



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

Monday, May 9, 2022 @ 3:30 – 5:00 pm

Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Ave, Ashland

- I. Opening (Gardiner, 1 min)
Welcome Jim Bachman as new Parks Commission liaison
- II. Approval of Minutes – March 14, 2022 (all, 2 min)
- III. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda (all, 2 min)
- IV. Public Input (5 min) - *See page 2 for instructions.*
- V. Results of the Ashland Connector Pilot & RVTD Services available for Older Adults – Paige West Townsend, RVTD Planning & Strategic Programs Manager (35 min)
- VI. Elect ASAC officers for 2022-2023 (Gardiner, 5 min)
- VII. Budget Update – (Black, Bachman & Seffinger, 20 min)
- VIII. Standing Reports (10 min)
 - a. Education Report (Mettler)
 - b. Senior Services Superintendent Report (Glatt)
- IX. Items from ASAC Members or Work Groups (All, 10 min)
 - a. Livable Ashland Alliance update (Theis/Bellegia)
 - b. Other items from ASAC members?
- X. Next Meeting: Monday, July 11, 3:30-5:00pm
Ashland Senior Center or Zoom, TBD
- XI. Adjournment – 5:00pm

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).

TO GIVE PUBLIC INPUT IN THE MEETING:

If you would like to give public input for the meeting, please submit your written comments or a request to speak to isleen.glatt@ashland.or.us, no later than by 10:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting. Please include the meeting date plus the topic on which you would like to speak. For oral comments, you will be invited to speak during the Public Input portion of the agenda.

City of Ashland
ASHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION (APRC)
ASHLAND SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ASAC)
Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2022

Committee Members Present:

- Anne Bellegia
- Debra Johnson
- Kathy McNeal
- Mike Gardiner, Chair
- Mike Hersh
- Stef Seffinger
- Sandy Theis

Staff Present:

- Michael Black
- Isleen Glatt
- Natalie Mettler

Committee Members Absent:

- Cori Frank

CALL TO ORDER

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

OPENING

Citizen guests: Jim Bachman, Nancy Boyer, Noriko Toyokawa

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Theis/Hersh m/s to approve the minutes from January 10, 2022. Voice vote – all AYES. Minutes approved.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Glatt announced that Gardiner has applied for and been accepted to continue serving on ASAC as a community member. He will continue to serve as ASAC Chair as well.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

PROPOSED MOBILE HOME PARK ZONING AMENDMENT

Referring to the memo included in the meeting packet, Cynthia Dettman from Committee to Protect Ashland's Mobile Home Parks presented the group's appeal to ASAC for future support for a proposed mobile home park zone to protect Ashland's mobile home parks from closure.

Dettman added the following information during the question and answer period:

- The majority of Ashland's mobile park home residents are 65 years or older. Dettman guessed the overall figure to be around 80%. At Wingspread mobile home park, Dettman estimated that 75% of the residents are single, senior women.
- The group is currently focused on protecting mobile home parks in Ashland, but hopes to become a model for other areas in Jackson County, possibly even Josephine County.
- While it is a park owner's choice to close a mobile home, public good is also a factor. Zoning inherently infringes on property rights but is legal because of public good concerns. Given the critical need for affordable housing in this area, creating a mobile home park zone will help protect this public good. Owners have options beyond closing mobile home parks, such as selling the business.

- There is a risk that mobile home park owners may choose to liquidate their assets by closing parks if it is known that a mobile park zoning ordinance is coming. However, experience from Portland showed little owner resistance to zoning changes, and there has been no legal challenge there.
- This resident group has not been in contact with mobile park owners and does not expect owners will want to collaborate on a joint request for a mobile park zone ordinance.
- Oregon law prevents annual rent increase over 7% plus cost of living increase, which came to about 9% per year in recent years. This safeguard protects against large rent hikes when ownership of mobile home parks changes.
- The proposed mobile park zones would just cover Ashland's existing mobile home parks. The Wingspread and Tolman Creek mobile home parks are currently zoned as multifamily housing. The Pines mobile home park is currently zoned as commercial.
- Considering competition for land between mobile home parks and denser apartment structures, Dettman noted that the City is concerned with further traumatizing Alameda fire survivors by imposing additional relocation. It is also much cheaper to preserve existing housing than build new housing.
- Mobile home park residents have been making their own adaptations to make their homes and communities more all age-friendly, doing their best to ensure a safe environment for seniors.

PROPOSED OUTDOOR CLASSROOM SPACE AT ASHLAND SENIOR CENTER

Glatt shared that AARP offers Community Challenge Grants, generally up to \$10,000, to help communities undertake projects to become more age-friendly and livable. She sees an opportunity to increase venues for SSD and APRC programs by creating an outdoor multiuse space off Ashland Senior Center's deck. This would allow indoor programs to flip to outdoors during COVID-19 surges or for other reasons. Glatt proposes a 40'x36' decomposed granite floor surface, which would provide a more stable and level surface than the current grass. There are large shade trees at that location, and Glatt is researching options for a shade structure. She also suggested adding 3 to 4 benches along the back edge of the outdoor surface area. Livable Ashland has already endorsed this proposal, and Glatt is now seeking ASAC endorsement. In response to questions, Glatt answered:

- This area will be at ground level; it is too expensive to extend the existing deck. This project could be considered a pilot to assess demand for and user satisfaction with an outdoor classroom area. If sufficient usage is demonstrated, staff may be able to apply for a larger grant for a more permanent space in future.
- The proposed benches are for observation of classes and to store personal belongings, not to encourage conversation clusters that may create user conflict with an ongoing class. A separate grant for conversation clusters would be a good future project.
- The grant proposal is due on March 22. Black already voiced full support, and Glatt consulted with Parks staff, who provided quotes for the in-house work they could provide. The APRC Recreation Division also supports this proposal and may make use of the space when not in use by senior programs.
- After checking with current instructors about the pros and cons of various surfacing options, all preferred a tennis court surface (asphalt with special paint) but this is prohibitively expensive for the current grant. All queried instructors support and are interested in a possible outdoor classroom space, and all felt they could use the decomposed granite surface.

Motion: Theis/ Bellegia m/s to support the grant request for a proposed outdoor space at Ashland Senior Center. Voice vote – all AYES. Motion passed.

STANDING REPORTS

a. APRC Update

No report until there is a new Commissioner representative to ASAC.

b. City Council Update

Seffinger updated about the City survey to ascertain citizen priorities regarding General Fund budget spending. Other regular business by the City Council has recently been primarily focused on budget issues. The survey will be mailed to all residents in May and also available for pick-up at various locations. In response to questions, Seffinger answered:

- The City Council subcommittee working on this survey, of which Seffinger is a part, is currently looking at bundling services that citizens may want to be funded out of the General Fund.
- The survey will also be asking about increasing revenue, not just cutting expenses and services.
- Survey questions will be framed to make repercussions clear; potential changes to policy and budget will be connected to possible outcomes with public impact.
- Seffinger has asked for a question specifically about the services and programs provided by the SSD.

c. Education Report

Mettler shared about upcoming educational presentations: The Sense of Touch (3/23/22) and Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia (4/13/22).

d. Senior Services Superintendent Report

Glatt referred to her report included in the meeting packet. She highlighted the change in mask mandate: at Ashland Senior Center masks are now recommended but not required. APRC is following OHA guidelines, which continue to strongly recommend masking for risk groups, including all those aged 65yrs+. Staff has chosen to continue masking to maximize protection of patrons and model mask encouragement.

Glatt invited ASAC members to volunteer at events and as presenters. Any members interested in offering an educational presentation through SSD should contact Mettler to arrange details; they may also help connect Mettler to other potential presenters in the community.

Glatt introduced Professor Noriko Toyokawa, who has taken over for Mary Russell-Miller in teaching the Psychology of Aging at SOU.

Glatt also shared that SSD will once again be working with OHSU interns this spring and fall, continuing last year's work on digital access and education. Glatt will suggest the interns do a project to educate seniors on using telehealth and MyChart, partnering with both Asante and Providence to offer presentations.

ITEMS FROM ASAC MEMBERS OR WORK GROUPS

This reported that Livable Ashland steering committee is continuing to meet every other month; the last meeting was in February. They continue to have a good representation from across Ashland and are shifting to calling the group an "alliance," as a standalone entity. The priority is to be a clearing house and provide synergy for projects that partners do that benefit the overall community, such as JCLS and Asante seeing a need for digital education to help patients navigate MyChart. The group may undertake a more formal needs assessment in future. Seffinger added that the Livable Ashland group has already had local impact, for example the inclusion of universal design in some recent housing developments.

Seffinger shared, as a member of the Ashland Emergency Food Bank (AEFB) Board, that their services remain available to seniors who may be food insecure, especially with current inflation. Hersh added, as an AEFB volunteer, that he brings some supplies to Ashland Senior Center when requested by the Food & Friends Meal Site Coordinator on behalf of patrons. He suggested that we set up a mini-food pantry at Ashland Senior Center. He also reminded all that AEFB offers home delivery of food boxes.

Next meeting – Monday, May 9, 3:30-5:00pm (tentatively planned for in-person)

Adjournment – 5:02pm

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

ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

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COMMISSIONERS:

Rick Landt
Jim Lewis
Jim Bachman
Julian Bell
Leslie Eldridge



Michael A. Black, AICP
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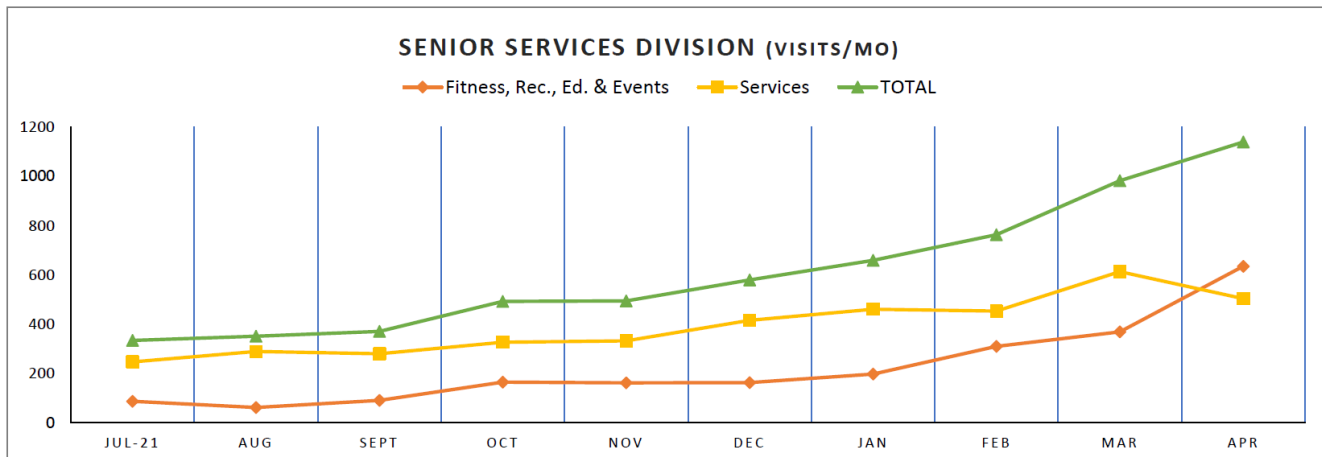
STAFF MEMORANDUM

TO: Ashland Senior Advisory Committee (ASAC)
FROM: Isleen Glatt, Senior Services Superintendent
DATE: May 3, 2022
SUBJECT: Superintendent's Report to ASAC

IN MEMORY OF MIKE HERSH

- On March 22 a tragic vehicle accident outside the Senior Center resulted in the death of Mike Hersh, who was volunteering for the RVCOG Food & Friends program at the time. Mike was a founding member of the Ashland Senior Advisory Committee and had volunteered for over 20 years at many Ashland organizations. Ashland Senior Services Division, Ashland Police Department, Ashland Emergency Food Bank and Scienceworks have jointly nominated Hersh for the City's Ragland Memorial Volunteer Spirit Community Service Award. The winner is scheduled to be announced at the May 17 City Council meeting.
- The Senior Services Division has collaborated with Ashland Emergency Food Bank to set up a small **Mike Hersh Memorial Food Pantry** at Ashland Senior Center, an idea suggested by Hersh shortly before his death. Zara Smith, Ashland site coordinator for RVCOG Food & Friends, will be coordinating the food pantry as an APRC volunteer.

PROGRAMMING & SERVICES



- **Service Statistics:** Participation in senior activities has been growing since full activities resumed March 1 (although activities were cancelled for a few days after the events of March 22). Seniors are very happy to be back and enjoying community connections.

Attendance at game groups, discussion group, and Friday movie is now higher than pre-pandemic levels. A second in-person yoga class was added in April. Line Dance and Tai Chi at the Grove have large attendance.



- **Change in Staffing and Hours:** The Senior Services Division lost our Office Assistant II starting March 23. Due to the hiring freeze and anticipated budget cuts, we will not be hiring a replacement. For now, we have recruited three volunteers to help with reception, but it is also necessary to reduce open hours to make the workload feasible for the remaining two staff.

Starting June 1, Ashland Senior Center office will be closed on Fridays. The “Friday Movie” will move to Tuesdays, and all other current activities will continue Monday-Thursday. Staff will still be working in the building, but not answering the phone or door. Food & Friends will unlock the front door 11am-1pm on Fridays to serve lunch. Division staff will secure the building after they leave.

- **Food & Friends:** Our partner RVCOG Food & Friends is now serving lunch in-person on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. They hope to soon expand congregate dining to five days a week but have not yet been able to enlist enough volunteers.
- **Senior Walking Group:** A new senior walking group launched March 3 is connecting seniors to the Ashland park system. Volunteer Rosalie Rybka leads these gentle walks in the parks and surrounding neighborhoods, offering fitness, socialization, and nature benefits. The spring session met at Hunter Park, the early summer session will be in Lithia Park, and the fall session will meet at North Mountain Park.
- **Education Programs:** An Alzheimer’s Association volunteer presented “Understanding Alzheimer’s and Dementia on April 13. The March education presentation, featuring Anne Bellegia on “The Sense of Touch,” was rescheduled to May 11.
- **Digital Education:** Computer labs led by Jackson County Library Services (JCLS) DART van staff started March 29. Most of the education has been one-on-one in the lab setting. In the words of one patron, “Thank you for organizing the computer tutoring class. All my needs were satisfied!”

The labs will continue through the end of May. In the fall, staff from JCLS Digital Services and Outreach Departments will teach a more structured “Computer Basics” class monthly during September-December. Our volunteer computer tutoring appointments are full again as seniors work to improve their skills for this digital age. A third volunteer is starting in May.

VULNERABLE SENIORS

- **Quarterly Outreach Calls:** Volunteer and ASAC member Kathy McNeal made 83 outreach calls during March-April to our most vulnerable patrons to check in, identify needs, and offer the Ashland Senior Phone Buddy program and other services as appropriate. Staff

follow up to refer to community resources as needed.

- **Ashland Senior Phone Buddy** program currently has eight participants enrolled (some had passed away or moved). Volunteers made a total of 92 social phone calls during March-April.

PARTNERSHIPS

- **Jackson County Library Services:** See under Digital Education on previous page.
- **OHSU Nursing Practicum:** Senior Services Division had to withdraw from hosting a practicum this spring due to our loss of staff. However, we expect that JCLS and Asante will be able to offer a presentation later in the year on using telehealth and My Chart.

ADVOCACY

- **Livable Ashland Alliance** submitted a progress report on the age-friendly initiative to AARP, Ashland City Council and APRC on April 17. Co-chairs Sandy Theis and Anne Bellegia are scheduled to present to APRC on June 1. Council Member Stef Seffinger has requested that a Livable Ashland Alliance presentation be put on the City Council agenda.

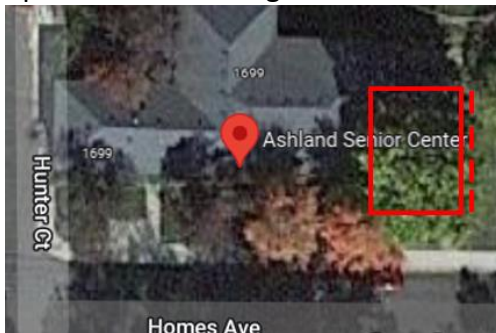
PUBLIC AWARENESS

- **Senior News:** The [April](#) *Senior News* featured a tribute to Mike Hersh and the [May](#) issue was sent early to notify patrons of his celebration of life on May 1. Each issue also shared education opportunities and community resources to assist seniors.



BUDGET/FACILITIES

- **AARP Community Challenge Grant:** In March we applied for grant for \$6250 to create an outdoor venue off Ashland Senior Center’s deck, with a decomposed granite floor and four benches. With a safe, level surface and shade provided by existing trees, the venue would support outdoor classes and events during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond, and it could be made available for community rentals as well. AARP will announce awards in May. We hope to find a future grant or donations to cover a sail cloth shade structure.



- **Donations:** Ashland senior line dancers, formerly a club, generously donated their remaining funds of \$1033 to Ashland Parks Foundation in support of scholarships for line dance students or other projects that support senior activities, such as the proposed outdoor venue space. A total of \$4013 has been donated to the Senior Services Fund during fiscal year 2021-22. In-kind donations and sponsorships total an estimated \$8500 for the year.