

City of Ashland  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION (APRC)  
ASHLAND SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ASAC)  
Meeting Minutes  
October 14, 2019

Committee Members Present:

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

Staff Members Present:

- Isleen Glatt
- Michael Black

**CALL TO ORDER**

Theis called the meeting to order at 3:30pm

**OPENING**

Glatt introduced Senior Center patron Thomas Jones, present to observe the meeting. He is considering applying to join ASAC.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion:** Hersh/Bellegia m/s to approve the minutes from August 12, 2019. Voice vote – All AYES, Russell-Miller abstained.

**ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA**

None

**PUBLIC INPUT**

None

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2019-20 & DISCUSSION OF TERM DATES**

Theis noted that we missed election of officers in July as required by ASAC bylaws. Theis also recommended adjusting member terms to all end June 30, but in staggered years, to align with officer elections and make new member recruitment easier. Glatt distributed the ASAC bylaws addendum page (attached), showing start and end dates for all current members.

In discussion, Gardiner noted that most committees allow a new person to finish the term of a member who vacated early, then serve two more terms. Seffinger noted that City commissions usually allow for three terms.

**Motion:** Gardiner/Bellegia m/s that all member terms will end June 30 in the same year as the current schedule (2020 or 2021), and that the two new members to be added would serve through June 30, 2022. Voice vote – All AYES.

Theis expressed willingness to serve a second term through June 2020, but she would like to see a co-chair elected who is ready to be the next chair.

**Motion:** Bellegia/Seffinger m/s nominated Theis for the 2019-20 term as chair. Voice vote – All AYES.

Hersh declined to run for another term as co-chair. Theis and Glatt explained responsibilities of the chair to help plan agenda, draft letters, speak publicly, and attend events on behalf of ASAC, all with support of staff. After some discussion, Bellegia agreed to run for co-chair with understanding that she would accept nomination as chair for 2020-21.

**Motion:** Hersh/Seffinger m/s nominated Bellegia as co-chair for 2019-20. Voice vote – All AYES.

## **MEETING FREQUENCY**

Bellegia noted that she had previously requested monthly meetings during ASAC's formative period. Now that ASAC is well established, she endorsed a change to bi-monthly meetings. She recommended meeting November 4 as previously scheduled and for benefit of new member applicants to observe ASAC, then skipping December and continuing on odd numbered months in 2020.

**Motion:** Hersh/Cassery m/s to move meetings to second Monday of odd numbered months starting January 2020. Voice vote – All AYES.

## **STANDING REPORTS**

### **a. APRC Update**

Gardiner reported that the Commission approved the Pool Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations and will move forward with a pool renovation. Pool plans and a funding proposal will be presented at the APRC study session on October 21, and there will be a vote at the October 28 business meeting. Gardiner noted that the proposed plan will not touch the Senior Center. If funding is passed, the design and building process would start in 2020.

### **b. City Council Update**

Seffiinger reported an issue that might be of concern to seniors: the City Budget Committee is looking at the ambulance service contract, currently held by Ashland Fire and Rescue, considering whether ambulance service from Mercy Flights might be more cost-effective and permit a smaller firefighter force. Discussion ensued about the importance of senior needs being considered in this decision and more information needed regarding cost, response time, and impact on fire service. Cassery offered to help survey seniors via OLLI. ASAC members considered how to advocate.

**Motion:** Bellegia/Cassery m/s to send a letter to City Council requesting they consider senior needs in choice of ambulance service provider, and that ASAC is available to help gather senior input. Voice vote – All AYES.

Chair Theis agreed to draft letter; Glatt to send out to members for any input.

### **c. Education Report**

Glatt reported in Mettler's absence, referring members to page 1 to 2 of Superintendent's Report documenting recent successful education events and upcoming scheduled events.

### **d. Senior Services Superintendent Report**

In addition to the report included in the meeting packet, Glatt reported that RVTD projects for Ashland have been approved by the state: RVTD staff are developing implementation now for the on-demand microtransit pilot; the new circulator bus route for Ashland will start in another two or three years. Glatt also reported on acoustic panels to be installed in the Senior Center dining room to improve patrons' ability to hear each other at lunch and other events when many people talk at once; the project should be complete by the end of the year.

Theis reported that the Ashland Asante Community Hospital CEO and leadership team were very positive about their experience with the September 28 Hunter Park Cookout and look forward to making it an annual event.

In response to a prior request by Casserly, Glatt has arranged for Mayor Stromberg and City Administrator Madding to speak at the November 4<sup>th</sup> ASAC meeting about how to recruit senior advocates for City commissions/committees. Bellegia suggested that the OLLI Volunteer Coordinator may also be able to identify OLLI members for such roles.

Hersh suggested ASAC members attend other community meetings (such as AARP) as non-members and report back to ASAC. Theis deferred this discussion to a future agenda.

Casserly reported rave reviews from OLLI instructors and members participating in OLLI classes held at Ashland Senior Center this fall. He stated it was OLLI's smoothest experience with a new location ever. Glatt added that it has been positive for the Senior Services Division as well, and it serves Division goals to expand use of the Center and increase revenue.

Seffinger reported that the City Council now has time set aside for Council members to report back from their liaison roles, and she can report Division successes such as hosting OLLI classes.

#### **ITEMS FROM ASAC MEMBERS AND WORK GROUPS**

Bellegia reported on the Advocacy work group, which has drafted an application for Ashland to join the AARP Age-Friendly Communities Network. The work group is proposing that Mayor and APRC chair co-sign the application. APRC will review the application at their November 18 study session, then it will go to the Mayor/City Council.

Bellegia stated that she had hoped the Ashland Age-Friendly application could be announced at the AARP Vital Aging Conference on November 16 at the Smullin Center. Theis responded that moving more slowly will ensure buy in from all parties and allow APRC, City of Ashland and ASAC to show a united front.

Bellegia announced that the OLLI 2020 open house will have a theme of wellness that fits well with AARP Age-Friendly Communities, the Ashland Chamber's Health and Well Being Project, and the YMCA Active Older Adult program.

Bellegia also reported about a recent health fair at Twin Lakes senior community and suggested that Senior Services Division could do a table at such events in the future.

Glatt closed with a reminder that what ASAC formerly called "subcommittees" are actually informal work groups and may report in this section of the agenda in the future. Bellegia noted that work groups may choose to meet on the second Monday time in the months when ASAC is not meeting.

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- a. Monday, November 4, 3:30-5:00pm, at Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Ave  
(November meeting moved to first Monday due to Veterans Day holiday.)

#### **Adjournment – 5:01pm**

Respectfully submitted,  
Isleen Glatt, Senior Services Superintendent, Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission