

City of Ashland  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION (APRC)  
ASHLAND SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ASAC)  
Meeting Minutes  
July 8, 2019

**Committee Members Present:**

- Anne Bellegia
- Rob Casserly
- Mike Hersh, acting Chair
- Mary Russell-Miller
- Stef Seffinger

**Staff Members Present:**

- Isleen Glatt
- Natalie Mettler

**Committee Members Absent:**

- Mike Gardiner
- Sandy Theis

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Hersh called the meeting to order at 3:31pm at Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Ave in Ashland.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Bellegia/Russell-Miller m/s to approve the minutes of June 10, 2019. Voice vote – ALL AYES. Motion passed.

**ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA:**

None.

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

None.

**PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION: ASHLAND HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION (Rich Rodhe, HHSC Chair & Linda Reid, Housing Program Specialist):**

Reid began by outlining the work of the Housing and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and how it relates to ASAC's role in the continuum of housing and human services in Ashland. HHSC makes recommendations to the City on how the following funds should be allocated: Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Social Service Grant Funds, and Housing Trust Grant Funds. These funds, especially from the CDBG, are mostly for capital improvement; there is little available for direct services. Rodhe added that the City cannot carry out these services directly, so needs to partner with local nonprofit groups to conceptualize and implement creative solutions to Ashland's affordable housing crisis. He also noted some of the landmark work on housing passed this session by the Oregon Legislature Assembly.

Bellegia added that the problem is that available housing stock is not being efficiently used; it is more a “privacy crisis,” defined as the expectation of having one’s own space, than a “housing crisis.” She suggested that seniors could take on student roommates. Rohde agreed and said that there is interest in having a Southern Oregon University student liaison on HHSC.

Bellegia also noted that there is a lack of caregivers in the area, as well as very limited congregate options for assisted living in Ashland. Having a student roommate might therefore be a better fit, as an older roommate might require care. Rohde stated that \$50 million is allocated by the State for permanent supportive housing, which includes assisted living.

Reid spoke about HHSC’s role in community education, particularly with developers, and exploring more congregate living options. She suggested that HHSC work with ASAC to identify community partners with whom to collaborate on creative solutions and ways to leverage available funds.

Hersh remarked that there is lots of senior housing available in Medford, and asked if HHSC could help with improving transportation to make such options more accessible. Rohde responded that the Southern Oregon Housing + Transport Coalition includes all major groups, encompassing transportation and healthcare.

Casserly asked if CDBG grants can be used for City-owned buildings such as the Senior Center. Reid said yes, as the Senior Center primarily serves an eligible population, such funds could be used for some facility improvements and expansions (such as ADA improvements) but not maintenance.

Glatt closed with ASAC’s hopes to maintain an ongoing relationship with HHSC to better assist and support local seniors.

**CONSIDER CHANGE IN NUMBER OF ASAC MEMBERS & FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS:**

Glatt reported that the APRC charter and bylaws for ASAC do constrain membership to a maximum of seven members. Any changes will therefore have to be voted on by ASAC, then submitted to APRC as a recommendation, with the option of using more general language to allow for more flexibility. She cautioned keeping a balance between having more members to do work with keeping the group manageable in terms of discussion time and burden to staff. Priority would be given to program participants, as Hersh is currently the only active program participant on ASAC. Increasing ASAC membership from seven to a maximum of nine members would allow for one City Council representative, one APRC Commissioner, 2 to 4 program participants, and 2 to 4 community partners.

Casserly/Russell-Miller m/s to ask APRC to increase ASAC maximum voting membership by two. Voice vote – ALL AYES. Motion passed.

Regarding frequency of ASAC meetings, Bellegia recommended continuing to meet monthly. Glatt noted that ASAC has already made a motion to meet monthly, with room to cancel if needed, so there is no need for a new motion. No proposal for change was made.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **A. Public Awareness (Russell-Miller, convener)**

Russell-Miller reported that Public Awareness Subcommittee did not meet and has current no updates.

#### **B. Education Programs (Mettler, staff)**

Mettler reported that the Education Programs Subcommittee did not meet. Staff is working on scheduling more educational presentations for the fall and winter. Glatt shared that SSD is working to promote events in several new ways: better bulletin board displays at the Senior Center, including instructors in her email notifications of upcoming events so they can inform their students, and Mettler's pre-event brief introduction to Senior Services activities and events. Bellegia added that there is the possibility of cross-fertilization with OLLI, which will be holding three classes at the Senior Center during their fall term.

#### **C. Advocacy (Bellegia, convener)**

Bellegia reported that the Advocacy Subcommittee did not meet, and that Theis is working on a draft letter of intent to AARP for Ashland to become an Age-Friendly Community. Subcommittee members Glatt and Seffinger will help fill out the associated application. The next step will be for Seffinger to go to the Mayor with the completed letter of intent.

### **STANDING REPORTS:**

#### **A. APRC update, if any pertaining to seniors**

None.

#### **B. City Council update, if any pertaining to seniors**

Seffinger reported that the City Council would be meeting at 5:30pm today and working with their two new Ad Hoc Committees related to the City budget. Discussion about whether to pipe the TID canal will be on next week's City Council meeting agenda.

#### **C. SSD Superintendent report**

Glatt directed ASAC to the report she included in the meeting packet. She highlighted the successful Disaster Preparedness Presentation on 6/26/19, with a strong turnout and good partnership with other organizations, which can serve as a model for future presentations.

### **ITEMS FROM ASAC MEMBERS:**

Bellegia reminded ASAC about the OLLI Open House on July 20, 2019 at the RCC/SOU Higher Education Center in Medford.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

Next meeting: August 12, 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. APCR ASAC Meetings are digitally recorded; the recordings are available upon request.