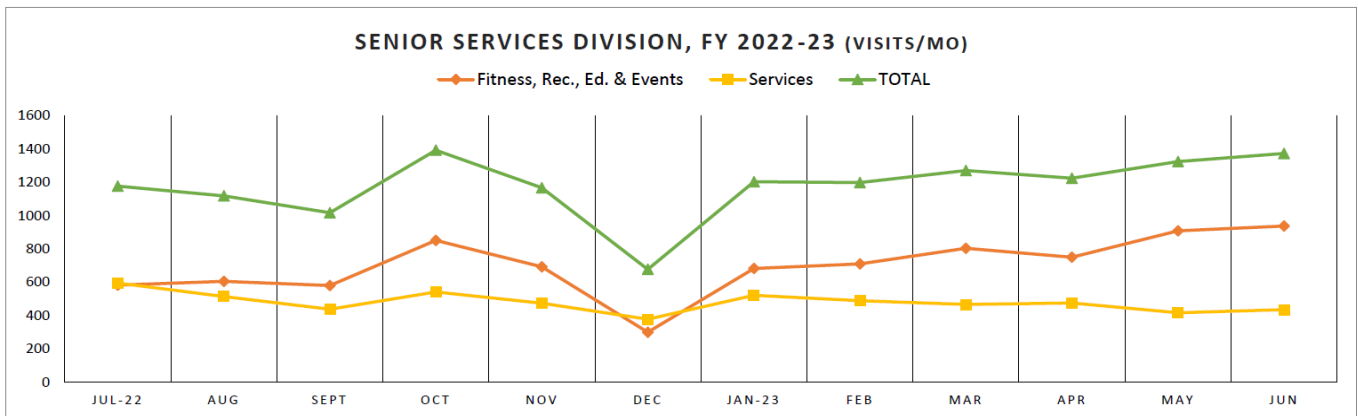
541.488.5340
 AshlandParksandRec.org
 parksinfo@ashland.or.us

STAFF MEMORANDUM

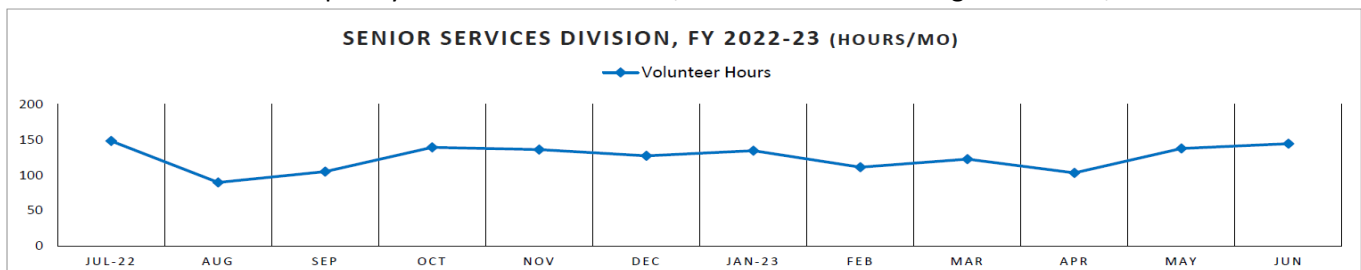
TO: Ashland Senior Advisory Committee (ASAC)
FROM: Isleen Glatt, Senior Services Superintendent
DATE: September 6, 2023
SUBJECT: Superintendent’s Report to ASAC

PROGRAMMING & SERVICES

- Senior Services Division finished Fiscal Year 2022-23 with a new high of 14,126 visits, nearly 1200 visits/month. That exceeds the pre-pandemic high of 13,047 visits in FY 2018-19. FY 2022-23 was our first full year of being open after the prolonged pandemic closure of indoor activities and services. FY 2023-24 is starting strong, with 1172 visits in July and 1399 visits in August thanks to a well-attended Ice Cream Social.



In addition, the Senior Services Division benefited from a total of 1497 volunteer hours for FY 2022-23, an average of 125 hours/month; this is 70% more than FY 2021-22, and 200% more than volunteer hours in prior years. So far in FY 23-24, volunteer hours average 142 hours/month.



- **Intergenerational Event:** In collaboration with the Britt Festival, Senior Services hosted “Drumtastic Beats for All Ages” outdoors on July 5. The workshop was attended by 75 people, a great mix of older adults, children and parents. We were glad to support an intergenerational activity, which is a priority for Livable Ashland Alliance.



- **Ice Cream Social for Seniors and Their Families:** The August 9 Social was a big hit with our largest turnout ever, about 150 people. Thank you to sponsor Village at Valley View, performers Ashland Brass, and our many volunteers including several ASAC members.



- **Flamenco Guitar Performance:** In a new collaboration with the Guitar Society of Southern Oregon, guitarist Grant Ruiz presented a Flamenco performance and lecture on August 30. The event was a great success attended by about 50 seniors, including both regular patrons and many who had never been to Ashland Senior Center before. Many patrons stopped by the office afterward to praise Ruiz and tell us how much they enjoyed the event.



- **Fall Vaccination Clinic:** Senior Services Division will be hosting flu and COVID-19 vaccination clinics for seniors on October 13 and 27 at Ashland Senior Center. This is a critical service due to an ongoing dearth of reliable vaccination providers in Ashland. Funding from the non-profit [AGE+](#) will cover a \$25 grocery store gift card for each registered participants and help subsidize uninsured and underinsured participants.
- **New Fall Programming:** Coordinator Mettler has set up many new senior programs for the fall season:
 - Line Dancing 2 with Risa Lewellyn, a new line dance instructor who is also helping sub for the Line Dancing 1
 - Personalized Strength & Balance Training with Beth Morris
 - We Keep Dancing with long time dance instructor Audrey Flynn
 - Book a Librarian, a service at Ashland Senior Center staffed by Jackson County Library System
 - Education programs on Social Security Planning, Medicare 101, and Plan4Care: Creating Care Circles to Support One Another As We Age.

VULNERABLE SENIORS

- **High Risk Patrons:** In recent months, staff have been assisting an increased number of very vulnerable seniors and had to make several reports to Adult Protective Services (APS). Some of the seniors we serve are unhoused and/or suffer from major mental illness or dementia and have no local family or support system. Case management is beyond the scope of the Senior Services Division, but we do our best to link seniors to important services in the community. Referrals include OHRA Resource Navigators, the Housing Authority of Jackson County, ACCESS, Jackson County Mental Health's Older Adult Behavioral Health Specialist, Jackson County Veterans Services, Ashland Library Resource Specialists, APS, and sometimes Ashland Police Department. Although these high-risk individuals are a small percentage of the 1000+ clients we serve, they require a large amount of staff time to listen, make repeated referrals, and coordinate with other agencies.
- **Ashland Senior Phone Buddy Program:** This friendly caller program continues to serve a small number of isolated seniors with social phone calls by trained volunteers.

PARTNERSHIPS

- **Guitar Society of Southern Oregon:** As part of increased collaboration with the Britt Festival this year, Coordinator Mettler was introduced to the leaders of the Guitar Society of Southern Oregon. As noted under programs, our first event on August 30 was very well received. We look forward to hosting further cultural events with the Society.
- **OHRA:** Coordinator Mettler met with OHRA Resource Center Supervisor Katie Blomgren to learn more details about their current services and better facilitate mutual referrals. They are currently serving many clients age 62+ who are struggling to find housing.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

- **OLLI Open House:** Coordinator Mettler and volunteers represented the Senior Services Division with Coordinator Shelton representing the APRC volunteer program at the annual

OLLI Open House on July 28. It was attended by around 700 people this year, and many new seniors learned about our services and signed up for the Senior News.



- Senior News:** The August and September [Senior News](#) issues featured several new fall programs and offered helpful community information including resources for extreme heat, food, Parkinson’s, caregivers and Medicare drug costs.



BUDGET/FACILITIES

- Conversation Clusters Project:** Although the AARP Community Challenge grant proposal for a demonstration project of “conversation clusters” seating in parks was not selected for funding, Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission approved using \$6000 of Capital Improvement Project funds. The project will save costs by using wooden benches built in house rather than long-lasting but very expensive metal benches. Work is commencing in September with the goal of launching a publicity and a public input process sometime in October.