

City of Ashland
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (S-SAC)
MEETING MINUTES
October 8, 2018

Committee Members Present:

- Anne Bellegia, Citizen Member (Senior Services Participant, OLLI Community Outreach)
- Rob Casserly, Citizen Member (SOU, OLLI Program Manager)
- Mike Gardiner, APRC Commissioner
- Mike Hersh, Citizen Member (Senior Services Participant & Volunteer / S-SAC Vice Chair)
- Mary Russell-Miller, Citizen Member (SOU Faculty Member)
- Stef Seffinger, Ashland City Councilor
- Sandy Theis, Citizen Member (RVCOG Senior Advisory Council / S-SAC Chair)

Staff Members Present:

- Michael Black, APRC Director
- Isleen Glatt, APRC Senior Services Superintendent
- Natalie Mettler, APRC Senior Services Assistant

I. Opening

S-SAC Chair Theis called the meeting to order at 3:00pm at the Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Ave in Ashland.

II. Approval of Minutes – September 10, 2018

Gardiner moved / Hersh seconded approval of the September 10 S-SAC minutes as presented. Motion passed with Russell-Miller abstaining (she was not present at the September 10 meeting).

III. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

None.

IV. Public Input

None.

V. “What Seniors Need” Subcommittee Report

It was stated that S-SAC is trying to schedule a presentation on “What Seniors Need” during a joint meeting of APRC and Ashland City Council. Anne Bellegia stated that the draft PowerPoint presentation included three parts. Part 1 would feature S-SAC Chair Theis covering national trends in six areas of senior need: housing, transportation, finances, health, mental stimulation and social connection. Part 2 would be Anne Bellegia reviewing local data on what seniors

need. In Part 3, Superintendent Glatt would discuss how Senior Services Division programs are being configured to address local gaps in senior needs.

The original presentation date of October 15 was canceled due to Council scheduling conflicts; the meeting could be rescheduled for a date in December. Both Gardiner and Bellegia clarified that a goal of this joint meeting would be to explain the structure of the Senior Services Division (SSD) and how it would help address senior needs in the City. The hope was that the Council would not duplicate a senior advisory committee but rather support the SSD. Gardiner noted that SSD should not ask for financial support; rather SSD should first establish and complete current goals with demonstrated results. Glatt added that in her section of the presentation, she would ask the City to consider senior issues at every policy level and work collaboratively with APRC, SSD and S-SAC.

Mike Hersh expressed disagreement with the category of “senior” starting at age 50. He felt that ages 65 and above were more appropriate as that was the period when seniors started facing more apparent challenges. Bellegia agreed with Hersh and expanded that the six areas of senior needs were general human concerns but seniors ages 65+ experienced those needs more significantly. She also felt that it was still valuable to count those ages 50 and above as seniors because a broader range would garner greater community support. She said seniors are a part of families, and the SSD serves the needs of vulnerable seniors but also needs to better inform and support adults taking on the care of seniors.

Hersh stated he would like to see a Foundation to generate money for the SSD. He said there are many Ashland residents with available funds and a desire to donate. Others noted that the Ashland Parks Foundation has an existing category for accepting donations for the SSD.

VI. Preview of Agenda for Goal Setting Session on 11/13/18

Theis and Glatt presented the draft agenda for the November 13 Goal Setting Session. The session will begin with recommendations and the Superintendent position description crafted by ASPAC (based on community input), then a review of Glatt’s proposed goals with feedback from APRC Director Michael Black. S-SAC members will add any additional ideas, discuss the ideas on the table, then vote for priorities. Subcommittees will likely be formed to follow through and carry out the prioritized work. Theis cautioned that even if something is identified as a priority, if no one wants to do it, it might not be selected. Bellegia advised following the model of the Rogue Valley Council of Government (RVCOG) Council, which adds adjunct subcommittee members. Black confirmed that it would be acceptable to invite outside experts and community members onto an S-SAC subcommittee, which could prove to be a useful way to recruit future S-SAC members.

VII. Ashland Parks Foundation, Senior Center Fund

Black clarified that the Ashland Parks Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) that accepts donations for restricted purposes as designated by the donor. There is a current \$31,000 balance in the account that is dedicated to the Senior Center, including interest earned. Funds may be requested through Black, who will ensure the funds are applied to purposes designated by the donor.

The Parks Foundation also has a general fund. Interest earned on the general fund is used to make community grants. Those grants are not funded from restricted donations or the interest on those donations. SSD could also potentially apply for a community grant, but Black recommended against this, as the general fund goes first to meet the Foundation's overall mission and no money from the general fund itself has been disbursed in the past four years. Gardiner, who served on the Parks Foundation board for ten years, agreed with Black's assessment and suggested that some of the SSD fund / category with the Parks Foundation might be useful as matching funds to attract outside grants.

Bellegia stated the need for community education, noting that at the ASPAC listening sessions, a public suspicion was identified that to Parks Foundation (SSD category funds) were not being used for seniors. She said S-SAC members could educate the public that it was safe to donate to the Foundation as the funds would be used appropriately. Black strongly supported this, stating that the Foundation was run by an appointed board of directors that appropriately tracked and followed donor-restricted funds.

Black suggested spending some of the Parks Foundation (SSD category) funds for the benefit of the Senior Center and the SSD. They agreed, adding that funds spent should be publicized to give the public a more tangible sense of how their donations were being used. Glatt shared some ideas generated from the past: new tables and chairs (light and easy to use, appropriate for multiuse facility), sound system for dining room, tools needed if OLLI classes were held at the Senior Center (e.g., podium), extra props for free/low-cost classes (e.g., yoga blankets), portable air filters to improve air quality during smoke season, matching funds for grants or hiring a grant writer. Hersh sought clarification on conflicts of interest: no S-SAC member can get paid as an outside expert. Black verified, adding that Foundation funds were not meant for permanent staff but might be used for contracted and temporary workers. Members agreed that after the goal setting process, they would evaluate possible expenditures in support of prioritized goals.

BREAK

VIII. Ashland Fire & Rescue Home Safety Program

Glatt said that Ashland Fire & Rescue was one of many community partners with whom she had been meeting and she wanted to highlight their new Housing Safety Program as an important

opportunity for financially eligible seniors to get help making their homes safer. Ashland Fire & Rescue had partnered with Age Friendly Innovators (Sharon Johnson), which does home assessments and has the right contractors to carry out associated work. This program is funded by a Community Development Block Grant. Depending on need, this program will be able to serve nine to forty people this year; they are anticipating mostly smaller needs, such as installing grab bars, but are also equipped to handle more expensive modifications such as hallway widening for wheelchairs. SSD staff have arranged for Fire & Rescue to present the program on November 14 at the Senior Center.

IX. Senior Center Thanksgiving Meal Provided Courtesy of Ashland Fire & Rescue, Monday, November 19, 2018

Glatt described the upcoming Senior Center Thanksgiving meal as a wonderful annual event put on by Ashland Fire & Rescue staff and their families. She invited all S-SAC members and APRC Commissioners to attend and engage with the local senior community. Gardiner added that he attended last year; he praised the event and encouraged S-SAC members to attend and thank Fire & Rescue staff.

X. Standing Reports

a. APRC Update, if any pertaining to seniors

Commissioner Gardiner reported that the S-SAC bylaws were approved at the last APRC Commissioner meeting.

b. City Council Update, if any pertaining to seniors

Councilor Seffinger reported on the Council's budget process, noting that much would rest on the November elections, as candidates had varying spending priorities.

c. Senior Services Superintendent Report

Glatt reported that she attended the first APRC Pool ad-Hoc Committee to represent senior needs in the rebuilding of the Daniel Meyer Pool. Gardiner encouraged S-SAC to submit written recommendations to the Pool ad-Hoc. Glatt asked if any S-SAC members would be able to attend the Pool ad-Hoc meetings and comment on senior needs; hearing no volunteers, she asked if S-SAC would consider a Senior Center patron who, if willing, could attend the Pool ad-Hoc and report back to S-SAC; S-SAC members agreed.

It was stated that the current draft pool proposal included plans for a warm therapeutic pool that would benefit seniors. Black added that there was a physical therapist who works with seniors on this Committee as well as several seniors who can speak to senior needs. Bellegia asked if any part of the pool project could impact Hunter Park in other ways relevant to the Senior Center. Black answered that these potential impacts were being factored in. Two examples were outlined as the proposed covered entrance from the pool to the Senior Center for easier senior access and reserving park space east of the activity room for a possible future

building expansion. Black also noted that the pool rebuild would provide an opportunity to engage in remodeling the Senior Center building. He expressed concern about the storm drain line running under the building that could pose future safety issues such as sinkholes.

Glatt outlined key issues she began working on when hired as Superintendent two months prior:

- 1) **Developing and implementing policies and procedures for appropriate protections** for Senior Center patrons; for example, consistently collecting client emergency contact information and waivers, and applications and insurance coverage from instructors. Glatt said she had met with instructors individually to hear their input.
- 2) **Developing referral relationships with agencies** who do case management for clients with complex needs, beyond the scope of SSD.
- 3) **Hiring permanent SSD staff.** Recruitment was opened for two positions: Senior & Adult Services Coordinator and Senior Services Office Assistant II. The currently contracted RVCOG (ADRC) staff person on site at the Senior Center had been extended for six more months for half a day weekly, until new SSD staff could be trained for the more intensive information and referral services.
- 4) **Meeting with community partners.** Glatt presented examples of individuals and organizations she met with so far, noting that building such relationships was one of the most important things she could accomplish in her first year as Superintendent.

Seffinger inquired about financial advice given to clients at the Senior Center. Glatt responded that presenters spoke generally on financial issues but always under the caveat of no solicitation. Black said current practices were in line with APRC's policies. Seffinger advised that Glatt clear all SSD policies with the City attorney; Black noted that that was being done. This commented that it was very positive that Glatt was securing these protections for all — participants, staff and instructors.

Seffinger asked if the progress made in the Senior Services Division would be included in the senior newsletter and whether newsletters would be available for the City Council's community outreach on October 11. Bellegia said her experience with ASPAC revealed a lack of community trust with APRC and she saw a great need for community education focusing on current and future progress rather than deficits of the past. Hersh suggested letting actions speak rather than words. Glatt mentioned that she and Commissioner Gardiner would be submitting an article for the monthly APRC "Parks Views" column in the Daily Tidings in late October, which would provide another opportunity for community education about the Senior Services Division.

XI. Items from S-SAC Members

Hersh inquired about the possibility of the Senior Services Division partnering with other organizations such as Food & Friends and the Ashland Emergency Food Bank, to share

information about advanced seniors living alone, so that they can be checked on regularly. He expressed hope for a phone bank established for this purpose.

Bellegia brought up Briscoe School (the back portion of which APRC purchased earlier in the year) and wondered about the feasibility of setting up an adult daycare center at that location. She said this was one significant form of senior support that Ashland lacked; she believed such a center would significantly serve the community and potentially be a good source of revenue for the Senior Services Division.

This suggested considering both ideas at the November 13 goal setting session.

XII. Upcoming Meetings:

- a. Tuesday, November 13, 1:00-4:00pm, SOU Hannon Library, Rm 352 – Goal Setting
- b. Monday, December 10, 3:30-5:00pm, Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Avenue

XIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Mettler, Senior Services Assistant
Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission