



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

Monday, July 11, 2022 @ 3:30 – 5:00 pm

Virtual Meeting on Zoom Platform

To join meeting or give public input, see instructions on page 2.

- I. Opening (Gardiner, 10 min)
Welcome new member Dr. Noriko Toyokawa
All members introduce selves with brief background.
- II. Approval of Minutes – May 9, 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. Standing Reports (25 min)
 - a. APRC Liaison (Bachman)
 - b. City Council Liaison (Seffinger)
 - c. Education Report (Mettler)
 - d. Senior Services Superintendent Report (Glatt)
- VI. Items from ASAC Members or Work Groups (All, 15 min)
 - a. Livable Ashland Alliance update (Theis/Bellegia)
 - b. Other items from ASAC members?
- VII. Asante Ashland Community Hospital's Age Friendly Hospital Initiative (30 min)
Dr. Steven Hersch, AACH Administrator and Asante Vice President of Medical Affairs
- VIII. Next Meeting: Monday, September 12, 3:30-5:00pm
Ashland Senior Center or Zoom, TBD
- IX. 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 ATTEND THE MEETING:

If you wish to virtually attend an Ashland Senior Advisory Committee meeting, send an email to isleen.glatt@ashland.or.us, no later than by 10:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting. Please provide the following information, then staff will send you the link and/or phone codes:

- 1) Write "ASAC Participation Request" in the subject line of the email.
- 2) Include your name.
- 3) Specify the date of the meeting you wish to virtually attend or listen to.
- 4) Specify whether you will be participating by computer or telephone.
- 5) Provide the name you will use if participating by computer, or the telephone number you will use if participating by telephone.

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 information above plus the topic you would like to speak on. For oral comments, you will be invited to unmute and 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
May 9, 2022

Committee Members Present:

- Anne Bellegia
- Debra Johnson
- Jim Bachman
- Kathy McNeal
- Mike Gardiner, Chair
- Stef Seffinger
- Sandy Theis, Interim Vice Chair

Staff Present:

- Michael Black
- Isleen Glatt
- Natalie Mettler

Committee Members Absent:

- Cori Frank

CALL TO ORDER

Gardiner called the meeting to order at 3:36pm.

OPENING

Citizen guests: Noriko Toyokawa, Rob Casserly

Gardiner welcomed Bachman as new Parks Commission liaison. All present observed a moment of silence in honor of ASAC member Mike Hersh.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Theis/Bellegia m/s to approve the minutes from March 14, 2022. Voice vote – all AYES. Minutes approved.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

None.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

RESULTS OF ASHLAND CONNECTOR PILOT & RVTD SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR OLDER ADULTS

Paige West Townsend, RVTD Planning and Strategic Programs Manager, presented on the outcome of the Ashland Connector Pilot and gave an overview of other RVTD services for older adults (see [presentation slides](#)). The Connector is no longer running due to a lack of drivers, even though there are sufficient vehicles and funding. Money from the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) supported the creation of new fixed route lines in the County as well as the Connector pilot. The Connector is an “enhancement;” a microtransit service that is able to access above the Boulevard in Ashland, where RVTD fixed routes buses are not able to go. There is also a proposed new fixed route line for Ashland, which would cost about the same as the Connector (\$400,000/year). Going forward, the City will have to choose between funding the Connector or the new fixed route.

RVTD has extended its ADA service area to City limits, no longer just within ¾ mile of a fixed route line. This means that the Valley Lift paratransit service can now go to Mountain Meadows and Skylark. In addition, both Connector vans are now lift-equipped for wheelchair access. Bellegia asked if the Connector service decreased

ridership on the Valley Lift. Townsend replied that seemed to be the case, even though Connector drivers cannot provide the hands-on support of Valley Lift drivers.

Glatt added that RVTD is a critical partner for SSD in providing transportation options for seniors. SSD also offers Touchpass and Valley Lift coupons to eligible seniors. The Touchpass can be used on both the fixed route buses and Connector.

Townsend reported the that Connector pilot was successful. It averaged 4 passengers per revenue hour; 3 passengers per revenue hour is considered a healthy average. By comparison, a healthy average for fixed routes services is 17 passengers per revenue hour. Fixed route buses are more cost effective, but the Connector provides a different kind of service to a different audience.

Townsend offered an overview of RVTD's other services that often benefit older adults:

- Valley Lift: paratransit service that requires qualification from medical professional; conditional eligibility possible (i.e. for extreme cold or heat)
- Valley Lift Plus: eligibility granted by Oregon Health Authority to Valley Lift clients who need an additional $\frac{3}{4}$ mile access (for total of 1.5 mile away from fixed route lines); targeted towards clients who are very isolated at home and provides a limited number of trips per week/month.
- Translink: non-emergency medical transport for Oregon Health Plan and CCOs clients.

The hope is to resume the Connector service once drivers can be hired.

ELECT ASAC OFFICERS FOR 2022-2023

Motion: Seffinger/McNeal m/s to appoint Mike Gardiner as ASAC Chair and Debra Johnson as Vice Chair for 2022-2023. All AYES. Motion passed.

BUDGET UPDATE

The APRC and City Council updates were part of the Budget update.

Black gave a brief history of APRC funding: the 1908 founding charter of APRC states that the Commissioners determine how to use all resources. APRC works to balance which programs are subsidized out of the City's General Fund and which operate on revenue. SSD is heavily subsidized, with a projected annual budget of around \$400,000 and projected revenue of \$16,000. In addition to the General Fund, which draws on collected property taxes, additional funds come from Recreation Division revenue, facility rentals, City fees for maintenance of non-Park areas, and a portion of the City's Food and Beverage Tax. The latter is used for new capital projects, but in 2023 only will be allowed to be used for operations. The overall APRC budget is approximately \$7,500,000/year, which is lower than it has been in the past.

The City Manager has asked all City Departments to provide reports on potential 5% and 10% cuts to General Fund money in Department budgets. For these cuts, APRC is looking at cutting equipment replacement, staff training and some staffing, such as management furloughs and not filling vacant positions. Recently, the City Manager has requested that Departments also provide reports on cutting 5% and 10% of enterprise funds (i.e. Food and Beverage Tax). This constitutes an additional \$550,000 needing to be cut. In order to maintain service levels with this degree of budget cuts, parts of or whole APRC programs will have to be cut. Parks take priority as it is harder to bring them back than Recreation programs, once they are lost. Budget cuts will be discussed at the May 23 City Council meeting.

Bellegia asked if the situation is really this dire, since Finance Director Chan implied otherwise when lecturing to an OLLI class.

Seffinger responded that her understanding, from the City Manager, is that it is not appropriate to use Food & Beverage tax funds for maintenance and that voters should decide how that money is used. She reminded all about the upcoming City survey seeking input from citizens in prioritizing how the General Fund is allocated and looking into the possibility of raising revenues. The Council subcommittee overseeing this survey has not met recently and Seffinger has not yet seen the survey questions. The survey will not affect the 2022-2023 budget.

Black added that the APRC Charter specifies funding to the agency will come from a levy on property taxes. The City has changed that to include Food and Beverage Tax funds in response to the ongoing budget crisis.

Bachman added that the budget issue is a moving target and changing weekly.

Bellegia recommended ASAC members advocate to the City Council before their upcoming meeting about protecting the SSD. There is concern about cuts since the SSD is heavily subsidized.

STANDING REPORTS

a. Education Report

Mettler shared about upcoming educational presentations: The Sense of Touch (5/11/22). Social and cultural events are planned for June and July.

b. Senior Services Superintendent Report

Glatt referred to her report included in the meeting packet. She highlighted that staffing changes will cause some changes. Rather than cutting activities, Ashland Senior Center will reorganize programs to enable closing to the public on Fridays, starting June 1. Staff will be able to work on projects and other non-public serving work on Fridays.

In partnership with AEFB, SSD has established the Mike Hersh Memorial Food Pantry at Ashland Senior Center, which is managed by APRC-SSD volunteer Zara Davis. Glatt requested all to think of candidates to recruit for ASAC to replace Mike Hersh. Bellegia commented that the contraction of services works against the value of the Division as it decreases the Division's reach.

ITEMS FROM ASAC MEMBERS OR WORK GROUPS

This reported that Livable Ashland steering committee has submitted their assessment and update to Oregon AARP. The group is scheduled to present an update to APRC and will schedule another update to the City Council. The group continues to meet bimonthly, focusing on creating synergy among members to support ongoing work.

Next meeting – Monday, July 11, 3:30-5:00pm (planned for in-person)

Adjournment – 5:03pm

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

ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

340 S PIONEER STREET • ASHLAND, OREGON 97520

COMMISSIONERS:

Rick Landt
Jim Lewis
Jim Bachman
Julian Bell
Leslie Eldridge



Michael A. Black, AICP
Director

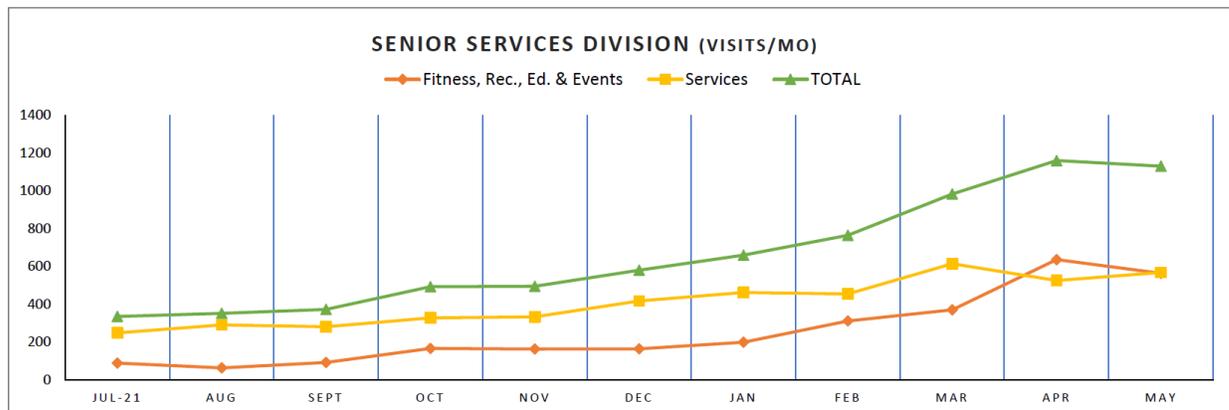
541.488.5340
AshlandParksandRec.org
parksinfo@ashland.or.us

STAFF MEMORANDUM

TO: Ashland Senior Advisory Committee (ASAC)
FROM: Isleen Glatt, Senior Services Superintendent
DATE: July 6, 2022
SUBJECT: Superintendent's Report to ASAC

PROGRAMMING & SERVICES

- **Change in Hours:** The reduction in Ashland Senior Center hours starting June 1 (now Mon-Thurs 8:30am-3:30pm) has gone smoothly, allowing staff one day a week to catch up. In addition, three wonderful office volunteers now rotate a reception role during peak hours Mon-Thurs, allowing staff to focus on assisting more complex needs and running programs.
- **Food & Friends:** As of June 20, our partner RVCOG Food & Friends changed their days for congregate dining to align with the Senior Services Division's Monday-Thursday schedule. Attendance at lunch is much larger when seniors are coming for Senior Center activities.
- **Service Statistics** continued to rise in April and May as more patrons returned to activities. Total visits and services are now over 1100/month, but still lower than the pre-pandemic rate of 1200-1300/month. Some seniors report that they are not ready for group settings. In-person yoga, tai chi and line dance classes are drawing large enrollments. Some students continue to prefer Zoom classes. The Zoom yoga class even includes a student who lives in Ashland only part-time and is now taking the class from her home in Chicago, to continue to engage with APRC classes remotely.



- **Education Programs:** Anne Bellegia presented about the “Sense of Touch” on May 11, and Ashland Fire and Rescue’s staff presented about “How to be Smokewise” on June 8 (see more under Partnerships). The AARP Smart Driver program returns in person to Ashland Senior Center in July, for the first time since 2019.
- **Britt Festival Programs:** Our collaboration with the Britt Festival returned this year with a Britt Fellows Concert and a planned fieldtrip to the Britt Festival. On June 14 the Britt Fellows Quartet performed on the deck at Ashland Senior Center to a small but delighted crowd. Sadly, the June 17 field trip to hear the Britt Festival Orchestra in Jacksonville was cancelled due to heavy rain.



- **Digital Education:** The computer labs led by Jackson County Library Services (JCLS) DART van staff continued through April and May. During September-December, staff from JCLS Digital Services and Outreach Departments will teach a more structured “Computer Basics” class monthly.

Volunteer computer tutoring appointments continue to be full as seniors work to improve their skills for this digital age. We would welcome another volunteer who can tutor on phones, pads, and computers.

- **Senior Walking Group:** The successful, new Senior Walking Group continued with a May-June session in Lithia Park. The fall session will meet at North Mountain Park. Although volunteer group leader Rosalie Rybka will take a break for the summer, the participants have decided to continue walking on their own, affirming the program’s goal of forming increased social connections for seniors.
- **Ice Cream Social:** Our annual Ice Cream Social for seniors and their families is back in person on July 13, 1:00pm, in Hunter Park off the Senior Center deck. It will feature live music by Ashland Brass and sundaes supplies by our sponsor Village at Valley View.



VULNERABLE SENIORS

- **Cooling Center:** The City of Ashland is involved in setting up cooling shelters during extreme heat incidents, which are happening more frequently now. Extreme heat affects not only unhoused residents, but also vulnerable housed residents such as older adults without adequate cooling systems in their homes, or those who can’t afford to run the air conditioning they have. Pioneer Hall was used as the cooling shelter on June 26, but it has

limited cooling capacity. Ashland Senior Center may be used in the future, particularly from Friday 1pm – Sunday 8pm when the Senior Center is not usually in use for other purposes. Seniors are also welcome to cool off at the Senior Center during our usual Monday-Thursday hours, if not in conflict with programs.

PARTNERSHIPS

- **Ashland Fire & Rescue Smokewise Program:** Senior Services Division has an ongoing partnership with Ashland Fire and Rescue’s Smokewise program, helping to reach seniors with education in our newsletter, air purifier and replacement filter distribution, and more. This year we partnered to promote several seminars, including an in-person presentation on June 8 at the North Mountain Park Pavilion attended by 22 seniors. Also, Coordinator Mettler and a Senior Center patron were interviewed for an Oregon DEQ [podcast](#) on community smoke response in Ashland (see Public Awareness).
- **Jackson County Library Services:** See under Digital Education on previous page.
- **AGE+:** Superintendent Glatt participated in AGE+ launch meeting on “Comprehensive Plan for Living and Aging & Becoming an Age-Friendly State Partner Briefing.”
- **Celia’s House/Southern Oregon Friends of Hospice:** Dwight Wilson, Executive Director of Celia’s House, will present about “Thoughtful End-of-Life Planning” on August 17, 1:00pm, at Ashland Senior Center.
- **Sponsorships:** Business sponsorships help offset costs of ongoing programs, allowing us to provide more benefit to seniors with our limited budget. The Weatherly Inn senior community in Medford is our newest sponsor, providing support for our three free game groups (cribbage, spades and mah jongg) with a donation of \$750/six months. At this time, we also have Right at Home sponsoring our weekly Friday movie series and The Springs at Anna Maria sponsoring the monthly Young at Art class, plus periodic event sponsors.

ADVOCACY

- **Livable Ashland Alliance:** Co-Chairs Sandy Theis and Anne Bellegia presented a progress report on the all-age-friendly initiative to APRC on June 1. Council Member Stef Seffinger has requested that a Livable Ashland Alliance presentation be put on a future City Council agenda.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

- **Senior News:** The circulation of the monthly *Senior News* has grown from about 600 in 2018 to over 800 in 2022. The growth is all in email distribution, while requests for mailed newsletters is shrinking.

The [June](#) *Senior News* featured two concert events offered by the Britt Festival and the [July](#) issue features our annual Ice Cream Social on July 13 as well as safety tips for summer heat. Each issue also shared education opportunities and community resources to assist seniors.



- **Smokewise Podcast:** Coordinator Mettler and a local patron were interviewed for an Oregon DEQ [podcast](#) on community smoke response in Ashland. Ashland Senior Services Division was one of several featured organizations, including Smokewise Ashland, Ashland Chamber of Commerce, Ashland Senior Center and Options for Helping Residents of Ashland. Learn more at <http://ashland.or.us/News.asp?NewsID=5324>.
- **Ragland Volunteer Service Award:** The Ashland City Council awarded the Ragland Volunteer Service Award to Mike Hersh on June 21, with Councilor Stef Seffinger presenting the award. Mike’s widow Char Hersh accepted the posthumous award on his behalf. Read more here: https://medfordmailtribune-or.newsmemory.com/?publink=578cf02f0_13484f9.

BUDGET/FACILITIES

- **AARP Community Challenge Grant:** We were notified in May that our grant application to build an outdoor venue at Ashland Senior Center was unfortunately not selected by the national AARP grant program. However, the Oregon AARP office later notified us that they would fund the project with their Oregon funds. AARP has asked us to hold the public announcement to coordinate with their publicity, which will be released mid July. APRC staff plan to build the venue floor in September.



- **Computer Room Floor:** The floor in the Senior Center “computer room” was damaged a few months ago by a water leak under the sink. The flooring was replaced this week with vinyl planking like the other hard flooring in the Senior Center, funded by the Ashland Parks Foundation Senior Center fund.